



Alliance to End Slavery and
Trafficking
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May 7, 2014

The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Dear Chairs Wolf and Mikulski and Ranking Members Fattah and Shelby:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to seek your assistance to fund a series of authorized programs in the FY 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that are absolutely critical to fighting the growing problem of human trafficking and forced labor.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (P.L.113-4) validated the Justice Department's role in investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes, as well as serving its victims. The TVPA forms the core of the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and protect the victims of trafficking and forced labor. Unfortunately, the problem of human trafficking and forced labor is growing. These victims often experience severe trauma that requires intensive therapy and rehabilitation. In addition, human trafficking and forced labor criminal cases are often complicated and involve lengthy legal proceedings requiring additional resources for prosecutors as well as victims. Many of these victims require comprehensive case management provided by victim service organizations to see them through their recovery and help them navigate the legal system.

With your help and leadership, we believe it is time to increase the resources available to the Department of Justice, victims, and the victim service organizations on the frontlines fighting to help the victims of these crimes. Therefore, we request the following:

Office of Justice Programs / State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

1. Victim Services Grants: \$22,000,000 and Report Language

We request \$22,000,000 for the Victims of Trafficking Grant program for foreign nationals, and U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. This amount reflects fully authorized amounts in the TVPA, as amended by the Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act of 2013 (title XII of Public

Law 113-4). Within this amount, we are seeking no less than \$11,000,000 for victims service grants for foreign national victims of trafficking as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106-386 as amended by Public Law 113-4; and \$11,000,000 for victim services grants to assist U.S. citizen and legal permanent residents as authorized by Section 213(a)(2) of the TVPA reauthorization of 2008 and Public Law 113-4. Thousands of U.S. citizens are becoming victims of these crimes whether for forced labor or sexual exploitation. Despite increasing numbers of identified victims, DOJ is decreasing funding toward victim services grants, which is leading to fewer organizations that support human trafficking victims. During FY 2012, DOJ awarded funding to only 14 victim service organizations across the United States, totaling approximately \$5.7 million, a decrease from \$6.7 million granted in FY 2011.

Proposed Bill Language:

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

\$22,000,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106-386, as amended by Public Law 113-4, provided that no less than \$11,000,000 shall be for victim services grants for foreign national victims of trafficking and \$11,000,00 shall be for victim services grants for U.S. Citizen and LPR victims.

Proposed Report Language:

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

The bill provides \$22,000,000 for the Victims of Trafficking Grant program as authorized by Public Law 106-386 and amended by Public Law 113-4 of which no less than \$11,000,000,000 is for victim services grants for foreign national victims of trafficking and \$11,000.000 for U.S. Citizen and LPR victims.

2. Task Forces: \$10,000,000 and Report Language

Historically, funding for the Human Trafficking Task Forces has come from the Victim Services grants. However, section 1242 of the TVPRA of 2013 authorized for the first time \$10,000,000 specifically for human trafficking taskforces focused on all forms of human trafficking. This authorization also provides funds to train law enforcement personnel on how to identify human trafficking. Lack of training on the crime and on identification of victims is a significant barrier to prosecution of cases by states. Specialized human trafficking taskforces funded by DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) had been reduced from 26 to 16 across the country. This is a significant reduction in taskforces, which in the past funded more than 40 specialized taskforces. These dramatic reductions are occurring at a time when increased incidents of human trafficking are being reported. Therefore we request that the Law Enforcement Taskforce funds receive additional appropriations and no longer be appropriated from the Victim Services Funds described above. We also request that the newly authorized \$10,000,000 be used for the Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Task Forces, which integrate federal, state and local law enforcement, prosecutorial and victim service organizations to prevent and prosecute human trafficking.

Proposed Bill Language:

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

\$10,000,000 for Human Trafficking Task Forces and law enforcement training, as authorized by section 1242 of Public Law 113-4.

Proposed Report Language:

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

The bill provides \$10,000,000 for the Human Trafficking Task Forces and law enforcement training as authorized by Public Law 113-4.

