



Alliance to End Slavery and  
Trafficking  
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 520  
Washington, DC 20006  
[www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org](http://www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org)

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we thank you for your leadership in the fight to end child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, and we appreciate your efforts to pass legislation to curtail these practices and provide resources to the federal agencies who are engaged in combating these issues. We are writing to seek your assistance in funding several programs related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Department of Education (ED) has never received appropriations to combat human trafficking, and funding for the Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) remains insufficient. For example, HHS funding plateaued for 10 years until FY 2014, which included an increase in funding for victim services. Despite this increase, the number of trafficking victims identified significantly exceeds the availability of services. These key agencies must be given the resources to combat this horrific crime if we are to better prevent future exploitation and identify victims earlier. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (P.L. 113-4), and its subsequent authorizations, provides authority and authorizes funding for DOL and HHS to serve victims of trafficking, most especially children. In addition, the Department of Education through the nation's school system is integral to the identification of child trafficking victims and homeless children and youth and must be engaged further on this issue.

In January 2014, the President released the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (2013-2017), a strategic plan for victim services across the U.S. Government. Given that the strategic plan will soon be in its final year, we request that

the Committee include report language that ensures sufficient funding for critically-needed assistance for housing, extended case management services, and legal services, three areas where the existing federal response is lacking, in order to ensure that these critical needs are funded properly as the various agencies look to affirming their commitment to fighting this crime.

ATEST recommends robust funding and accountability for DOL, HHS, and Department of Education (ED) programs to fulfill the highest priority mandates of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). With your leadership, DOL, HHS, and ED will document the trafficking problem and deter future trafficking, as well as provide significant services to assist trafficking victims.

1. \$129,325,000 for the DOL International Labor Affairs Bureau

ATEST is requesting \$129,325,000 in FY 2017 for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs in the Department of Labor (DOL/ILAB). ILAB is responsible for implementing Section 105(b)(2) of the TVPRA of 2005 (P.L.109-164) and Section 110 of the TVPRA of 2008 (P.L.110-457). In the past, these requirements have not been funded. In FY 2013, ILAB systematically monitored and analyzed child labor and forced labor in 157 countries. Funding provided would allow ILAB to fulfill its congressional mandates and ensure staff is able to travel to the countries with which it has partnered.

Within these funds, we request that \$27,000,000 be designated for the administration of ILAB, \$9,500,000 be designated for program evaluation, \$58,825,000 be designated for Child Labor and Forced Labor program, \$10,000,000 for Workers' Rights program, \$9,000,000 for the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT), and \$15,000,000 for the Human Trafficking Risk Reduction Grants. We are seeking the following report language.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$129,325,000 for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs to implement Section 105(b)(2) of the TVPRA of 2005 (P.L.109-164) and Section 110 of the TVPRA of 2008 (P.L.110-457), of which \$27,000,000 shall be for the administration of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, \$9,500,000 shall be used for program evaluation, \$58,825,000 shall be for the Child Labor and Forced Labor program, \$10,000,000 for the Workers' Rights program, \$9,000,000 for the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking, and \$15,000,000 for the Human Trafficking Risk Reduction Grants.*

DOL/ILAB is an essential part of the U.S. Government's international response to forced labor, human trafficking, and child labor. ILAB works to ensure the protection of the world's most vulnerable workers through technical assistance, bilateral and multilateral engagement, and research. ILAB annually produces the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor report pursuant to Section 142(c) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. ILAB collaborates with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security to produce a list of products that are mined, produced, or manufactured with forced or child labor. ILAB receives and evaluates claims submitted when a country is thought to be failing to meet its labor commitments under a Free Trade Agreement.

ILAB needs more resources to support research to ensure that its "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor," mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, is as strong, accurate, and comprehensive as possible. Government officials, civil society advocates, and businesses around the world look to DOL/ILAB reports to help them

understand where risks are present and which research to consult for more information and context. DOL/ILAB also needs funds to support field-based programs that find solutions to forced labor, trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor. Programs initiated by DOL/ILAB often serve as models for scaling up by the private sector, governments, and civil society.

