TREY'S Law (S.3966/H.R.8571)

End the misuse of NDAs against child sexual abuse and trafficking victims in civil settlement agreements.

Trey Carlock was a victim of child sexual abuse at Kanakuk Kamps, based in Southwest Missouri, for over a decade. After their camp director and serial sex offender, Pete Newman, was sentenced to three life terms in 2010, Trey pursued justice to hold others involved accountable through civil litigation. That retraumatizing process ended with a restrictive and intimidating nondisclosure agreement (NDA) as part of the settlement terms, barring Trey from ever speaking about his abuse and Kanakuk Ministries' role in it. Trey died by suicide at the age of 28 after telling a therapist, "They will always control me, and I'll never be free." **His story sparked a movement of others coming forward about institutional abuse, and survivors suffering in the shadows are rising up to say victims' voices should never be for sale.**

The Problem

NDAs were created to protect trade secrets, intellectual property and other proprietary information. They have since been weaponized against victims to settle civil child sexual abuse and trafficking cases in civil courts. As a result:

- Perpetrators and institutions can protect their reputations.
- Survivors are legally silenced from speaking about the abuse they endured and all the parties involved.
- Patterns of abuse remain hidden from the public and children are unknowingly exposed to danger.
- Survivors are denied access to freedom, justice and healing when they can't share their stories on their own terms.

The Solution

TREY'S Law renders NDAs void and unenforceable to the extent they prohibit a survivor from disclosing facts related to child sexual abuse and trafficking. This act:

- Protects the right of survivors to speak about their abuse.
- Prohibits the contractual silencing of witnesses, bystanders, and other protective parties as a matter of public safety.
- Preserves confidentiality for other matters, including settlement amounts and a victim's identifying information.
- Applies regardless of when the agreement was signed.
- Prevents institutions from hiding patterns of abuse that put children at risk.