



Alliance to End Slavery and
Trafficking
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 520
Washington, DC 20006
www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org

May 22, 2015

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), we are writing to express our support for the bipartisan *Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act* (S. 1446) championed by Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME).

The bill establishes and expands an existing U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) SOAR pilot program aimed at strengthening health care providers' ability to identify and combat human trafficking through robust training. This training would better equip health care providers to identify victims of human trafficking, to streamline procedures for providers to partner directly with law enforcement, and to provide victim-centered, gender-responsive, and youth-appropriate services. The bill enhances the SOAR pilot program and adds reporting requirements to ensure transparency, improve data collection, and strengthen program impact. It also authorizes resources for HHS to ensure the implementation of the SOAR pilot program is effective.

Healthcare providers are on the front lines of identifying human trafficking victims. It is essential that they receive the necessary training and resources to better identify and serve victims and respond to all forms of human trafficking. For this reason, we urge you to support the *Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act*.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at 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

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

Polaris

Safe Horizon

Solidarity Center

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, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Vision.