



Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) thanks you for your leadership in the fight to end child labor, forced labor and human trafficking. We appreciate your efforts to pass legislation and provide resources to federal agencies engaged in combating these horrific crimes. We seek your assistance in funding essential programs in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The number of trafficking victims significantly exceeds the availability of services at the Departments of Labor (DOL), Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED). ATEST recommends robust funding and accountability for programs at these key departments to fulfill the highest priority mandates of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). We particularly note the critical role that HHS programs provide in addressing TIP. With your leadership, DOL, HHS, and ED will better understand trafficking prevalence and provide comprehensive services to victims. These agencies, if properly resourced, are well positioned to prevent human trafficking and ensure that the most vulnerable do not become victims.

FY 2019 LHHS Appropriations Request Summary		
Agency	Program	Request
Department of Labor	International Labor Affairs Bureau	\$103,500,000
	Employment & Training Administration	Report Language (see below)
Department of Health and Human Services	Administration for Children and Families, Victim Services	\$32,000,000
	Administration for Children and Families, National Human Trafficking Hotline	\$2,500,000
	Administration for Children and Families, Runaway and Homeless Youth Act	\$165,000,000
	Administration for Children and Families Office of Trafficking in Persons	Report Language (see below)
Department of Education	Grants to Local Education Agencies, Title I	\$2,000,000
	McKinney-Vento Act	\$100,000,000
	Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program	

Department of Labor

1. International Labor Affairs Bureau: \$103,500,000

Background: The Bureau of International Labor Affairs in the Department of Labor (DOL/ILAB) is an essential part of the U.S. Government's international response to forced labor, human trafficking and child labor. ILAB's mandates under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and its support for monitoring and reporting mandates under the Farm Bill and Trade and Development Act, touch on key elements of partnership, prevention, protection and prosecution, such as child labor, international labor diplomacy, international economic affairs, and labor-related trade policy. Through highly respected research, grant making, and policy development work, ILAB has provided critical tools that identify cases of goods made with forced labor, child labor, and forced or indentured child labor, including the "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor." Programs initiated by DOL/ILAB often serve as models for scaling up by the private sector, governments, and civil society. **Specifically, we request \$27,000,000 for the administration of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, \$59,000,000 for the Child Labor and Forced Labor program, \$10,000,000 for the Workers' Rights program, and \$7,500,000 for program evaluation.**

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee recommends \$103,500,000 for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs to implement Section 105(b)(2) of the TVPRA of 2005 (P.L. 109-164) and Section 110 of the TVPRA of 2008 (P.L. 110-457), of which \$27,000,000 shall be for the administration of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, \$59,000,000 shall be for the Child Labor and Forced Labor program, \$10,000,000 for the Workers' Rights program, and \$7,500,000 for program evaluation.*

2. Employment and Training Administration: Report Language

Background: We encourage the Employment and Training Administration in the Department of Labor to review all employment readiness, training and other discretionary programs and revise program guidance as needed to explicitly include eligibility for trafficking victims where possible as per Sec. 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. We also recommend that the Department integrate training to identify potential signs of trafficking and referral options as a regular activity for State Farmworker Monitor Advocates, and during the provision of relevant services to particular at-risk populations, including through the Youth Build, Job Corps and Reentry Employment Opportunity programs. We also encourage further development of the pilot project to support networks of service providers that the Department of Labor undertook in collaboration with HHS and DOJ as part of the implementation of the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States. Labor trafficking affects both US Citizens and Foreign Nationals working across many industries in the United States, most commonly domestic work, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, hotel services, construction, health and elder care, hair and nail salons, and strip club dancing. DOL needs the resources to protect and support victims, particularly with much needed skills training and job placement services, as well as providing referrals to shelter, medical care, mental health services, legal services, and case management.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee encourages the Employment and Training Administration to increase access and eligibility to employment and training services for survivors of all forms of human trafficking as required by Sec. 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (P.L. 106-386). The Committee also encourages the development and integration of training to identify potential signs of trafficking and referral options as a regular activity for State Farmworker Monitor Advocates, and during the provision of relevant services to particular at-risk populations, including through the Youth Build, Job Corps and Reentry Employment Opportunity programs. The Committee also encourages the Department to continue and expand its pilot initiative to develop and support networks of service providers in collaboration with HHS and DOJ.*