Since 1995, ILAB has worked with NGO partners to withdraw 1.7 million children from the worst forms of child labor through the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking for the Child Labor and Forced Labor program. In 2013, ILAB worked with partners in 40 countries to provide education or vocational services to over 90,000 children engaged in or at high risk for entering the worst forms of child labor, and helped increase government capacity to address child labor in 29 countries. For example, these grants have funded programs that reduced exploitative child labor in the traditional weaving sector in Ethiopia and in fishing, agriculture, and domestic service sectors in Cambodia. These time-bound and measurable programs seek to create sustainable change through community and government engagement.

The Workers' Rights program is essential to maintaining coherence with the U.S. trade agenda. ILAB provides technical assistance to countries on a variety of worker rights issues, many of which correspond directly to labor rights commitments under trade agreements. Project goals include adopting or reforming labor laws or standards, improving labor inspectorates' enforcement capacity, increasing awareness of fundamental labor rights, and improving occupational safety and health conditions. ILAB also provides technical advice and other support to labor ministries through workshops and exchange programs.

DOL/ILAB/OCFT has been involved in monitoring, reporting on, and consulting with other government agencies regarding child labor since 1993 and forced labor since 1999 – the longest of any government agency. As such, OCFT provides expertise and information for the range of government agencies that address forced and child labor issues. Annually, OCFT produces the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor, which creates opportunities for ILAB to engage and assist foreign governments. In addition, OCFT has made important progress with the release of the toolkit for responsible businesses to assist them in reducing child labor and forced labor.

This funding initiative will ensure that the TVPRA mandates are adequately fulfilled, and in doing so will advance OCFT efforts to accomplish related monitoring and reporting under the Farm Bill and Trade and Development Act mandates. These requirements include critical reporting and assessment tools to better evaluate the nature and scope of human trafficking and forced labor in the United States and around the world. The \$9,000,000 for OCFT will be used to implement Section 105(b)(2) of the TVPRA of 2005 as follows:

- To monitor the use of forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards;
- To work with persons who are involved in the production of goods on the list described above to create a standard set of practices that will reduce the likelihood that such persons will produce goods using forced labor and child labor; and
- To consult with other departments and agencies of the United States government to reduce forced and child labor internationally and ensure that products made by forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards are not imported into the United States.

DOL/ILAB/Human Trafficking Risk Reduction Grants to nongovernmental and governmental organizations offer formal and informal education and job training programs targeted to at-risk populations. More and more children are vulnerable to trafficking, especially AIDS orphans and

vulnerable children, migrants and refugees, and women and girls in post-conflict and post-disaster settings. The risk reduction grants from ILAB will enable organizations to protect and empower these vulnerable groups from forced labor and other forms of trafficking by funding initiatives that promote decent work.

2. \$5,000,000 for the DOL/Department of Wage and Hour/Services and Benefits for Victims of Trafficking

We are requesting \$5,000,000 for the extension of services and benefits for victims of trafficking as authorized by Sec. 107(b) of the TVPA of 2000 (P.L. 106-386). DOL is often the initial investigator of human trafficking crimes, including many cases that involve multiple (20+) victims, as well as a case involving over 400 victims, the largest number of victims ever identified. Without these necessary services many victims of this horrific crime will remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

The President's 2017 Budget Request for Wage and Hour is \$276,599,000, including an increase of over 3,000 FTE. However, DOL requires additional resources to train all of its inspectors to be able to identify and respond to survivors of trafficking. Among victims of trafficking in the United States, trafficking often occurs for labor and most commonly in domestic work, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, hotel services, construction, health and elder care, hair and nail salons, and strip club dancing. DOL needs the resources to protect and support victims during these investigations, including providing access and referrals to shelter, medical care, mental health services, legal services, and case management.

Although funding for victim services through DOL has been authorized for over a decade, no funds have been provided for victim services programs through DOL. The 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) narrative on U.S. efforts to combat trafficking highlighted:

DOL field investigators were often the first government authorities to detect exploitative labor practices, and the DOL [Wage and Hour Division] targeted industries employing vulnerable workers, such as the agriculture, garment, janitorial, restaurant, and hospitality industries.

