

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 22, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

Thank you for your past support of the many programs through the Departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury that fight human trafficking. As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 appropriations, we write to express our strong support for programs that work to combat the growing problem of human trafficking and slavery, and we request that you provide these programs with sufficient funding in FY 2013.

In the United States, human trafficking and slavery has been found in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. The victims of these crimes, often women and children, are subjected to severe abuses such as rape and forced labor. The number of calls to the national human trafficking hotline has increased significantly, particularly in 2011, as has the number of victims seen by all of the critical frontline federal agencies.

Trafficking and slavery in the U.S. is part of the growing international crisis. According to estimates contained in the State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, there are 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution around the world. Interpol has estimated that trafficking and slavery represent earnings of \$32 billion annually in transnational crime.

The Departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury all devote critical assistance designed to prevent future crimes from taking place, assisting victims of trafficking and modern day slavery, and investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of these heinous crimes. Assistance to victims as they transition to survivors is critical to the fight against trafficking.

The United States Government continues to be the most powerful institution in the world when it comes to fighting modern day slavery and human trafficking. We urge you to provide adequate funding to these critical agencies that are assisting victims and on the frontline fighting these crimes for Fiscal Year 2013, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Ron Wyden


Daniel K. Akaka


John Cornyn


Scott P. Brown

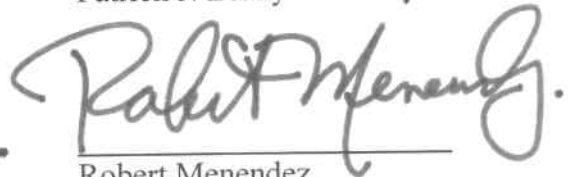

Kirsten E. Gillibrand


Richard Burr

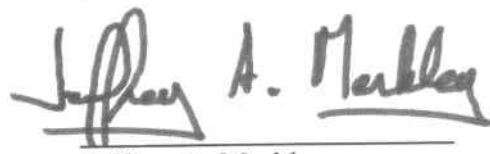

Richard Blumenthal


Patrick J. Leahy


Al Franken


Robert Menendez


Barbara Boxer

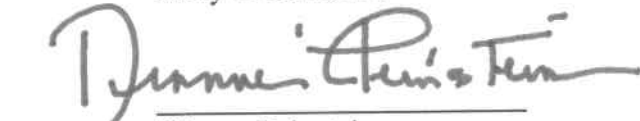

Jeffrey A. Merkley


Michael F. Bennet

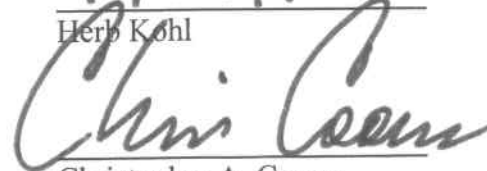

John D. Rockefeller IV


Benjamin L. Cardin


Mary L. Landrieu


Dianne Feinstein


Herb Kohl


Christopher A. Coons

cc: Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby
Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Graham
Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison
Chairwoman Landrieu and Ranking Member Coats