



Alliance to End Slavery and  
Trafficking  
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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

The Honorable Pete Visclosky, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee Defense

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Durbin

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cochran and Ranking Members Visclosky and Durbin:

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, human trafficking, and modern slavery, and appreciate your efforts to curtail these practices. We are writing to seek your assistance in funding programs related to child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery in the FY 2016 Department of Defense Appropriation bill.

The Defense Department has a zero tolerance policy for trafficking in persons. As DOD operates around the world, it has a moral obligation to fight this heinous crime, protect freedom, and create stability. DOD's obligation holds its military, civilian employees, and contractors accountable.

ATEST commends DOD's leadership in fighting human trafficking, but challenges the Department to devote more resources and a dedicated office for this purpose. As such, ATEST is seeking the following report language in the FY16 Defense Appropriations bill.

1. Office of the Secretary of Defense / Office of Human Trafficking

We are requesting that the Department of Defense include \$2,000,000 in FY16 to establish an Office of Human Trafficking located in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. These funds would be used to establish permanent FTEs within the Office and provide support for implementing DOD's Strategic Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP). DOD is uniquely positioned to play an important role in combating trafficking in persons given the breadth and scope of its work in both its domestic and international operating environments. The implementation of the CTIP Strategic Plan would include issuing a DOD-wide policy that conforms to laws and executive orders on CTIP such as Title XVII of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) entitled, "Ending Trafficking in Government Contracting." It would also include instituting training, education, and outreach programs to ensure greater awareness within the Department, as well as implementing standardized CTIP monitoring and enforcement

processes and procedures that improve compliance and the reporting of incidents of trafficking.

Proposed Report Language:

*The Committee recommends \$2,000,000 for the Department of Defense Office of the Secretary to establish an Office of Human Trafficking located in the Office of the Secretary of Defense to combat human trafficking and modern slavery at DOD facilities in the U.S. and around the world.*

## 2. Department of Defense / Child Soldier Prevention Act

The Child Soldier Prevention Act (CSPA) was part of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008 (sections 401-407). The Child Soldier Prevention restricts U.S. military assistance to countries known to recruit or use children in national armed forces or government-supported paramilitary groups. Since the law went into effect five years ago, implementation has been hampered by the use of national security waivers, allowing U.S. taxpayer military assistance to flow to countries listed as using or recruiting children in their armed forces. In 2014, the Administration issued waivers for 6 of the 9 countries that had been listed as using or recruiting children in their armed forces in the previous reporting period. The CSPA can be an effective tool in the U.S. Government's toolbox to end the use of children in armed groups. In 2013, the United States withheld military assistance to Rwanda over their support of the rebel group M23, which operated in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and actively recruited and forced children to serve as soldiers. The pressure from the international community and loss of U.S. military assistance resulted in Rwanda ending support to M23 and the eventual collapse of the group. We request the following bill language.

Proposed Bill Language:

*Funds under this Act may not be used to provide excess defense article, foreign military sales, peacekeeping/overseas contingency operations, or assistance under section 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006 to countries using or recruiting child soldiers or supporting armed forces or groups that recruit or use child soldiers, pursuant to the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-457 section 404).*

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 true 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, human trafficking, and modern slavery. 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

World Vision

**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.**