Furthermore, the 2014 TIP Report noted that one "federally-funded report found that 30 percent of migrant laborers surveyed in one California community were victims of trafficking," and it raised the need for increased funding for comprehensive victim services. *Id.*

Additionally, in November 2014, as part of President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration, it was announced that DOL would begin providing T-visa certification and U-visa certification for three additional crimes (extortion, forced labor, and fraud in foreign labor contracting). Wage and Hour employees must be fully trained on investigation protocols and handling of U- or T-visa certification requests. It is imperative that Department of Labor has the resources necessary to support survivors of trafficking and other workplace crimes with either U- or T-visa certification depending on the survivors' requests.

The Department of Labor must be funded to become a champion in this area. Without necessary services, many victims of this horrific crime will remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. We are also requesting inclusion of the following report language.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$5,000,000 for the Wage and Hour Division to implement Sec. 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (P.L. 106-386) to ensure comprehensive services for human trafficking victims.*

3. \$32,000,000 for the HHS/Administration for Children and Families

We are requesting \$32,000,000 for the Administration for Children and Families to make significant strides toward serving victims of trafficking and fulfilling the mandate of the distinct sections of the TVPRA:

- To identify and serve foreign national victims (TVPRA of 2005, Sec. 301(2));
- To create specialized case management programs to assist U.S. citizens (TVPRA of 2008, Sec. 213).

We are seeking the inclusion of the following paragraph in the report accompanying the FY17 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$32,000,000 for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to implement the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (P.L.113-4) of which \$16,000,000 shall be for foreign national victims and \$16,000,000 for grants to non-governmental organizations working in communities around the country providing victim service programs for U.S. citizen and legal permanent resident victims of severe forms of trafficking.*

Assistance to Foreign National Victims: Since the passage of the TVPA in 2000, certified foreign national survivors have received medical and psychological treatment, housing, access to educational programs, life skills development, and other assistance through HHS-funded NGO programs. This program has also funded public awareness, training, and coalition building to raise awareness about human trafficking among law enforcement, social services, medical staff, and other potential first responders, in addition to other faith-based and community groups.

These grants are crucial to providing victims, including children, the comprehensive aid and services once they have been identified as a victim of trafficking. Since 2002, there has been a 569% increase in the number of victims identified and certified as in need of comprehensive, trauma-informed, gender specific services. Yet, funding for these programs has minimally increased for over 15 years and remains insufficient to meet victims' needs. We support the Department's decision to include legal services within the comprehensive services available to victims. We encourage ACF to use a portion of these increased funds for legal services for victims.

The U.S. Government is failing to support services for the victims that are currently being identified, but identification will only increase as public awareness around this issue mounts. While the prevalence of human trafficking is difficult to determine, there are some indicators of the scope of the problem. For example, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center has identified 24,156 potential human trafficking victims since 2007. Yet, HHS and its grantees have been able to serve less than 800 survivors annually. Each year since the passage of TVPA, HHS funding has had to serve an increasing number of survivors with the same resources. For example, in FY 2014, the federal government issued 749 total certifications to foreign adults and

eligibility letters to foreign children, a 44 percent increase from the previous year and exceeding the FY 2014 target of 412 certifications. This is also a steep increase from 380 total certifications (330 adults) and eligibility letters (50 children) in FY 2009. ORR continued to see an increase in certifications for FY 2015 with 863, surpassing the FY 2015 target of 428. Since HHS has needed to serve increasing numbers of victims with the same level of funding, service periods for some clients are only as long as four months. This short service period challenges a survivor's ability to recover and to participate in criminal prosecutions, which can often last as long as two years.

Assistance to U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents: U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who are victims of trafficking need specialized services. In particular, survivors who have been long-term victims of abuse and trauma, often since childhood, are in need of comprehensive case management services in order to access specific recovery programs for which they may be eligible. Furthermore, existing systems often struggle with addressing the specialized needs of trafficking victims. The child welfare system is a particularly shocking example of systems failing to adequately prevent or address human trafficking. Some studies estimate that as many as 80% of identified child trafficking victims had previous contact with the child welfare system. These studies demonstrate the vulnerability of children within the child welfare system as well as the role of the child welfare system in addressing human trafficking. Similar to the assistance provided for foreign national victims, recovery programs for U.S. citizens include medical and psychological treatment, housing, access to educational programs, life skills development, and other assistance through HHS-funded NGO programs. In 2015, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline identified 1,621 child trafficking cases: 1,379 cases of child sex trafficking (involving at least one minor) and 114 cases of child labor trafficking (involving at least one minor). The NHTRC hotline also found that of the sex trafficking cases it identified, 34.7% involved U.S. citizen victims (1,435 cases), and of the labor trafficking cases it identified, 14.8% involved U.S. citizen victims (107 cases).

