

who voted against the invasion of Iraq. I never dreamed for one minute of sending a letter to Saddam Hussein before that vote instructing him about the politics of America. It turns out that in the history of the Senate that has rarely, if ever, occurred.

I hope now that those 47 Republican Senators will reflect on their actions and reflect on the impact it will have. I hope the American people understand the President is embarking on a very difficult and delicate mission to try to negotiate a verifiable end to the nuclear arms race in the Middle East and specifically to end nuclear capability in Iran. He may not achieve it, but I respect him for trying. He is the Commander in Chief of the United States of America. He is the elected leader of our Nation. Though many in this Chamber cannot accept it, he is the President of the United States, and he deserves our respect.

I respected President George W. Bush, even when I disagreed with him on his policies on Iraq, and we should expect nothing less of the loyal minority when it comes to this President as well.

I conclude by saying the Senate has an important role to play. But the President's role, speaking for the United States—trying to avoid a nuclear Iran, trying to avoid a military conflict, another war in the Middle East—is something that should not be undermined for political ambition.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to completely align myself with views of the distinguished Senator from Illinois. This isn't a case of who can score political points for the evening news broadcast. We are talking about potentially the lives of millions of people. We are talking about the possibility of a cataclysmic mistake that could create havoc long after any of us has left this body. I have had the honor of representing Vermont in the Senate beginning at the time when Gerald Ford was President.

We have had Presidents I have agreed with—in fact, with every President there have been things I agreed with and with every President, Democratic or Republican, there have been things I have disagreed with. But one thing I have always done when there are such negotiations going on, I am willing to talk to the President privately, but I am not going to state my position, for or against, publicly. We can only have one person negotiating for the United States. Can you imagine if everybody who wanted to rush to the cable news shows to get on TV were to say, well, here is our negotiating position—and we are going to force the President to leave the negotiating table? What do you think those countries that joined us in imposing multilateral sanctions would do?

Many of those countries that joined us are doing so at great economic cost

to themselves, but they responded—when President Obama went to each of them and asked: Will you join us in imposing sanctions, they agreed. That made the sanctions far more effective. If they think we are not serious, they are going to be very tempted to ask: Why should we join you in supporting sanctions in the future? If the United States were alone in supporting sanctions, no matter what those sanctions are, it would not create any real pressure on Iran.

Have we not made enough mistakes in the Middle East? I remember some who said we must go to war in Iraq because it would protect Israel or because they had nuclear weapons or because they had weapons of mass destruction. None of that was true. None of it. I remember people stopping me on the street, angry that I voted against the war in Iraq. They said: We heard Vice President Cheney say they have nuclear weapons. I said: There are none.

The senior Senator from Michigan, in quoting Arthur Vandenberg—he was no fan of Franklin Roosevelt, quite the opposite, but he did say, as we were going into World War II, “politics must stop at the water's edge.” That has been the view in my own State of both Republicans and Democrats.

Let's stop rushing for the cameras and potentially hurting the Senate, potentially hurting the country. Let's think about what is best for the country.

I see the distinguished chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee on the floor, so I will yield the floor so he can speak.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 178

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Sec. 101. Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

Sec. 102. Clarifying the benefits and protections offered to domestic victims of human trafficking.

Sec. 103. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.

Sec. 104. Direct services for victims of child pornography.

Sec. 105. Increasing compensation and restitution for trafficking victims.

Sec. 106. Streamlining human trafficking investigations.

Sec. 107. Enhancing human trafficking reporting.

Sec. 108. Reducing demand for sex trafficking.

Sec. 109. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 110. Using existing task forces and components to target offenders who exploit children.

Sec. 111. Targeting child predators.

Sec. 112. Monitoring all human traffickers as violent criminals.

Sec. 113. Crime victims' rights.

Sec. 114. Combat Human Trafficking Act.

Sec. 115. Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act.

Sec. 116. Bringing Missing Children Home Act.

Sec. 117. Grant accountability.

#### TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

Sec. 201. Amendments to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

Sec. 211. Response to victims of child sex trafficking.

Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

Sec. 221. Victim of trafficking defined.

Sec. 222. Interagency task force report on child trafficking primary prevention.

Sec. 223. GAO Report on intervention.

Sec. 224. Provision of housing permitted to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking.

#### TITLE III—HERO ACT

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. HERO Act.

#### TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

##### SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§3014. Additional special assessment

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September, 30 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

“(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

“(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

“(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

“(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

“(b) *SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.*—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines and orders of restitution arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

“(c) *ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.*—There is established in

the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"(d) DEPOSITS.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, or any other law regarding the crediting of money received for the Government, there shall be deposited in the Fund an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

"(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

"(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

"(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

"(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

"(2) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

"(3) LIMITATIONS.—Amounts in the Fund, or otherwise transferred from the Fund, shall be subject to the limitations on the use or expending of amounts described in sections 506 and 507 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76; 128 Stat. 409) to the same extent as if amounts in the Fund were funds appropriated under division H of such Act.

"(f) TRANSFERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the day after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, on September 30 of each fiscal year, all unobligated balances in the Fund shall be transferred to the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

"(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts transferred under paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be available for any authorized purpose of the Crime Victims Fund; and

"(B) shall remain available until expended.

"(g) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

"(h) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

"3014. Additional special assessment."

**SEC. 102. CLARIFYING THE BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS OFFERED TO DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Section 107(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

"(F) NO REQUIREMENT OF OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking to obtain an official certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to access any of the specialized services described in this subsection or any other Federal benefits and protections to which they are otherwise entitled."; and

(3) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated, by striking "subparagraph (F)" and inserting "subparagraph (G)".

**SEC. 103. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b) is amended to read as follows:

**"SEC. 203. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

"(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may award block grants to an eligible entity to develop, improve, or expand domestic child human trafficking deterrence programs that assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial officials, and qualified victims' services organizations in collaborating to rescue and restore the lives of victims, while investigating and prosecuting offenses involving child human trafficking.

