



April 14, 2021

Honorable Matt Cartwright, Chair | Honorable Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Chair | Honorable Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

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 FY22 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies bill. The Justice Department plays a vital role in bringing traffickers to justice. 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 long-term services and support to rebuild their lives. Most victims require comprehensive case management, legal services and access to housing supported by trauma-informed and culturally competent victim services and community-based organizations to support their goals and help them navigate the often re-traumatizing court process.

We are grateful for your support to increase investments in these areas, and to continue to ensure that the Department of Justice works to strengthen collaborative community responses to human trafficking.

ATEST FY22 Appropriations Request Summary: CJS				
Department	Program	FY21 Enacted	Authorized Funding	FY22 Appropriation Request
Justice	Office of Justice Programs / State And Local Law Enforcement Assistance Victim Services Grants and Human Trafficking Task Forces	\$85,000,000	\$98,000,000	\$134,000,000
	Office of Justice Programs / State And Local Law Enforcement Assistance		\$8,000,000	\$10,000,000



Alliance To End Slavery & Trafficking

Justice	Minor Victim Services Grants			
	Legal Activities/ Civil Rights Division: Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit	\$5,300,000	n/a	\$8,000,000
	National Institute of Justice / Prevalence Methodology & Study			\$7,000,000
	Federal Bureau of Investigation			Report Language (see below)
	U.S. Attorney’s Offices			Report Language (see below)

Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs / State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Victim Services Grants and Human Trafficking Task Forces: \$134,000,000 | In 2019, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 11,500 potential trafficking cases in the United States, a 7.9 percent increase in identified cases since 2018. In the first 2 months of shelter-in-place orders, the Trafficking Hotline recorded a 40 percent increase in crisis cases reported compared to prior years. This trend has continued for the following months. The COVID-19 crisis has drastically changed the landscape for serving human trafficking victims and survivors. Service providers nationwide have reported a greater caseload and more difficulties providing services due to shelter-in-place orders and lockdown restrictions. As economic vulnerabilities continue to increase throughout the duration of the pandemic and economic recovery, we expect an increase in required services for victims and survivors. Despite the amplified need for comprehensive services, we anticipate a 35 percent decrease in funding for service providers in the anti-trafficking movement as part of the economic fallout from this global health crisis. We are seeing sustained unprecedented unemployment rates and significantly heightened client financial needs in all areas, including social and legal needs, and thus expect a significant increase in the need for sustained comprehensive services.

To attempt to meet the growing needs of victims and survivors, we request \$144,000,000 for human trafficking survivors and law enforcement. Given the increased vulnerability to trafficking



due to high unemployment rates and general financial, legal and social instability, we request that no less than \$120,000,000 of the appropriation be for victim services, and that the majority of OVC money continues 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 task forces to ensure task forces are adopting victim-centered approaches.

With respect to implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) related to protection of victim rights, section 906 of S.1311 (one of the four bills in the most recent TVPA reauthorization), the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security was to issue a directive regarding victim protection training and victim screening protocols. These protocols have still not been developed. ATEST is deeply invested in the development of victim-centered protocols by either DOJ or DHS, in strong collaboration with DOL and HHS, for publication and dissemination to the extensive network of DOJ-funded task forces around the country.

Proposed Report Language: *The bill provides \$144,000,000 for the Victims of Trafficking Grant program, of which no less than \$120,000,000 is for victim services. The \$10,000,000 request for minor victim services grants is included within the \$144,000,000 appropriations request for victim services overall.*

Office of Justice Programs / State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Minor Victim Services Grants: \$10,000,000 | Specialized, comprehensive, trauma-informed and gender-specific assistance to minor victims of human trafficking is critical. Minors face significant hurdles recovering from the abuse and trauma they have 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 to provide grant funding to serve sex-trafficked minors. We request additional funds to support services, training and outreach for labor-trafficked youth. We believe including labor trafficked children is imperative given that the federal definition of human trafficking includes both sex trafficking and forced labor. We further request that the bill contain statutory language to make this funding available for two years instead of just one year.

