



Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking

April 27, 2018

The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jerry Moran, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Dear Chairs Culberson and Moran and Ranking Members Serrano and Shaheen:

The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) seeks your assistance to fund a series of programs in the FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that are critical to fighting human trafficking and forced labor. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) validates the Justice Department's vital role in investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes. These cases are often complicated and involve lengthy legal proceedings requiring additional resources for prosecutors as well as for victims who often experience severe trauma requiring intensive therapy and rehabilitation. Many 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 can maintain and increase resources for the Justice Department, victims, and front-line victim service organizations.

FY2019 CJS Appropriations Request Summary		
Agency	Program	Request
Justice Department	Office of Justice Programs / State And Local Law Enforcement: Assistance Victim Services Grants	\$67,000,000
	Office of Justice Programs / State And Local Law Enforcement: Assistance Minor Victim Services Grants	\$10,000,000
	Legal Activities/ Civil Rights Division: Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit	\$65,000,000
	Federal Bureau of Investigation	Report Language (see below)
	U.S. Attorney's Offices	Report Language (see below)

Office of Justice Programs / State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

1. Victim Services Grants: \$67,000,000

Background: The National Human Trafficking Hotline reported a 13 percent increase in calls in 2017. Robust resources are needed to ensure that as more survivors come forward they receive appropriate responses and services. Existing victims services grant programs at the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) are shaped by the OVC's long-term institutional knowledge on sex and labor trafficking issues. OVC has done an efficient and effective job administering grants for trafficking survivors and law enforcement funded taskforces for more than 15 years, and should retain this role without disruption. We **request that no less than \$45,000,000 million of the appropriation be for victim services**, and that the majority of OVC money be continued to be spent supporting direct services for all forms of trafficking in persons including intensive case management, legal and shelter services. We also request that OVC review monies granted to law enforcement taskforces to ensure taskforces are adopting victim-centered approaches.

Proposed Bill Language: *\$67,000,000 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. Of the amount provided under this section, no less than \$45,000,000 shall be provided for victim services.*

Proposed Report Language: *The bill provides \$67,000,000 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 \$45,000,000 for victim services.*

2. Minor Victim Services Grants \$10,000,000

Background: Specialized, comprehensive, trauma-informed, gender-specific assistance to minor victims of human trafficking is critical. Minors face significant hurdles recovering from the abuse and trauma they've endured. Law enforcement has identified the lack of specialized housing programs throughout the U.S. as the greatest obstacle in effectively prosecuting child traffickers. The Attorney General is authorized under Sec. 202 of P.L. 109-164 (TVPRA of 2005), as amended by the TVPRA of 2013, to provide \$8,000,000 in grant funding to serve sex-trafficked minors. Since the authorized funds are specific to sex trafficked minors, we request an additional \$2,000,000 to support 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. We further request that the budget contain statutory language to make this funding available for two years instead of just one year. We believe DOJ must carefully administer this grant fund in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and that the key areas within the grant fund include: residential care, 24-hour response services, clothing and basic necessities, case management services, mental health counseling, comprehensive, trauma-informed, and gender specific services, legal services, and specialized training for social service providers, public and private sector personnel, and outreach and education. HHS, in its runaway and homeless youth programs and other services grant areas, has technical expertise in all of these areas.

Proposed Bill Language: *\$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

3. Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit: \$65,000,000

Background: The Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU) needs increased funding to handle its growing caseload (a 62 percent increase in cases filed in FY 2011-2015 compared to the previous five-year period). These cases are resource-intensive because they are procedurally complex, and involve multiple jurisdictions and defendants. With increased funding, HTPU will be able to more effectively investigate and prosecute all forms of trafficking and modern slavery.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee provides \$65,000,000 for the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU) and encourages HTPU 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. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU) to report to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 120 days following enactment of this Act on (1) the total number of human trafficking cases it prosecuted or assisted in prosecuting within the last three years disaggregated by type of trafficking, (2) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on human trafficking within the last three years, and, (3) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on restitution for human trafficking victims within the last three years.*

Federal Bureau of Investigation

4. Federal Bureau of Investigation: Report Language

The FBI remains the premier federal law enforcement agency fighting human trafficking and modern slavery. The presence of the FBI in any trafficking investigation significantly increases the chances of success. Furthermore, with trafficking investigations often crossing state lines, the presence of the FBI becomes critical.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee recognizes the complex nature of human trafficking investigations and encourages the Director to allocate additional resources for human trafficking cases and designate a lead agent in each field office as a point of contact for slavery and human trafficking investigations.*

Legal Activities / United States Attorneys: Report Language

5. Point of Contact in Each U.S. Attorney's Office

Request: We request that the Subcommittees include report language that continues to require 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: *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.*

6. Process for Survivors to Obtain Expedited Letter of Support

Request: We request that the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, to develop a process to enable survivors with T-visas to obtain an expedited letter of support from the Department of Justice when their criminal case is closed.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee directs the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, to develop a process to enable survivors with T-visas to obtain an expedited letter of support from the Department of Justice when their criminal case is closed.*

We have carefully vetted our appropriations requests to reflect key priorities, focusing on the most important and effective programs. We thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership in fighting the scourge of human trafficking and forced labor. If you have any questions, please contact ATEST Coalition Co-Chairs Neha Misra (nmisra@solidaritycenter.org) or Terry FitzPatrick (terry@freetheslaves.net).

Sincerely,

Member Organizations of the ATEST Coalition

ATEST is a U.S.-based coalition that advocates for solutions to prevent and end all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. ATEST member organizations: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), Free the Slaves, National Network for Youth (NN4Y), Polaris, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.