"(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—

"(1) the establishment or enhancement of specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care officials, child welfare officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to—

"(A) identify victims and acts of child human trafficking;

"(B) address the unique needs of child victims of human trafficking;

"(C) facilitate the rescue of child victims of human trafficking;

"(D) investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking, including the soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing of commercial sex acts from children, as well as training to build cases against complex criminal networks involved in child human trafficking; and

"(E) utilize, implement, and provide education on safe harbor laws enacted by States, aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses, and other laws aimed at the investigation and prosecution of child human trafficking;

"(2) the establishment or enhancement of dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units and task forces to investigate child human trafficking offenses and to rescue victims, including—

"(A) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers, detectives, and investigators, except that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under this section shall not be more than the percentage of the officer's time on duty that is dedicated to working on cases involving child human trafficking;

"(B) investigation expenses for cases involving child human trafficking, including—

"(i) wire taps;

"(ii) consultants with expertise specific to cases involving child human trafficking;

"(iii) travel; and

"(iv) other technical assistance expenditures;

"(C) dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units, including the funding of salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of child human trafficking offenders, except that the percentage of the total salary of a State or local prosecutor that is paid using an award under

this section shall be not more than the percentage of the total number of hours worked by the prosecutor that is spent working on cases involving child human trafficking;

"(D) the establishment of child human trafficking victim witness safety, assistance, and relocation programs that encourage cooperation with law enforcement investigations of crimes of child human trafficking by leveraging existing resources and delivering child human trafficking victims' services through coordination with—

"(i) child advocacy centers;

"(ii) social service agencies;

"(iii) State governmental health service agencies;

"(iv) housing agencies;

"(v) legal services agencies; and

"(vi) nongovernmental organizations and shelter service providers with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking; and

"(E) the establishment or enhancement of other necessary victim assistance programs or personnel, such as victim or child advocates, child-protective services, child forensic interviews, or other necessary service providers; and

"(3) the establishment or enhancement of problem solving court programs for trafficking victims that include—

"(A) mandatory and regular training requirements for judicial officials involved in the administration or operation of the court program described under this paragraph;

"(B) continuing judicial supervision of victims of child human trafficking, including case worker or child welfare supervision in collaboration with judicial officers, who have been identified by a law enforcement or judicial officer as a potential victim of child human trafficking, regardless of whether the victim has been charged with a crime related to human trafficking;

"(C) the development of a specialized and individualized, court-ordered treatment program for identified victims of child human trafficking, including—

"(i) State-administered outpatient treatment;

"(ii) life skills training;

"(iii) housing placement;

"(iv) vocational training;

"(v) education;

"(vi) family support services; and

"(vii) job placement;

"(D) centralized case management involving the consolidation of all of each child human trafficking victim's cases and offenses, and the coordination of all trafficking victim treatment programs and social services;

"(E) regular and mandatory court appearances by the victim during the duration of the treatment program for purposes of ensuring compliance and effectiveness;

"(F) the ultimate dismissal of relevant non-violent criminal charges against the victim, where such victim successfully complies with the terms of the court-ordered treatment program; and

"(G) collaborative efforts with child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, shelters, and nongovernmental organizations with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking to provide services to victims and encourage cooperation with law enforcement.

"(c) APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General for a grant under this section in such form and manner as the Attorney General may require.

"(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application submitted under this subsection shall—

"(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

"(B) include a detailed plan for the use of funds awarded under the grant;

"(C) provide such additional information and assurances as the Attorney General determines

to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section; and

“(D) disclose—  
“(i) any other grant funding from the Department of Justice or from any other Federal department or agency for purposes similar to those described in subsection (b) for which the eligible entity has applied, and which application is pending on the date of the submission of an application under this section; and  
“(ii) any other such grant funding that the eligible entity has received during the 5-year period ending on the date of the submission of an application under this section.

“(3) PREFERENCE.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall give preference to grant applications if—  
“(A) the application includes a plan to use awarded funds to engage in all activities described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b); or  
“(B) the application includes a plan by the State or unit of local government to continue funding of all activities funded by the award after the expiration of the award.

“(d) DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARD.—  
“(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall expire 3 years after the date of award of the grant.  
“(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this section shall be renewable not more than 2 times and for a period of not greater than 2 years.

“(e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall—  
“(1) enter into a contract with a nongovernmental organization, including an academic or nonprofit organization, that has experience with issues related to child human trafficking and evaluation of grant programs to conduct periodic evaluations of grants made under this section to determine the impact and effectiveness of programs funded with grants awarded under this section;  
“(2) instruct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to review evaluations issued under paragraph (1) to determine the methodological and statistical validity of the evaluations; and  
“(3) submit the results of any evaluation conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) to—  
“(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and  
“(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(f) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—An eligible entity awarded funds under this section that is found to have used grant funds for any unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost shall not be eligible for any grant funds awarded under the block grant for 2 fiscal years following the year in which the unauthorized expenditure or unallowable cost is reported.  
“(g) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this section if within the 5 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section, the grantee has been found to have violated the terms or conditions of a Government grant program by utilizing grant funds for unauthorized expenditures or otherwise unallowable costs.  
“(h) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The cost of administering the grants authorized by this section shall not exceed 5 percent of the total amount expended to carry out this section.

“(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a program funded by a grant awarded under this section shall be—  
“(1) 70 percent in the first year;  
“(2) 60 percent in the second year; and  
“(3) 50 percent in the third year, and in all subsequent years.  
“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING; FULLY OFFSET.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not more than \$7,000,000 of

the funds available in the Domestic Trafficking Victims’ Fund, established under section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

“(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—  
“(1) the term ‘child’ means a person under the age of 18;  
“(2) the term ‘child advocacy center’ means a center created under subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.);  
“(3) the term ‘child human trafficking’ means 1 or more severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) involving a victim who is a child; and  
“(4) the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State or unit of local government that—  
“(A) has significant criminal activity involving child human trafficking;  
“(B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking;  
“(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat child human trafficking, including—  
“(i) the establishment of a shelter for victims of child human trafficking, through existing or new facilities;  
“(ii) the provision of trauma-informed, gender-responsive rehabilitative care to victims of child human trafficking;  
“(iii) the provision of specialized training for law enforcement officers and social service providers for all forms of human trafficking, with a focus on domestic child human trafficking;  
“(iv) prevention, deterrence, and prosecution of offenses involving child human trafficking, including soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing human acts with children;  
“(v) cooperation or referral agreements with organizations providing outreach or other related services to runaway and homeless youth;  
“(vi) law enforcement protocols or procedures to screen all individuals arrested for prostitution, whether adult or child, for victimization by sex trafficking and by other crimes, such as sexual assault and domestic violence; and  
“(vii) cooperation or referral agreements with State child welfare agencies and child advocacy centers; and  
“(D) provides an assurance that, under the plan under subparagraph (C), a victim of child human trafficking shall not be required to collaborate with law enforcement officers to have access to any shelter or services provided with a grant under this section.