3. Minor Victim Services Grants: \$10,000,000 and Report Language

The TVPRA of 2013 (P.L.113-4) created a grant program to “develop, expand and strengthen assistance programs for certain persons subject to trafficking.” Under this grant program the Attorney General is authorized under Section 202(i) to provide \$8,000,000 in grant funding to serve sex trafficked minors. Since the authorized funds are specific to sex trafficked minors we are requesting an additional \$2,000,000 million in grant funds to support the same services, training and outreach for labor trafficked youth. We believe developing these programs simultaneously is imperative, given that the federal definition of human trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking. Therefore to ensure funds are available to meet the needs of all child victims of severe forms of trafficking we are requesting \$10,000,000, of which \$8,000,000 is for sex trafficked minors and \$2,000,000 is for labor trafficked minors.

Specialized assistance to minor victims of human trafficking is essential to combat modern-day slavery. From 2007-2012, the NHTRC identified 2,668 cases involving child trafficking. Minor victims of trafficking face major hurdles in recovering from the abuse and trauma of their trafficking system. Lack of resources to establish specialized programs for child victims of trafficking is preventing states from providing these vital services. Additionally, law enforcement around the country has identified the lack of specialized housing programs as the greatest obstacle in bringing effective prosecutions against child traffickers. Service providers continue to highlight that children are being arrested for crimes their traffickers forced them to commit and are housed in juvenile detention because no other housing or social services programs are available. For example in 2010, in Los Angeles County alone, 174 children under the age of 18 were arrested for prostitution. Some were as young as 11 and 12 years old. In addition, a 2013 report found that 469 children were commercially sexually exploited in the Portland, Oregon area over the past four years.

While we support the need for additional funding for trafficked minors, especially sex trafficked minors, we believe DOJ must carefully administer this new grant fund in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the key areas the grant fund include: residential care, 24-hour response services, clothing and basic necessities, case management services, mental health counseling, trauma informed and gender specific care, legal services and specialized training for social service providers, public sector personnel and private sector personnel, and outreach and education.

Proposed Bill Language

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

\$10,000,000 for victim services programs for minor victims of sex and labor trafficking, provided that no less than \$8,000,000 shall be for victim services grants for sex trafficked minors as authorized by section 202(i) of Public Law 113-4.

Proposed Report Language:

The bill provides \$10,000,000 for Minor Victims of Trafficking Grant program, of which \$8,000,000 is for victim services grants for sex trafficked minors as authorized by Public Law 113-4, and the remaining \$2,000,000 is for victim services grants for labor trafficked minors. The Committee encourages DOJ to work in close coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage collaboration and reduce duplication of effort.

Legal Activities / Civil Rights Division

4. \$6,500,000 for the Human Trafficking and Slavery Prosecution Unit (HTSPU) and Report Language

We request \$6,500,000 for the HTSPU, equal to the budget request and the enacted funding level. The HTSPU has seen a 600% increase in its caseload in recent years. We ask that report language be added encouraging HTSPU and the recently created Anti-Trafficking Coordination teams (a joint DOJ/DHS/DOL program) to work with victim service providers and non-governmental organizations to ensure victims' needs are met.

Proposed Report Language:

Legal Activities / Salary and Expenses / General Legal Activities

The Committee provides \$6,500,000 for the Human Trafficking and Slavery Prosecution Unit (HTSPU) and encourages HTSPU and the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams to continue working with victim service providers and non-governmental organizations to ensure victim needs are prioritized as part of the overall strategy to combat human trafficking and forced labor in the United States.

Legal Activities / United States Attorneys

5. Report Language Creating a Point of Contact in each USA Office

We request that the Subcommittee include report language that directs the creation of a point of contact (POC) in each U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) to serve as the coordinator of all human trafficking and forced labor matters within each USAO and to serve as a liaison with victim service organizations within each respective jurisdiction to improve coordination and communication.