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, and an additional \$2,000,000 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, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU): \$8,000,000 | HTPU houses the government's top legal experts on prosecuting human trafficking cases. These cases are resource-intensive because they are procedurally complex and involve multiple jurisdictions and defendants. Per the Human Trafficking Institute's Federal Human Trafficking Report, HTPU cases had a 100 percent conviction rate in 2019, and defendants in HTPU cases are consistently receiving longer sentences and more frequently ordered to pay restitution than non-HTPU cases. With increased funding, HTPU will be able to increase



prosecutions of all forms of trafficking and forced labor. Additionally, the *Abolish Human Trafficking Act* (P.L. 115-392) designates an assistant U.S. Attorney in every U.S. Attorney's Office across the United States to prosecute human trafficking cases. HTPU is responsible for supporting the training of these prosecutors.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee provides \$8,000,000 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. Additional resources provided are to implement section 15 of P.L. 115-392. 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.*

National Institute of Justice / Prevalence Methodology & Study: \$7,000,000 | DOJ has missed the deadline of December 21, 2019 to update Congress on its efforts to conduct the evaluation research and develop a methodology to assess the prevalence of human trafficking in the United States as mandated by Sec. 401(a) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-393). In the past, no funding has been allocated to a prevalence study in the United States. Funding provided will allow NIJ to finally conduct a prevalence study on the nature of trafficking in the United States, or more accurately, a series of prevalence studies focused on specific geographies, economic sectors, and forms of trafficking. This research is essential to inform future appropriations decisions for counter-trafficking in persons programs. The development and implementation of the methodology is estimated to cost \$7,000,000 total. Such sums necessary to complete the evaluation research and development should be appropriated for FY22.

The lack of coordinated efforts across the country to collect reliable data about trafficking means funds are appropriated and programs established without dependable information regarding the prevalence of specific types of trafficking, the locations in which trafficking occurs, and the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures. A concerted effort to collect reliable, accurate, relevant, and impartial data is necessary to establish more effective counter-trafficking in persons programs and to more appropriately target federal funding. The study will need to include information from federal and state law enforcement alongside direct service providers in order to present a comprehensive landscape of human trafficking in the United States. Conducting pilot studies that target specific high-prevalence regions, economic sectors, and population groups is a crucial step in developing a comprehensive and accurate prevalence methodology study; moreover, limiting the covered populations (as opposed to a national prevalence estimate) will allow the work to be conducted on a shorter timeline.

Proposed Report Language: *The Committee directs the Secretary to report on efforts made by the National Institute of Justice to develop a methodology to assess the prevalence of human*



trafficking in the United States as mandated by Sec. 401(a) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-393). The Secretary should include in this report an estimate of the necessary funds to complete the evaluation research and development of the methodology in fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023.

Federal Bureau of Investigation: Report Language | The FBI remains the premier federal law enforcement agency fighting human trafficking. 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 human trafficking investigations.

Legal Activities / United States Attorneys: Report Language

1) Consistent with the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victim Protection Act's requirement that each U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) designate an Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) as a lead human trafficking prosecutor, we request that the subcommittee include report language encouraging the prompt implementation and that the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys provide sufficient support and training and technical assistance to the designated AUSAs to enable 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 provide sufficient support and training and technical assistance to each Assistant U.S. Attorney designated as the lead human trafficking prosecutor, consistent with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

2) We request that the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, 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: 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. 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, including a report on sufficient staffing to ensure that requests for letters can be processed in less than 3 months.

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 Anita Teekah (Anita.Teekah@safehorizon.org) or Terry FitzPatrick (terry.fitzpatrick@freetheslaves.net).



Sincerely,

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Free the Slaves

HEAL Trafficking

Human Trafficking Institute

Humanity United Action

McCain Institute for International Leadership

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

Polaris

Safe Horizon

Solidarity Center

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

United Way Worldwide

Verité

Vital Voices Global Partnership

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.