“(l) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY; SPECIALIZED VICTIMS’ SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—No grant funds under this section may be awarded or transferred to any entity unless such entity has demonstrated substantial experience providing services to victims of human trafficking or related populations (such as runaway and homeless youth), or employs staff specialized in the treatment of human trafficking victims.”  
“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 203 and inserting the following:  
“‘Sec. 203. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.’”

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—  
“(A) by redesignating section 9703 (as added by section 638(b)(1) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-393; 106 Stat. 1779)) as section 9705; and  
“(B) in section 9705(A), as redesignated—  
“(i) in paragraph (1)—  
“(I) in subparagraph (I)—  
“(aa) by striking ‘payment’ and inserting ‘Payment’; and  
“(bb) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and  
“(II) in subparagraph (J), by striking ‘payment’ and inserting ‘Payment’; and  
“(ii) in paragraph (2)—  
“(I) in subparagraph (B)—  
“(aa) in clause (iii)—  
“(AA) in subclause (I), by striking ‘or’ and inserting ‘of’; and  
“(BB) in subclause (III), by striking ‘and’ at the end;  
“(bb) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘; and’; and  
“(c) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:  
“(v) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking);”;

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall transfer assets forfeited pursuant to this section, or the proceeds derived from the sale thereof, to satisfy victim restitution orders arising from violations of this chapter.  
“(2) PRIORITY.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall have priority over any other claims to the assets or their proceeds.  
“(3) USE OF NONFORFEITED ASSETS.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce or otherwise mitigate the obligation of a person convicted of a violation of this chapter to satisfy the full amount of a restitution order through the use of non-forfeited assets or to reimburse the Attorney General for the value of assets or proceeds transferred under this subsection through the use of nonforfeited assets.”

“(b) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.—Section 524(c)(1)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ‘chapter 77 of title 18,’ after ‘criminal drug laws of the United States or of’.  
“(c) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 31.—  
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—  
“(A) by redesignating section 9703 (as added by section 638(b)(1) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-393; 106 Stat. 1779)) as section 9705; and  
“(B) in section 9705(A), as redesignated—  
“(i) in paragraph (1)—  
“(I) in subparagraph (I)—  
“(aa) by striking ‘payment’ and inserting ‘Payment’; and  
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“(AA) in subclause (I), by striking ‘or’ and inserting ‘of’; and  
“(BB) in subclause (III), by striking ‘and’ at the end;  
“(bb) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘; and’; and  
“(c) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:  
“(v) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking);”;

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“(i) in paragraph (1)—  
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“(II) in subparagraph (J), by striking ‘payment’ and inserting ‘Payment’; and  
“(ii) in paragraph (2)—  
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“(aa) in clause (iii)—  
“(AA) in subclause (I), by striking ‘or’ and inserting ‘of’; and  
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“(bb) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘; and’; and  
“(c) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:  
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“(c) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:  
“(v) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking);”;

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“(B) in section 9705(A), as redesignated—  
“(i) in paragraph (1)—  
“(I) in subparagraph (I)—  
“(aa) by striking ‘payment’ and inserting ‘Payment’; and  
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“(ii) in paragraph (2)—  
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“(i) in paragraph (1)—  
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“(A) by redesignating section 9703 (as added by section 638(b)(1) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-393; 106 Stat. 1779)) as section 9705; and  
“(B) in section 9705(A), as redesignated—  
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(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:  
“(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.”

“(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.”

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(II) in subparagraph (G), by adding “and” at the end; and

(III) in subparagraph (H), by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CROSS REFERENCES.—

(i) TITLE 28.—Section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “section 9703(g)(4)(A)(ii)” and inserting “section 9705(g)(4)(A)”;

(II) in paragraph (10), by striking “section 9703(p)” and inserting “section 9705(o)”;

(III) in paragraph (11), by striking “section 9703” and inserting “section 9705”.

(ii) TITLE 31.—Title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in section 312(d), by striking “section 9703” and inserting “section 9705”; and

(II) in section 5340(1), by striking “section 9703(p)(1)” and inserting “section 9705(o)”.

(iii) TITLE 39.—Section 2003(e)(1) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 9703(p)” and inserting “section 9705(o)”.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“9701. Fees and charges for Government services and things of value.

“9702. Investment of trust funds.

“9703. Managerial accountability and flexibility.

“9704. Pilot projects for managerial accountability and flexibility.

“9705. Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.”

#### SEC. 106. STREAMLINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (a), by inserting a comma after “weapons”;

(B) in subparagraph (c)—

(i) by inserting “section 1581 (peonage), section 1584 (involuntary servitude), section 1589 (forced labor), section 1590 (trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),” before “section 1591”;

(ii) by inserting “section 1592 (unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of trafficking, peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),” before “section 1751”;

(iii) by inserting a comma after “virus”;

(iv) by striking “, section” and inserting a comma;

(v) by striking “or” after “misuse of passports.”; and

(vi) by inserting “or” before “section 555”;

(C) in subparagraph (j), by striking “pipeline,” and inserting “pipeline.”; and

(D) in subparagraph (p), by striking “documents, section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft)” and inserting “documents”, section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft)”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child pornography production,” after “kidnapping”.

#### SEC. 107. ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING.

Section 505 of title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) PART 1 VIOLENT CRIMES TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘part 1 violent crimes’ shall include severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).”

#### SEC. 108. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or maintains” and inserting “maintains, patronizes, or solicits”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “or maintained” and inserting “, maintained, patronized, or solicited”;

(B) by striking “knew that the person” and inserting “knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person”.

(b) DEFINITION AMENDED.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended by striking “or obtaining” and inserting “obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting”.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the amendments made by this section is to clarify the range of conduct punished as sex trafficking.