Yet, funding for services for this population remains woefully low in spite of the recent increases. In FY13 \$0 was enacted for domestic victims, in FY14 \$1,750,000 was enacted, in FY15 \$2,750,000 was enacted, and in FY16 \$5,755,000 was enacted, all well short of the authorized \$10,000,000. While we support these increases, the demand for services continues to outpace available resources. The request for \$16,000,000 in funding reflects the need to appropriately address the needs of this population. These funds are necessary to fill the gap in services for domestic victims. These funds may also support public awareness, training, and coalition building to raise awareness about human trafficking among law enforcement, social services, medical staff, and other potential first responders, in addition to other faith-based and community groups.

We support the request included in the President's FY17 request, which recommended \$9,500,000 to provide comprehensive services to youth in the child welfare system who are victims or at-risk of human trafficking. We recommend that the Committee include these additional funds so as to address the unmet needs of this vulnerable population.

4. \$2,500,000 for the HHS/Administration for Children and Families/The National Human Trafficking Resource Center

We are seeking \$2,500,000 for the Administration of Children and Families to support the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) as authorized by section 107(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the 2000 TVPRA as amended (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)(ii)). The NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. The hotline is used to collect tips on human trafficking cases, to connect victims with anti-trafficking services in their area, and to provide training and technical assistance and

specific anti-trafficking resources. The NHTRC receives calls and provides services to both domestic and foreign national victims of human trafficking.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$2,500,000 to the Administration for Children and Families to support the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) as authorized by section 107(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the 2000 TVPRA as amended (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)(ii)).*

The number of cases reported to the hotline and overall call volume have increased dramatically since 2007. In 2015, 5,544 cases of human trafficking in the United States were reported to the NHTRC, and the hotline received a total of 21,947 calls, along with 2,810 emails and online tips. This is over 500 more cases and over 500 more calls than the hotline received in 2014. Putting this into further perspective, the NHTRC received just 3,516 calls in 2008. Since 2007, the NHTRC has identified 24,156 cases of human trafficking and close to 24,000 victims.

Not only is the overall volume of cases and calls increasing, but the amount of calls received directly from survivors has also increased. In 2015, 16% of the calls came directly from victims and survivors. By contrast, 12.7% of the 2014 calls and 10.5% of the 2013 calls came from victims and survivors. This steady increase demonstrates that this community is continuing to recognize the hotline as a safe, beneficial resource for assistance.

While the costs of operating the hotline have continued to rise, in large part due to increased call volume, government funding for the hotline has stayed relatively flat. In FY17, the total cost of operating the hotline will be approximately \$2,500,000. However, in FY16, HHS provided only \$1,000,000 in funding, and in prior years, HHS provided just \$800,000 per year.

The NHTRC has proven to be a strong return on investment, as demonstrated by the tremendous amount of cases and victims it has identified and calls it receives compared to the low funding levels it requires. In the the FY 2016 omnibus appropriations package, Congress included in the report language direction to HHS to “increase funding for the national human trafficking hotline to help respond to increased call volume and overall need for services.” In order to allow the NHTRC to maintain its high level of service and handle the continuing rise in call volume, we request \$2,500,000 for the NHTRC in FY 2017.

5. \$165,000,000 for the HHS/Administration of Children and Families/Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

A TEST is requesting \$165,000,000 in FY 2017 for the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) in HHS to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, originally part of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act and last reauthorized by the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-378), in order to prevent trafficking, identify survivors, and provide services to runaway, homeless, and disconnected youth. In FY 2016, funding increased for RHYA programs for the first time since 2010. Thank you for the 4% increase. We hope to continue to see this funding increase. \$165,000,000 directed to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act would fund this program at the level it is currently authorized.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$165,000,000 for the Administration of Children and Families to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, originally part of the Juvenile Justice &*