Proposed Report Language:

Salaries and Expenses / United States Attorneys

The Committee directs the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, in consultation with the United States Attorneys, to designate a point of contact in each U.S. Attorney's office who shall serve as

the coordinator for all activities within that office concerning human trafficking and forced labor matters covered by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Designating a point of contact will improve communication and coordination within each jurisdiction, including victim service organizations, in order to better serve the victims of human trafficking and forced labor.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

6. FBI Salaries and Expenses: \$15,000,000 for Investigations into Severe Forms of Trafficking and Report Language

We request \$15,000,000 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Salaries and Expenses account to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons. As the lead federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and forced labor would be significantly enhanced through additional resources devoted specifically to trafficking and forced labor. While the total number of investigations of child sex trafficking has increased from 352 to 440, the FBI reported 306 pending human trafficking investigations with suspected adult and foreign child victims, a decrease from 337 in FY 2011. This decline suggests that specialized funding for human trafficking is needed, as well as additional resources to ensure all types of trafficking cases continue to be appropriately investigated.

Proposed Report Language:

Salaries and Expenses / Federal Bureau of Investigation

The bill provides \$15,000,000 for the FBI to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons. As the lead federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and forced labor would be significantly enhanced through additional resources devoted specifically to the growing problem of trafficking and forced labor. The funding shall be used for investigations into trafficking and forced labor and providing victim witness coordinators when needed on an emergency basis.

We understand the extremely difficult funding situation you are facing in FY 2015. We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect true priorities that are targeted and focused on the most important and most effective programs. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership in fighting the scourge of human trafficking and forced labor. If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at msperber@humanityunited.com or (631) 374-0749.

Sincerely,

Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Adler School of Professional Psychology

Albion Free Methodist Church

Americans for Immigrant Justice, Inc.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles

Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

Bolton Lillie Publishing

Break the Chain Campaign

Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law

Center for the Human Rights of Children, Loyola University Chicago

Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition

CHE Trinity Health

Child Labor Coalition

CHILDREN AT RISK

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church World Service

Civil Society (Minnesota)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST)

Committee for Children

Cornerstone Children's Ranch

Dawn's Place

Dignity Health

Diocese of Springfield

Dominican Sisters

East Coast Human Trafficking Task Force

ECPAT-USA

Enterprising & Professional Women-NYS

Franciscan Action Network

Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, Cinn., OH

Free the Slaves

Freedom Network USA

Futures Without Violence

GFWC Woman's Club of Tarpon Springs, FL

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

Give Way to Freedom

GNSH Derby Social Justice Group

GoodWeave International

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Yardley, PA

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles

Hagar USA

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA

Human Trafficking Center, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

IF Hummingbird Foundation

Jill Iscol, President

IGLTA

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility's Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery Working Group

International Justice Mission

Jewish Women International

Joint Council on International Children's Services

Junior Leagues of Georgia, State Public Affairs Committee

Justice Team - Congregation of St. Joseph

Law Office of James Martin Coode

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

LifeWay Network

Love146

Lutheran Social Services of New England

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Massachusetts Citizens for Children

Maternal and Child Health Access

Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Consumers League

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of Jewish Women-California

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Network for Youth

New Orleans Human Trafficking Working Group

Nomi Network INC

Not for Sale

Pacific Survivor Center

Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference

Polaris Project

Prax(us)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Women

RACINE, WI Dominican Sisters

RBMA Investigations

Religious Sisters of Charity

Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Richmond Justice Initiative

Ricky Martin Foundation

Safe Horizon

Safe House of Hope

SDS Hope House, Inc.

Servants of the Paraclete

Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Sisters of the Presentation

Slavery Today

Slavery Today Journal

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Solidarity Center

Somaly Mam Foundation

State Public Affairs Committee of the Jr. League of Florida

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Tahirih Justice Center

Thai Community Development Center

The Bridge for Youth

The General Board of Church and Society - United Methodist Church

The Gray Haven

The International Organization for Adolescents

The NEXUS Institute
There Is Hope For Me, Inc.
To Love Children Educational Foundation
Transport For Christ, Inc. (Exit 58)
U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
UNANIMA International
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
US Fund for UNICEF
Verite
Victory Assembly of God
Vital Voices Global Partnership
Walk Free Movement to End Modern Slavery
WestCoast Childrens Clinic
Women of Vision Albuquerque
Women of Vision Chicago
Women of Vision, Austin
Women of Vision, Orange County
Women Thrive Worldwide
Women's Foundation of Minnesota
World Relief
Xaverian Brothers
YouthCare
youthSpark, Inc.

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, Polaris Project, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Vision.