#### SEC. 109. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, defines a sex trafficker as a person who “knowingly. . . recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, or maintains by any means a person. . . knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion. . . or any combination of such means will be used to cause the person to engage in a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of 18 years and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act”;

(2) while use of the word “obtains” in section 1591, United States Code, has been interpreted, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, to encompass those who purchase illicit sexual acts from trafficking victims, some confusion persists;

(3) in *United States vs. Jungers*, 702 F.3d 1066 (8th Cir. 2013), the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled that section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, applied to persons who purchase illicit sexual acts with trafficking victims after the United States District Court for the District of South Dakota erroneously granted motions to acquit these buyers in two separate cases; and

(4) section 108 of this title amends section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, to add the words “solicits or patronizes” to the sex trafficking statute making absolutely clear for judges, juries, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials that criminals who purchase sexual acts from human trafficking victims may be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as sex trafficking offenders when this is merited by the facts of a particular case.

#### SEC. 110. USING EXISTING TASK FORCES AND COMPONENTS TO TARGET OFFENDERS WHO EXPLOIT CHILDREN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that—

(1) all task forces and working groups within the Innocence Lost National Initiative engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the investigative capabilities of State and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of persons who patronize, or solicit children for sex; and

(2) all components and task forces with jurisdiction to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of child labor trafficking engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the capacity of such components to deter and punish child labor trafficking.

#### SEC. 111. TARGETING CHILD PREDATORS.

(a) CLARIFYING THAT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PRODUCERS ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.—Section 2423(f) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “means (1) a” and inserting the following: “means—

“(1) a”;

(2) by striking “United States; or (2) any” and inserting the following: “United States;

“(2) any”; and

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “; or

“(3) production of child pornography (as defined in section 2256(8)).”

(b) HOLDING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE.—Section 2423(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “a preponderance of the evidence” and inserting “clear and convincing evidence”.

#### SEC. 112. MONITORING ALL HUMAN TRAFFICKERS AS VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

Section 3156(a)(4)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “77,” after “chapter”.

#### SEC. 113. CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement.

“(10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims’ Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.”;

(2) in subsection (d)(3), in the fifth sentence, by inserting “, unless the litigants, with the approval of the court, have stipulated to a different time period for consideration” before the period; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “this chapter, the term” and inserting the following: “this chapter:

“(1) COURT OF APPEALS.—The term ‘court of appeals’ means—

“(A) the United States court of appeals for the judicial district in which a defendant is being prosecuted; or

“(B) for a prosecution in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

“(2) CRIME VICTIM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”;

(B) by striking “In the case” and inserting the following:

“(B) MINORS AND CERTAIN OTHER VICTIMS.—In the case”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) DISTRICT COURT; COURT.—The terms ‘district court’ and ‘court’ include the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.”.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS FUND.—Section 1402(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting “section” before “3771”.

(c) APPELLATE REVIEW OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: “In deciding such application, the court of appeals shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.”.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any petition for a writ of mandamus filed under section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 114. COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCIAL SEX ACT; SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; STATE; TASK FORCE.—The terms “commercial sex act”, “severe forms of trafficking in persons”, “State”, and “Task Force” have the meanings given those terms in

section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(2) **COVERED OFFENDER.**—The term “covered offender” means an individual who obtains, patronizes, or solicits a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(3) **COVERED OFFENSE.**—The term “covered offense” means the provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(4) **FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The term “Federal law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term in section 115 of title 18, United States Code.

(5) **LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The term “local law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a unit of local government authorized by law or by a local government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(6) **STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The term “State law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(c) **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS, AND JUDGES.**—

(1) **TRAINING.**—

(A) **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice, including each anti-human trafficking training program for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, includes technical training on—

(i) effective methods for investigating and prosecuting covered offenders; and

(ii) facilitating the provision of physical and mental health services by health care providers to persons subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(B) **FEDERAL PROSECUTORS.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice for United States attorneys or other Federal prosecutors includes training on seeking restitution for offenses under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, to ensure that each United States attorney or other Federal prosecutor, upon obtaining a conviction for such an offense, requests a specific amount of restitution for each victim of the offense without regard to whether the victim requests restitution.

(C) **JUDGES.**—The Federal Judicial Center shall provide training to judges relating to the application of section 1593 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to ordering restitution for victims of offenses under chapter 77 of such title.

(2) **POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that Federal law enforcement officers are engaged in activities, programs, or operations involving the detection, investigation, and prosecution of covered offenders.

(d) **MINIMUM PERIOD OF SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMMERCIAL CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.**—Section 3583(k) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “1594(c),” after “1591.”

(e) **BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS REPORT ON STATE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROHIBITIONS.**—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall—

(1) prepare an annual report on—

(A) the rates of—

(i) arrest of individuals by State law enforcement officers for a covered offense;

(ii) prosecution (including specific charges) of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(iii) conviction of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(B) sentences imposed on individuals convicted in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(2) submit the annual report prepared under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Task Force;

(D) the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)); and

(E) the Attorney General.

**SEC. 115. SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING EMPOWERMENT ACT.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the “Council”), which shall provide advice and recommendations to the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)) (referred to in this section as the “Group”) and the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established under section 105(a) of such Act (referred to in this section as the “Task Force”).

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **COMPOSITION.**—The Council shall be composed of not less than 8 and not more than 14 individuals who are survivors of human trafficking.

(2) **REPRESENTATION OF SURVIVORS.**—To the extent practicable, members of the Council shall be survivors of trafficking, who shall accurately reflect the diverse backgrounds of survivors of trafficking, including—

(A) survivors of sex trafficking and survivors of labor trafficking; and

(B) survivors who are United States citizens and survivors who are aliens lawfully present in the United States.

(3) **APPOINTMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Council.

(4) **TERM; REAPPOINTMENT.**—Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed by the President to serve 1 additional 2-year term.

(d) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Council shall—

(1) be a nongovernmental advisory body to the Group;

(2) meet, at its own discretion or at the request of the Group, not less frequently than annually to review Federal Government policy and programs intended to combat human trafficking, including programs relating to the provision of services for victims and serve as a point of contact for Federal agencies reaching out to human trafficking survivors for input on programming and policies relating to human trafficking in the United States;

(3) formulate assessments and recommendations to ensure that policy and programming efforts of the Federal Government conform, to the extent practicable, to the best practices in the field of human trafficking prevention; and

(4) meet with the Group not less frequently than annually, and not later than 45 days before a meeting with the Task Force, to formally present the findings and recommendations of the Council.