*Delinquency Prevention Act and last reauthorized by the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (P.L.110-378) as follows: \$158,000,000 to increase the capacity of programs that serve runaway and homeless youth to address human trafficking (\$130,000,000 for the Consolidated Runaway, Homeless Youth Programs and \$20,000,000 for Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth), \$5,000,000 to increase capacity and provide training for service providers to identify and serve exploited and trafficked youth, and \$2,000,000 to conduct the National Study on the Prevalence, Needs and Characteristics of Homeless Youth.*

Homeless children and youth are at high risk for trafficking, illness, and trauma; they also perform lower on academic assessments and are more likely to drop out of school, than housed children living in poverty. ACF has been involved with monitoring, reporting on, and consulting with other government agencies regarding Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs. These programs provide homeless and victimized youth with hope, safety, healing, and opportunities for a new life through: emergency shelters, family reunification when safe, aftercare, outreach, education and employment, health care, behavioral and mental health, transitional housing, and independent housing options. This support achieves the following successful outcomes for youth: 1) safe exit from homelessness and hopelessness; 2) family reunification and/or establishment of permanent connections in their communities; 3) education, employment, and sustainable independence; and 4) prevention of human trafficking. Further, these programs are often best positioned to prevent trafficking and commercial exploitation and provide early identification of victims of these crimes.

Despite large increases in child and youth homelessness, funding has remained flat for RHY programs. RHYA-funded Basic Center Programs have turned away more than 15,000 youth since FY 2010 due to a lack of an available bed, while RHYA-funded Transitional Living Programs have turned away more than 30,000 youth since FY 2010 due to the lack of an available bed. In addition, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2014 Point-in-Time, which included unaccompanied homeless youth for the first time, counted on a single night in January 2014:

- 6,274 unaccompanied homeless minors (under 18 years old) – 59.3% were unsheltered;
- 38,931 unaccompanied homeless youth (18-24 years old) – 45.6% were unsheltered.

Without emergency and transitional housing and crisis intervention, these children and youth are at even greater risk for trafficking and other life-threatening conditions.

This modest investment will expand the number of communities with Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs and lay a foundation for a national system of services for our most vulnerable young people who are at risk of becoming or have already been victims of exploitation and trafficking, abuse, familial rejection, unsafe communities, and poverty.

#### 6. Report Language for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

ATEST is requesting that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services be required to add questions about housing status and human trafficking to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in an effort to identify homeless youth who are at risk of human trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends the Center for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Survey be*



*expanded to include questions that identify homeless youth who are at risk of human trafficking. The Committee encourages the CDC to work with human trafficking service providers to develop the most effective questions for the survey.*

For example, the CDC could include questions, such as the following: During this school year, did you live away from your parents because you were kicked out, ran away, were abandoned? Where do you typically sleep at night? Did you ever work or do an illegal act, and someone else received money for your work/act? How many days/months did you do this? What type of work/illegal act did you have to do? Have you ever received money, a place to stay, food or something else of value in exchange for sex? What age did you first start having sex for money or in exchange for help/support? Did another person take money or benefit from you having sex in exchange for money/something of value?

Additional mandatory questions on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) would capture more data about the number of children and youth who are still attending school and experiencing homelessness and human trafficking every year. The YRBS specifically targets youth in grades 9-12 enrolled in high school and was developed by the CDC to assess categories of health risk behaviors among youth. We understand that there is limited space to add additional questions to the survey. Therefore, although for labor and sex trafficking cases it is often best to ask a series of questions to understand the exploitation, based on service provider experience in the field these questions were crafted to be simple, straightforward, and encompass information that we believe is best for data collection.

#### 7. Report Language for the HHS Victims Services Strategic Plan

In January 2014, the President released the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (2013-2017), a strategic plan for victims' services across the U.S. Government. Given that the strategic plan will soon be in its final year, we request that the Committee include report language that ensures sufficient funding for critically needed assistance for housing, extended case management services, and legal services, three areas where the existing federal response is lacking. It is imperative to ensure these critical needs are funded properly as the various agencies look to affirming their commitment to fighting this crime.

