



**Alliance To End  
Slavery & Trafficking**

A Project Of Humanity United

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June 25, 2013

Representative Dave Camp, Chairman  
Representative Sander Levin, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative John Kline, Chairman  
Representative George Miller, Senior Democratic Member  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Dear Chairs Camp and Kline and Ranking Members Levin and Miller:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for and urge you to co-sponsor and pass the “Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking of 2013” (H.R. 1732) as introduced by Representative Karen Bass (D-CA) and Representative Tom Marino (R-PA). H.R.1732 is a critical piece of legislation needed to ensure that child victims of human trafficking—both sex and labor, in the United States are properly identified by state child welfare agencies and receive the services they need.

Recent reports have shown that the majority of identified child trafficking victims already had contacts, often multiple times with the child welfare system. To ensure the proper identification of and assistance for these children, this bill amends the Social Security Act to require state child welfare agencies under the Act to report in their annual plan on current efforts to address the human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children in their care, or alternatively to report on their future plans to address the issue. The bill has no direct cost.

Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and publish guidelines to assist child welfare agencies in serving victims of trafficking and youth at-risk of becoming victims. These recommendations would provide guidance on service delivery strategies, training materials, protocols for cross-system collaboration, best practices to identify residential placements, and on documentation and data collection. HHS is required under the bill to submit a report to Congress outlining the prevalence of trafficking among the foster youth population, identifying trends related to both sex and labor trafficking among child welfare youth, evaluating the feasibility of collecting annual or semi-annual data from agencies, and proposing an ongoing method of supporting and monitoring efforts of local child welfare agencies to prevent trafficking and serve victims.

The bill reflects the gap in data collection by addressing collecting and reporting by requiring child welfare agencies to disclose (1) reasonable efforts to document child victims of sex or labor trafficking in the care of the agency and (2) missing, abducted, or trafficked youth for the National Crime Information Center database. Child welfare agencies are encouraged to create a plan to serve these youth.

Given this support, states will be better able to marshal existing resources to better protect and serve victims in their care. To date, few child welfare professionals have been adequately trained to respond to child victims of trafficking, provide appropriate case management for this population, and prevent vulnerable foster youth from becoming victims. This bill addresses these concerns and builds the infrastructure to respond to child victims of human trafficking.

H.R. 1732 is an important step in creating the appropriate safety net we need to end child trafficking in the United States. We urge you to support this life-saving legislation now.

If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at [msperber@humanityunited.org](mailto:msperber@humanityunited.org) or (631) 374-0749.

Sincerely,

Abolition International

AEquitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women

Americans for Immigrant Justice

The Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University School of Law

Marisa Ugarte  
Executive Director  
Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

Bill Wilson Center

Broward Human Trafficking Coalition

Catholic Health East

Ruth Rosenbaum  
Executive Director  
CREA: Center for Reflection, Education and Action

Center for the Human Rights of Children, Loyola University Chicago

Center for Youth

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Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

CHILDREN AT RISK

Church Women United

Civil Society, Minnesota

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Community Access Unlimited

The Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters

Courtney's House

Dalit Freedom Network

Destination Freedom

Diocese of Springfield, IL

Dominican Sisters of Houston

Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL

ECPAT-USA

Erin Meyer

End Slavery Cincinnati

Family Resources Inc.

Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Free the Slaves

Georgia Women for a Change

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Yardley, PA

The HEAAT Foundation, Inc. (Helping to Educate and Advocate Against Trafficking)

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Holy Union Sisters USA Province

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

International Institute of Buffalo

International Justice Mission

The International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs

The Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition

Made By Survivors, a project of T.E.N. Charities

Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Mosaic Family Services

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

New Orleans Human Trafficking Working Group

Jacqueline Zimowski  
Executive Director  
No Human Trafficking

Not For Sale

Not For Sale, Arkansas Chapter

Not For Sale, California Chapter

Not For Sale, Florida Chapter

Not For Sale, Georgia Chapter

Not For Sale, Illinois Chapter

Not For Sale, Kentucky Chapter

Not For Sale, Massachusetts Chapter

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Not For Sale, Minnesota Chapter

Not For Sale, Nevada Chapter

Not For Sale, New York Chapter

Not For Sale, North Carolina Chapter

Not For Sale, Ohio Chapter

Not For Sale, Pennsylvania Chapter

Not For Sale, South Carolina Chapter

Not For Sale, Texas Chapter

Not For Sale, Washington Chapter

Polaris Project

Ruth Kuhn, SC  
Coordinator  
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment

Religious Sisters of Charity

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province

Tammy Dudman (Co-Chair)  
Kim Harris (Co-Chair)  
Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT)

Ricky Martin Foundation

Safe Horizon

Linda Smith (U.S. Congress 1995-99)  
Founder and President  
Shared Hope International

Ruth Kuhn, SC  
Chair – Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
Corporate Responsibility Committee

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership

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Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team

Sisters of the Presentation

Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN)

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Teen Living Programs

Thai Community Development Center

Commissioner William A. Roberts  
National Commander  
The Salvation Army National Headquarters

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF

There Is Hope For Me, Inc.

Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children

Traffick911

Tronie Foundation

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

General Board of Church and Society  
United Methodist Church

Verité

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Washington Engage

WestCoast Children's Clinic

Worker Justice Center of New York

World Vision

YouthCare

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York County Human Trafficking Task Force

YWCA York

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**ATEST is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based human rights organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end all forms of modern-day slavery and human trafficking domestically and globally. ATEST member organizations include: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), ECPAT-USA, Free the Slaves, International Justice Mission, Not For Sale, Polaris Project, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Vision.**