



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

May 9, 2014

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Daniel Coats, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Chairs Carter and Landrieu and Ranking Members Price and Coats:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to fund initiatives in the FY15 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill for the Bureaus of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to combat the \$30 billion illegal human trafficking and forced labor industry. Congress voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (P.L. 113-4), further validating the Department of Homeland Security's crucial role in fighting this despicable crime.

As you begin to draft the fiscal year 2015 Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill, we ask that you consider funding and report language to better combat human trafficking as follows:

1. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): \$10,000,000 for Investigations

We request \$10,000,000 for investigations by ICE to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Congress established this program under Section 113(i) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended by its reauthorization in 2005, 2008, and 2013. ICE plays a critical role in combating severe forms of human trafficking in the United States and is therefore one of the first lines of defense in stopping this heinous crime. In 2012, ICE HSI reported investigating 894 cases possibly involving human trafficking, an increase from 722 cases investigated in FY 2011. This is a 23% increase in investigations in just one year. Additional resources are needed to continue to expand investigations against suspected human traffickers and help reduce the incidents of trafficking and forced labor in the United States.

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee recommends \$10,000,000 for investigations into severe forms of human trafficking and to expand investigations against suspected human traffickers. Congress called on ICE to take a more active role in pursuing investigations of human trafficking under Sec. 113(i) of the TVPA of 2000, as amended by the TVPRA of 2005, the TVPRA of 2008, and the TVPRA of 2013. ICE is one of the first lines of defense in combating this crime as it enters the U.S.

2. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Training for Officers

As mentioned above, ICE officers are on the frontlines of our efforts to combat human trafficking. The nuances of trafficking cases may be ignored in the rush of large immigration cases. Too often, victims are treated as criminals rather than the victims they are. Additionally, victims are not provided with the benefits and support that is mandated by the TVPA. For example, despite increased numbers of investigations and victims identified, in FY 2012 ICE issued Continued Presence to only 199 trafficking victims, a significant decrease from 283 in FY 2011. It is critical that ICE officers receive the training they need to identify and assist trafficking victims. To accomplish this goal, we ask that the following language be included in the Committee Report for the FY 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Proposed Report Language:

ICE plays a critical role in investigating criminal organizations trafficking individuals into and within the United States. The Committee encourages ICE to work with appropriate non-governmental organizations and victim service providers to improve the training of ICE officers in the field to assist in the identification of human trafficking victims and provide appropriate referrals to victim service organizations. The Committee also encourages ICE to examine its policies around granting Continued Presence to ensure that victims who come forward to report to law enforcement are granted this form of relief.

3. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Rights for Human Trafficking Victims

When ICE initiates a crime raid, trafficking victims often are swept away and initially detained as criminals. We request report language to encourage ICE to identify trafficking victims early in the investigations and, if possible, prior to detention. The treatment of trafficking victims as criminals undermines their cooperation in the prosecutions of their traffickers, insofar as the trafficking victims do not trust the government and will not cooperate after incarceration. It is critical to the future prosecution of traffickers and the rehabilitation of the victims that the victims receive the appropriate medical, psychological, and legal assistance as soon as possible. Indeed, the TVPA gives specific legal rights to trafficked persons, including the right to appropriate shelter not incompatible with their status as victims of a crime (22 U.S.C. § 7105(c)(1)(A)). Additionally, Continued Presence, a temporary form of immigration relief, was explicitly created under the TVPA of 2000 to provide status to potential trafficking victims. Too often victims are not receiving this form of relief in a timely matter, and additional burdens are placed on the cooperating victim as well as the service providers assisting the victim who remains without status in the United States.

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee directs ICE to identify potential victims of human trafficking and forced labor early in any ICE or ICE-led investigations and provide informational materials and referrals for

victim assistance as quickly as possible prior to any legal action. The Committee encourages ICE to work with non-governmental organizations and victim service providers on victim referrals and assistance. The Committee also encourages ICE to seek: (1) Continued Presence for potential trafficking victims as soon as possible to assist in the prosecution of traffickers and aid in victim recovery and (2) assist local and state law enforcement to understand the requirements of CP and promptly respond to any state or local requests by law enforcement for CP for potential victims of human trafficking.

4. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): Training for Officers

Like ICE officers, CBP officers play an integral role in our efforts to combat human trafficking, most especially at our borders. Training the agents to understand and appreciate the nuances of human trafficking cases and to accurately identify trafficking victims is imperative to servicing the victims, prosecuting the traffickers, and deterring future trafficking crimes. We ask that the following language be included in the Committee Report for the FY 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Proposed Report Language:

CBP plays a critical role in identifying potential human trafficking victims as they enter the United States. The Committee encourages CBP to work with appropriate nonprofit organizations and victim service providers to improve the training of CBP officers in the field to assist in the identification of human trafficking victims and provide appropriate referrals to victim service organizations.

5. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): Human Trafficking Hotline Number

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center 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, connect victims with anti-trafficking services in their area, and to provide training and technical assistance and specific anti-trafficking resources. We request that the Committee include report language directing the Commissioner to post the hotline number and website in all U.S. ports of entry.

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee directs the Commissioner to post the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline, email address, text messaging number, and website information in all U.S. ports of entry.

We understand the extremely difficult funding situation you are facing in FY 2015. We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect priorities that are targeted on the most effective DHS programs to combat human trafficking. 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

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 Vision

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.