(e) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until the date described in subsection (h), the Council shall submit a report that contains the findings derived from the reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(2) to—

(1) the chair of the Task Force;

(2) the members of the Group;

(3) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Appropriations, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Judiciary of the Senate.

(f) **EMPLOYEE STATUS.**—Members of the Council—

(1) shall not be considered employees of the Federal Government for any purpose; and

(2) shall not receive compensation other than reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem allowance in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—The Council shall not be subject to the requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(h) **SUNSET.**—The Council shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

**SEC. 116. BRINGING MISSING CHILDREN HOME ACT.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Bringing Missing Children Home Act”.

(b) **CRIME CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.**—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5780) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“‘(B) a recent photograph of the child, if available;’; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “60 days” and inserting “30 days”; and

(ii) by inserting “and a photograph taken during the previous 180 days” after “dental records”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“‘(C) notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution;’;”

(F) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting “State and local child welfare systems and” before “the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“‘(E) grant permission to the National Crime Information Center Terminal Contractor for the State to update the missing person record in the National Crime Information Center computer networks with additional information learned during the investigation relating to the missing person.’”

**SEC. 117. GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “covered grant” means a grant awarded by the Attorney General under section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b), as amended by section 103.

(b) **ACCOUNTABILITY.**—All covered grants shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

(1) **AUDIT REQUIREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of a covered grant to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(B) **DEFINITION.**—In this paragraph, the term “unresolved audit finding” means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

(C) **MANDATORY EXCLUSION.**—A recipient of a covered grant that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive a covered grant during the following 2 fiscal years.

(D) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding covered grants the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a covered grant.

(E) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—If an entity is awarded a covered grant during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(2) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this paragraph and covered grants, the term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) **PROHIBITION.**—The Attorney General may not award a covered grant to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) **DISCLOSURE.**—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a covered grant and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subsection available for public inspection.

(3) **CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.**—

(A) **LIMITATION.**—No amounts transferred to the Department of Justice under this title, or the amendments made by this title, may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this title, or the amendments made by this title, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

(B) **WRITTEN APPROVAL.**—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(C) **REPORT.**—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.

(D) **ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.**—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of en-

actment of this title, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification that—

(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued;

(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

(iv) includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

(4) **PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts awarded under this title, or any amendments made by this title, may not be utilized by any grant recipient to—

(i) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(B) **PENALTY.**—If the Attorney General determines that any recipient of a covered grant has violated subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

(i) require the grant recipient to repay the grant in full; and

(ii) prohibit the grant recipient from receiving another covered grant for not less than 5 years.

## TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

#### SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 343(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 5714–23(b)(5))—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), and sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))” before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))” after “assault”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C) by inserting “, including such youth who are victims of trafficking (as defined in section 103(15) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(15)))” before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 351(a) (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(a)) by striking “or sexual exploitation” and inserting “sexual exploitation, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))”.

### Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

#### SEC. 211. RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 404(b)(1)(P)(iii) of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(P)(iii)) is amended by striking “child prostitution” and inserting “child sex trafficking, including child prostitution”.

### Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

#### SEC. 221. VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term “victim of trafficking” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

#### SEC. 222. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT ON CHILD TRAFFICKING PRIMARY PREVENTION.

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, established under section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103), shall conduct a review that, with regard to trafficking in persons in the United States—

(1) in consultation with nongovernmental organizations that the Task Force determines appropriate, surveys and catalogs the activities of the Federal Government and State governments—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(2) surveys academic literature on—

(A) deterring individuals from committing trafficking offenses;

(B) preventing children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(C) the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and

(D) other similar topics that the Task Force determines to be appropriate;

(3) identifies best practices and effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking; and

(4) identifies current gaps in research and data that would be helpful in formulating effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall provide to Congress, and make publicly available in electronic format, a report on the review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

#### SEC. 223. GAO REPORT ON INTERVENTION.

On the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that includes information on—

(1) the efforts of Federal and select State law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking in the United States; and

(2) each Federal grant program, a purpose of which is to combat human trafficking or assist victims of trafficking, as specified in an authorizing statute or in a guidance document issued by the agency carrying out the grant program.

#### SEC. 224. PROVISION OF HOUSING PERMITTED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “, including programs that provide housing to victims of trafficking” before the period at the end.

## TITLE III—HERO ACT

#### SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Human Exploitation Rescue Operations Act of 2015” or the “HERO Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 302. HERO ACT.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The illegal market for the production and distribution of child abuse imagery is a growing threat to children in the United States. International demand for this material creates a powerful incentive for the rape, abuse, and torture of children within the United States.

(2) The targeting of United States children by international criminal networks is a threat to the homeland security of the United States. This threat must be fought with trained personnel and highly specialized counter-child-exploitation strategies and technologies.

(3) The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security serves a critical national security role in protecting the United States from the growing international threat of child exploitation and human trafficking.

(4) The Cyber Crimes Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a vital national resource in the effort to combat international child exploitation, providing advanced expertise and assistance in investigations, computer forensics, and victim identification.

(5) The returning military heroes of the United States possess unique and valuable skills that can assist law enforcement in combating global sexual and child exploitation, and the Department of Homeland Security should use this national resource to the maximum extent possible.

(6) Through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program, the returning military heroes of the United States are trained and hired to investigate crimes of child exploitation in order to target predators and rescue children from sexual abuse and slavery.

(b) CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, AND COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 890A. CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT, AND CYBER CRIMES UNIT.**

“(a) CYBER CRIMES CENTER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a Cyber Crimes Center (referred to in this section as the ‘Center’).

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be to provide investigative assistance, training, and equipment to support United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s domestic and international investigations of cyber-related crimes.

“(b) CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘CEIU’).

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CEIU—

“(A) shall coordinate all United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement child exploitation initiatives, including investigations into—

- “(i) child exploitation;
- “(ii) child pornography;
- “(iii) child victim identification;
- “(iv) traveling child sex offenders; and
- “(v) forced child labor, including the sexual exploitation of minors;

“(B) shall, among other things, focus on—

- “(i) child exploitation prevention;
- “(ii) investigative capacity building;
- “(iii) enforcement operations; and
- “(iv) training for Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel, upon request;

“(C) shall provide training, technical expertise, support, or coordination of child exploitation investigations, as needed, to cooperating law enforcement agencies and personnel;

“(D) shall provide psychological support and counseling services for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel engaged in child exploitation prevention initiatives, including making available other existing services to assist employees who are exposed to child exploitation material during investigations;

“(E) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of the recruiting, training, equipping and hiring of

wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program; and

“(F) shall collaborate with other governmental, nongovernmental, and nonprofit entities approved by the Secretary for the sponsorship of, and participation in, outreach and training activities.

“(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The CEIU shall collect and maintain data concerning—

“(A) the total number of suspects identified by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(B) the number of arrests by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, disaggregated by type, including—

“(i) the number of victims identified through investigations carried out by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(ii) the number of suspects arrested who were in positions of trust or authority over children;

“(C) the number of cases opened for investigation by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(D) the number of cases resulting in a Federal, State, foreign, or military prosecution.

“(4) AVAILABILITY OF DATA TO CONGRESS.—In addition to submitting the reports required under paragraph (7), the CEIU shall make the data collected and maintained under paragraph (3) available to the committees of Congress described in paragraph (7).

“(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CEIU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(6) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Taskforce, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CEIU.

“(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

“(7) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the HERO Act of 2015, and annually for the following 4 years, the CEIU shall—

“(A) submit a report containing a summary of the data collected pursuant to paragraph (3) during the previous year to—

- “(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;
- “(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;
- “(iii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
- “(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;
- “(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and
- “(vi) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) make a copy of each report submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department.

“(c) COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Computer Forensics Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘CFU’).

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CFU—

“(A) shall provide training and technical support in digital forensics to—

“(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

“(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

“(B) shall provide computer hardware, software, and forensic licenses for all computer forensics personnel within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(C) shall participate in research and development in the area of digital forensics, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

“(D) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of recruiting, training, equipping, and hiring wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program.

“(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CFU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

“(4) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Task Force, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CFU.

“(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

“(d) CYBER CRIMES UNIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Cyber Crimes Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘CCU’).

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CCU—

“(A) shall oversee the cyber security strategy and cyber-related operations and programs for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(B) shall enhance United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s ability to combat criminal enterprises operating on or through the Internet, with specific focus in the areas of—

- “(i) cyber economic crime;
- “(ii) digital theft of intellectual property;
- “(iii) illicit e-commerce (including hidden marketplaces);
- “(iv) Internet-facilitated proliferation of arms and strategic technology; and
- “(v) cyber-enabled smuggling and money laundering;

“(C) shall provide training and technical support in cyber investigations to—

“(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

“(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

“(D) shall participate in research and development in the area of cyber investigations, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

“(E) is authorized to recruit participants of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program for investigative and forensic positions in support of the functions of the CCU.

“(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CCU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 890 the following:

"Sec. 890A. Cyber crimes center, child exploitation investigations unit, computer forensics unit, and cyber crimes unit."

(c) HERO CORPS HIRING.—It is the sense of Congress that Homeland Security Investigations of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement should hire, recruit, train, and equip wounded, ill, or injured military veterans (as defined in section 101, title 38, United States Code) who are affiliated with the HERO Child Rescue Corps program for investigative, intelligence, analyst, and forensic positions.

(d) INVESTIGATING CHILD EXPLOITATION.—Section 307(b)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 187(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) conduct research and development for the purpose of advancing technology for the investigation of child exploitation crimes, including child victim identification, trafficking in persons, and child pornography, and for advanced forensics."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided.

The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 686 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on this bill before the Senate, for a few days we will continue to debate legislation to fight crime and restore dignity to its survivors. I thank the majority leader for scheduling floor action on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This important bill is authored by our assistant majority leader, Senator CORNYN of Texas.

Human trafficking is a serious crime that is too often overlooked in its various forms, which include both labor trafficking and sexual servitude. It causes drastic harm to its victims. A form of modern-day slavery, human trafficking includes both adults and children, as well as noncitizens and citizens of our country. Experts tell us it is not limited to big cities or our Nation's coasts but stretches across the whole Nation, even to the rural parts of our country, including my Midwest. Indeed, it happens every day, everywhere in this country.

The Judiciary Committee met 2 weeks ago to hear testimony from a victim advocate, a law enforcement official, and a sex trafficking survivor about the challenges we face in fighting human trafficking. One witness, a criminal investigator from my State of Iowa who works for our Democratic attorney general Tom Miller, told us about a 20-year-old from my State who in December was abducted and forced into sexual servitude.

We have made progress in curbing human trafficking since the passage in 2000 of the Federal Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act—a measure I supported at that time—but there is still much work that remains to be done on this front. This bill before the Senate takes a creative and

comprehensive approach to what is a pervasive and very troubling problem. The measure has been endorsed by over 200 groups, and it passed the Senate Judiciary Committee without a dissenting vote.

The centerpiece of this bill is its creation of a new fund called the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, which will be used to support a host of programs and services for human trafficking and child pornography survivors. The fund will be financed not by taxpayers' dollars but by fines collected from individuals convicted of human trafficking and human smuggling crimes, making it deficit neutral.

If enacted, this bill will also equip law enforcement with new tools to fight trafficking. For example, it would make it easier for State law enforcement officials to wiretap human trafficking suspects without Federal approval. It also would expand the categories of persons who can be prosecuted for human trafficking. In addition, it clarifies that child pornography is a form of human trafficking.

This bill takes an extremely thoughtful and comprehensive approach, tackling not only the supply of human trafficking victims but also the demand for these victims. Tackling the problem on both fronts is something the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service tells us is absolutely necessary if we are to successfully curb human trafficking. If enacted, this bill will ensure that both the trafficker and the buyer will be prosecuted for their crimes.

We had an open and productive markup of this bill. I offered an amendment, which was accepted by voice vote, clarifying that Federal grant resources can be used to meet the housing needs of trafficking victims and offer training on the effects of sex trafficking to those who serve runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth.

This amendment also updates the reauthorization language for the CyberTipline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to ensure that child trafficking is specifically mentioned as a form of Internet-related child exploitation.