Department of Health and Human Services

3. Administration for Children and Families, Victim Services: \$32,000,000

Background: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) serves victims of trafficking, fulfilling mandates of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to 1) Identify and serve victims who are foreign nationals, and, 2) Create specialized case management programs to assist U.S. citizen victims. The number of trafficking victims who have been identified and certified as in need of comprehensive, trauma-informed, gender-specific services has risen dramatically but funding for services has not kept pace. HHS and its grantees have been able to serve fewer than 900 foreign national survivors annually. We support the Department's decision to include legal services within the comprehensive services available to victims. We encourage ACF to use a portion of increased funding for legal services for victims.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee recommends \$32,000,000 for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to implement the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-4) through grants to non-governmental organizations working in communities around the country providing victim service programs for victims of severe forms of trafficking, of which \$16,000,000 shall be for foreign national victims and \$16,000,000 for U.S. citizen and legal permanent resident victims of severe forms of trafficking.*

4. Administration for Children and Families, The National Human Trafficking Hotline: \$2,500,000

Background: The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) is a toll-free 24/7 center available to answer calls, online tips and email queries. The NHTH collects tips on human trafficking cases, connects victims with anti-trafficking services in their area (such as shelter, case management, and legal services), and, where appropriate, reports actionable tips to law enforcement. The NHTH serves both domestic and foreign victims inside the U.S. Funding to the NHTH has been insufficient to meet growing call volume. Since 2007, it has received reports of more than 31,000 cases. The NHTH also collects and provides valuable data on the prevalence of victims in the United States, as well as on human trafficking trends.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee recommends \$2,500,000 to the Administration for Children and Families to support the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) as authorized by section 107(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the 2000 TVPRA as amended (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)(ii)).*

5. Administration for Children and Families, Runaway and Homeless Youth Act: \$165,000,000

Background: The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act provides vital services to runaway, homeless, and disconnected youth. This modest investment has laid the foundation for a national system of services for our most vulnerable young people who are at risk of becoming or have already been victims of exploitation and trafficking, abuse, familial rejection, unsafe communities, and poverty. ACF has been involved with monitoring, reporting on and consulting with other government agencies regarding Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs. These programs provide homeless and victimized youth with hope, safety, healing, and opportunities for a new life through: emergency shelters, family reunification when safe, aftercare, outreach, education and employment, health care, behavioral and mental health, transitional housing, and independent housing options. This support achieves the following successful outcomes for youth: 1) safe exit from homelessness and hopelessness; 2) family reunification and/or establishment of permanent connections in their communities; 3) education, employment and sustainable independence; and, 4) prevention of human trafficking. These programs are often in the best position to prevent trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation and provide early identification of victims of these crimes.

In November 2017 the University of Chicago released *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America*, the *National Study on the Prevalence, Needs and Characteristics of Homeless Youth* required under RHYA. *Missed Opportunities* showed that 4.2 million young people experienced homelessness in America over a 12-month period. This means that 1 in 10 young adults aged 18-25, and at least 1 in 30 adolescents aged 13-17, experienced some form of homelessness unaccompanied by a parent or guardian over the course of a year. Importantly, it also revealed that homelessness is just as much of a challenge in rural communities as it is in urban communities.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee recommends \$165,000,000 for the Administration of Children and Families to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, originally part of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act and last reauthorized by the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (P.L.110-378) as follows: \$150,000,000 to increase the capacity of programs that serve runaway and homeless youth to address human trafficking (\$130,000,000 for the Consolidated Runaway, Homeless Youth Programs and \$20,000,000 for Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth), \$5,000,000 to increase capacity and provide training for service providers to identify and serve exploited and trafficked youth, and \$2,000,000 to conduct the National Study on the Prevalence, Needs and Characteristics of Homeless Youth.*

6. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Trafficking in Persons: Report Language

Background: In establishing the Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), HHS underscored the importance of coordinating the trafficking efforts across the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF works directly with all victims of human trafficking – men, women, children, LGBTQ, foreign nationals and domestic clients – and the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of these populations can only be met by an effective coordinating body networked agency-wide. OTIP fulfills this essential function. Given its important role, we request funding for OTIP to fully staff this office. We look forward to working with OTIP's new staff to ensure victims receive the benefits and resources they need to recover and build a new life.

Proposed Report Language: *Within the funds provided, the Committee encourages ACF to hire sufficient FTEs to support the newly established Office of Trafficking in Persons and coordinate trafficking efforts across ACF.*

Department of Education

7. Grants to Local Education Agencies, Title I: \$2,000,000

Background: The Department of Education interfaces with approximately 50 million elementary and secondary school children each year, placing it in a unique position to identify victims of sex and labor trafficking and to prevent the victimization and exploitation of children who might be susceptible. The Department has released an excellent preliminary guide for educators on ways to identify and help prevent child trafficking in schools, recognizing they need to recognize the signs of child abuse and trafficking and must have tools to successfully report potential victims or identify children at risk. The Department has also partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services on discrete projects, including social media awareness campaigns such as the #WhatIWouldMiss campaign. While the Department has been able to accomplish a great deal without any dedicated federal resources, in order to achieve meaningful and lasting change, funding dedicated to the prevention of child trafficking is vital. We request that the Department undertake a study to examine the appropriate role of educators and the education system in preventing, identifying, and supporting child trafficking victims. The outcome of the study should inform the development of a model curriculum on the prevention of both sex and labor trafficking. The Department should consult stakeholders, including educators, NGOs, and the Survivor Advisory Council on the development of materials, the study, and the curriculum guidelines.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee directs the Department of Education to develop educational materials regarding all forms of child trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, to ensure that educators are aware of how to identify and treat all types of trafficking, and to undertake a study to examine the appropriate role of educators and the education system in preventing, identifying, and supporting child trafficking victims.*

8. McKinney-Vento Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program: \$100,000,000

Background: The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program EHCYP removes barriers to the enrollment, attendance and opportunity for success for homeless children and youth; all of whom are at high risk of human trafficking. With the support of EHCYP grants, local education agencies have provided identification, enrollment and transportation assistance, as well as academic support and referrals for basic services. Under the McKinney-

Vento Act's EHCYP, all school districts are required to designate a homeless liaison, who proactively identifies homeless children and youth and connects them to vital services like food, housing, and clothing. Under the Act, school districts are also required to provide transportation to stabilize the educational experiences of homeless students. Because all school districts – even those in communities without youth shelters — must designate a liaison for homeless students, schools are uniquely positioned to identify youth who are being trafficked, or are at risk of being trafficked, and provide connections to services. Yet many liaisons are designated in name only and lack the time and the training to carry out their duties. *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America* found that lack of a high school degree or GED is the top risk factor for youth and young adult homelessness; indeed, youth without a high school degree or GED are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness than peers who completed high school. Unfortunately, resources directed to child and youth homelessness programs have not been sufficient in recent years. Only 24 percent of school districts receive support through the EHCYP in any given year. As a result, homeless children and youth are under-identified and continue to face significant barriers to school enrollment and continuity.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee recommends \$100,000,000 for U.S. Department of Education to fully implement the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth programs (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.) to increase the capacity of public schools to identify and serve homeless children and youth, who are at a high risk for human trafficking.*

As a champion for the victims of child labor, forced labor and sex trafficking, you understand the complexities of these issues and the resources needed to respond. We have carefully vetted our requests to focus on the most important and effective programs. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership. 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.