

U.S. House passes child trafficking bill

Staff report

In a rare show of bipartisanship, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved a bill Friday that is designed to combat the sexual trafficking of children.

Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, was an original co-sponsor of the bill. A similar bill is now winding its way through the U.S. Senate.

The legislation would require each state to develop a "child protection plan" with procedures to identify and assess suspected trafficking victims, to train child protective workers about

child trafficking, and to ensure there are policies to guide victims to needed services.

The legislation would also require states to submit an annual report on the number of children identified as victims of trafficking within the already existing National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems.

"The trafficking of children for sex is a horrible crime, and by improving our foster care tracking system, data reporting, and training, fewer children will fall through the cracks and into the hands of traffickers," Slaughter said in a statement.