Finally, this amendment would require the Interagency Task Force to monitor and combat trafficking to identify best practices to prevent human trafficking.

Senator BLUMENTHAL from the State of Connecticut also offered an amendment based on a bill he and Senator KIRK filed earlier this year, which was accepted in committee by a voice vote. Their bill, S. 575, known as the HERO Act, provides authorization for a program at the Department of Homeland Security that trains wounded warriors to assist in the effort to locate missing children.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bill now before if Senate. I commend Senator CORNYN, the lead sponsor of this measure, for his efforts to refine the bill and build such a substantial, very bipartisan coalition supporting it.

I hope we will show the same bipartisan cooperation and support on the floor as we consider amendments. I look forward to a vote on this bill as soon as possible.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters in support of S. 178 from various organizations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEBRUARY 23, 2015.

Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Senator PATRICK LEAHY,  
Ranking Member, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Senator JOHN CORNYN,  
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR,  
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS GRASSLEY, LEAHY, FEINSTEIN, CORNYN, AND KLOBUCHAR: We write to you, the leaders of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and to three committee Senators who have been particularly sensitive to our (often ignored) perspective. We write to you as survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. We write as survivors who know, profoundly and personally, the harm caused by this crime. And we write to you as survivor leaders of organizations trying to prevent sex trafficking before it victimizes others.

We write to express our support for legislation that makes progress in three essential areas:

1. Identify new funding streams for victim services. Current public budgets are stressed. Victims of sex trafficking typically suffer multiple harms, requiring a range of services from medical and psychological assistance to treatment for the drug and alcohol addiction that so often accompanies trafficking (addictions that make people vulnerable to trafficking; addictions that develop or worsen as people try to cope with the pain of this intimate form of abuse). We've been told by law enforcement in numerous jurisdictions that when services don't exist (mainly because they are expensive) there's a disincentive to enforcing anti-trafficking laws and identifying victims.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA), S. 178, is innovative for creating a new fund to finance victim—services an essential goal. It also achieves a second principle we stand for: Making sex buyers accountable for the harm they cause.

2. Prevent sex trafficking by targeting the buyers who create demand. Logically, trafficking will never end until we shrink the demand that creates the market. People still in the life, still being exploited, sometimes avoid this conclusion because they see no other options but the cycle of violence in which they are trapped. We are strong witnesses to the necessity of making the buyers pay, to make the crime end.

Two bills in particular strengthen accountability in the sex trafficking legal regime: S. 178 and Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015, S. 140. By clarifying congressional intent that sex buyers be considered parties to the trafficking crime, by compelling the Department of Justice to incorporate training and technical assistance on investigating and prosecuting buyers in its anti-trafficking programming, and by making the crime more "costly," we can finally begin to shrink its incidence.

3. Treat victims as victims, not criminals, and let survivor voices inform anti-trafficking policy. Two bills in particular recognize these realities: the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, S. 166, which gives states incentives to approve "Safe Harbor" laws as well as job training options for victims and the Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act, which creates a survivors-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to review federal policy and programs.

Other proposals may also make valuable contributions, but these are the three most important principles to incorporate in new legislative initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have specific questions or would like more information on our program activities.

Sincerely,

Wendie Lazenko, 4her—North Dakota, ND; Brooke Axtell, Allies Against Slavery, TX; Aliza Amar, Breaking the Silence Together/Sole Sisters Project, San Diego, CA; Vednita Carter, Breaking Free, St Paul, MN; Leah J. Albright-Byrd, Executive Director/Founder, Bridget's Dream, Sacramento, CA; Marian Hatcher, Human Trafficking Coordinator, Cook County Sheriff's Office, SPACE International Member, Chicago, IL; Tina Frundt, Courtney's House, Washington, DC; Cherie Jimenez, Founder, Eva Center, Boston, MA; D'Lita Miller, Founder/Executive Director, Families Against Sex Trafficking, Los Angeles, CA; Kathi Hardy, Founder/Executive Director, Freedom From Exploitation, San Diego, CA; Cheryl Briggs, Founder/President, Mission at Serenity Ranch, TX; Necole Daniels, MISSSEY, Inc., Oakland, CA; Dr. Brook Bello, More Too Life, FL.

Nola Brantley, Nola Brantley Speaks! Oakland, CA; Rebecca Bender, Rebecca Bender Ministries, OR; Carissa Phelps, Runaway Girl, Inc., CA; Natasha Falle, Co-Founder, Sex Trade 101/Canada; Bridget Perrier, Co-Founder, Sex Trade 101/Canada; Stella Marr, Survivor and a Founder, Sex Trafficking Survivors United, USA; Amy Green, Survivors Consultation Network, San Bernardino, CA; Rachel Thomas, Sowers Education Group, Los Angeles, CA; Autumn Burris, Survivors for Solutions/SPACE Int'l Member, San Diego, CA; Mark (Marq) Daniel Taylor, The BUDDY House, Inc., GA; Tom Jones, Founder, The H.O.P.E. Project for Male Survivors, San Diego, CA; Kristy Childs, Veronica's Voice, Inc., Kansas City, MO; Jeanette Westbrook, MSSW, Women Graduates—USA/SPACE Int'l Member, KY; Beth Jacobs, Founder, Willow Way/Policy Chair, National Survivor Network, Tuscan, AZ.

FEBRUARY 23, 2015.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: We are a coalition of organizations from across the United States dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable women and children and write to express our support for the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, S. 178 (JVTA). The JVTA would provide much needed services and support to domestic victims of trafficking and provide a tool for law enforcement, courts, and the anti-trafficking task forces throughout the country to effectively target the demand that fuels the sex trafficking market.

The JVTA provides unprecedented support to domestic victims of trafficking, who are too often invisible and underserved, by creating grants for state and local governments

to develop comprehensive support programs for victims. In addition, the Act will directly assist domestic victims of trafficking by finally allowing them access to the same services and support systems that have been previously available only to foreign victims of human trafficking in the U.S. The legislation prioritizes victim assistance by training federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, and training law enforcement on facilitating physical and mental health services for trafficking victims they encounter.

Every day in this country, thousands of women and children are bought and sold. The unfettered demand for sex, with underage girls in particular, has caused pimps and exploiters to resort to more extreme tactics in order to meet the growing demand. Women and children, especially girls, are advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease, anonymity, and impunity. This happens in every city, in every state.