Proposed Report Language:

*Office of the Secretary*

*Human Trafficking Strategic Plan. -- The Committee understands that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in conjunction with other federal agencies, will implement a new strategic plan for victim services for human trafficking victims. The Committee believes such work is long overdue and should apply to all human trafficking victims. HHS, along with their federal partners, should ensure that implementation of this strategic plan includes funding for housing of human trafficking victims, extended case management services, and legal services.*

#### 8. \$85,000,000 for the Department of Education/McKinney-Vento Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

We are requesting \$85,000,000 in FY 2017 for U.S. Department of Education (ED) to implement the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program in order to provide services to and identify homeless children and youth, who are at high risk of human trafficking. In FY 2016, funding increased for the EHCY program for the first time in a

decade. Thank you for this increased funding amount. The EHCY program is a smart investment because of its effectiveness in addressing youth homelessness. The amount requested is the amount authorized in the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Unfortunately, the resources directed to child and youth homelessness programs have not been sufficient in recent years. In the 2013-2014 school year, public schools identified (a record) 1,360,747 homeless children and youth – a 7% increase over the previous year and 100% increase since 2006-2007. Meanwhile, funding for EHCY has remained relatively flat since FY 2010 in spite of last year's increase. Only 22% of school districts receive support through the EHCY program in any given year. As a result, homeless children and youth are under-identified and continue to face significant barriers to school enrollment and continuity.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$85,000,000 for U.S. Department of Education to fully implement the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth programs (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.) to increase the capacity of public schools to identify and serve homeless children and youth, who are at a high risk for human trafficking.*

Homeless children and youth are particularly at risk for human trafficking. Under the McKinney-Vento Act's EHCY program, all school districts are required to designate a homeless liaison who pro-actively identifies homeless children and youth and connects them to vital services like food, housing, and clothing. Under the Act, school districts are also required to provide transportation to stabilize the educational experiences of homeless students. Because all school districts – even those in communities without youth shelters — must designate a liaison for homeless students, schools are uniquely positioned to identify youth who are being trafficked, or are at risk of being trafficked, and provide connections to services. Yet many liaisons are designated in name only, and lack the time and the training to carry out their duties. A recent GAO Report (GAO-14-465) found that school districts struggle to identify and serve homeless students due to lack of capacity. Per pupil funding has decreased from \$91 per child in 2006, to \$53 per child in 2013. This lack of capacity is particularly severe in light of the increase in student homelessness. Increasing funding for the EHCY program will support a dedicated infrastructure within the nation's public schools to identify and serve children and youth who are at very high risk of human trafficking.

9. \$2,000,000 for ED Grants to Local Education Agencies Title I

We are requesting \$2,000,000 for the Department to fulfill its mandate under the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (2013-2017). The Department of Education interfaces with approximately 50 million elementary and secondary school children each year. The Department is in a unique position to identify victims of sex and labor trafficking and prevent the victimization and exploitation of those children who might be susceptible to this crime.

Pursuant to the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (2013-2017), we request that the Department develop materials regarding all forms of human trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, to ensure that educators are aware of how to identify and treat all types of trafficking. Further, we request that the Department undertake a study to examine the appropriate role of educators and the education system in preventing, identifying, and supporting child trafficking victims. The outcome of the study should inform the development of a model curriculum on the prevention of both sex and labor

trafficking. The Department should consult stakeholders, including educators, NGOs, as well as both labor and sex trafficking survivors, on the development of materials, the study, and the curriculum guidelines. We request the following report language:

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee directs the Department of Education to develop educational materials regarding all forms of human trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, to ensure that educators are aware of how to identify and treat all types of trafficking, and to undertake a study to examine the appropriate role of educators and the education system in preventing, identifying, and supporting child trafficking victims.*

As a champion of the victims of child labor, forced labor, and sex trafficking, you understand the complexities of these issues and the resources needed to respond to these problems. We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect the priorities of the community, focusing on the most important and effective programs. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership in fighting to end child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at [msperber@humanityunited.org](mailto:msperber@humanityunited.org) or (631) 374-0749.

Sincerely,

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

ECPAT-USA

Free the Slaves

Futures Without Violence (FUTURES)

International Justice Mission

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

Polaris

Safe Horizon

Solidarity Center

Verité

Vital Voices Global Partnership

**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, Futures Without Violence (FUTURES), International Justice Mission, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), National Network for Youth (NN4Y), Polaris, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.**