The elimination of sex trafficking is fundamentally linked to targeting the demand for commercial sex. Any effort to prevent sex trafficking must focus on the sex buyers and facilitators. Without buyers of commercial sex, sex trafficking would not exist.

This legislation is vital. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 represents an effort to provide the necessary support services to our domestic victims of trafficking in the U.S. and to target the culture of impunity for those who seek to purchase sex, especially with children. As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, child welfare, civil rights, runaway and homeless youth, and human rights movements, we urge Congress to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Rights4Girls, ECPAT—USA, NAACP, National Domestic Violence Hotline, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), Minnesota Indian Women Resource Center, National Women's Law Center (NWLC), American Psychological Association, National Children's Alliance, Equality Now, Shared Hope International, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA), Survivors for Solutions, Breaking Free Inc., Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), PROTECT, National Crittenton Foundation.

First Focus Campaign for Children, Girls Inc. (National), National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, National Center for Youth Law, Alameda County District Attorney's Office, Advisory Council on Child Trafficking (ACCT), My Life My Choice, Girls for Gender Equity, PACE Center for Girls, Inc., The Children's Campaign, Sojourners, Men Can Stop Rape, YWCA National Capital Area, WestCoast Children's Clinic, FAIR Girls, Sanctuary for Families, Alliance for Girls, Girls Inc. of Alameda County.

DC Rape Crisis Center, Stop Modern Slavery, Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Healthy Teen Network, United Methodist Women, Foster Family-based Treatment Association, Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery, Children's Home Society of Washington, American Association of University Women SF, Exodus Cry, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, Hope Academy of the Denver Street School, Directions For Youth & Families, Violence Prevention Coalition, Children Now, Always Free, Set Free, End Slavery TN.

Child Advocacy Center a Division of Meridian Health Services, Program for the Empowerment of Girls (Albuquerque specialized court for girls), Changing Destinies, Second Life of Chattanooga, Students Ending Slavery at the University of Maryland, Hope Run

Kenosha, Tex Pride Disaster & Recovery First Responders, West Florida Center for Trafficking Advocacy, Empowered You, LLC, Traffick Free, Chapelwood United Methodist Church, Hephzibah Children's Home, Side-By-Side Church International, Lives Worth Saving, Pleasant Grove United Methodist Women, Sisters of Providence, A2 Trafficking Task Force, Michigan Abolitionist Project.

Set Free Movement, Refuge of Light, Ash Creek Baptist Church, Companions of Wisdom, Zonta Club of Pinellas County, Oasis of Hope, Benton County Republican Women, Ho'ola Na Pua (Hawaii-based child sex trafficking service provider), Butterfly House, International Christian Center, New Life Refuge Ministries, The Red Web Foundation, Coastal Bend Grace House, Freedom13, The RavenHeart Center, Scott County Sheriff's Office, Flathead Abolitionist Movement, The Porch Light.

Honermann Homeschool, Heartly House, Milton Hershey School, River's Voice Music, San Antonio Against Slavery, Smoky Hill Vineyard Church, Sauk Prairie Church, MQA Charity in Action, St Mary of the Lake Human Trafficking Working Group, Eden's Glory, Project Resource Company, Shelter In The Storm, Daughters of Charity, Denver Street School—Hope Academy, Stockton Covenant Church, National Association of Social Workers, I'm Aware, Christian Inn Ministries, Inc.

Living in Liberty, Precious Ones, Thomas Spann Clinic, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, CharlotteLaw Advocates Against Trafficking of Humans, Saint Hilary Parish, RJ Huffman & Associates, Sufficient Grace Outreach, Anti-Trafficking Task Force, First Congregational Church of Boulder, The MENTOR Network, Freedom From Exploitation, Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services, Virginia Beach Justice Initiative, Religious Sisters of Charity, To Love Children Educational Foundation International Inc., Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County, Make Way Partners, Restore NYC.

Ozone House, Inc., ENC Stop Human Trafficking Now, YouthSpark, Changing Destinies, Visitors from the Past, Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference, Living Water for Girls, The Ray E. Helfer Society, Edmund Rice International, Bay Area Girls Unite, Exodus Cry, Horizon Farms, The Tobert and Polly Dunn Foundation, Lotus Medicine, Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Home Instead Senior Care, From Words 2 Action Outreach Ministries, Butterfly Dreams Abuse Recovery.

O L Pathy Foundation, Dignity Health, Forsythe County Child Advocacy Center, Civil Society (Minnesota based anti-trafficking organization), 300m4freedom, Bluff Country Family Resources, Sexual Assault Services, Inc., Asian Women United of MN, Tubman Family Crisis & Support Services, Rochester Franciscan, Human Trafficking Task Force, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Anoka Ramsey Community College, New York Asian Women's Center, St. Mary's Social Justice Ministry, St Mary of the Lake Human Trafficking Working Group, Franciscan Peace Center Anti-Trafficking Committee, Kids At Risk Action, Nomi Network.

Soroptimist International of Stuart, Someplace Safe, Calvary Temple, Genesee County Youth Corporation, Youth Attention Center, The Advocates for Human Rights, Livingston Family Center, Central New Mexico Counseling Service, Downey McGrath Group, Women Graduates-USA, Lutheran Services in America, Life for the Innocent, Too Young to Wed, WRAP Court (specialized "CSEC" court, Philadelphia), Real Life Giving, Christian Inn Ministries, Inc., Angels Ministry, California Alliance of Child and Family Services, Crittenton Center, Children's Court

Division (2nd Judicial District Court, Albuquerque), Oak Chapel UMC, Greif Fellowship in Juvenile Human Trafficking at The Ohio State University.

FEBRUARY 24, 2015.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: As organizations representing law enforcement leaders, officers, and state and local prosecutors from across the United States, we write to express our support for S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (JVTA). The JVTA would provide much needed services and support to domestic victims of trafficking. More importantly, this bill provides necessary tools for law enforcement, courts, and the anti-trafficking task forces throughout the country to effectively target the demand that fuels the sex trafficking market.

The JVTA provides unprecedented resources to address the issue of domestic victims of trafficking, who are too often invisible and underserved, by creating grants for state and local governments to develop comprehensive systems to address these crimes and provide services for victims. In addition, the legislation allows wire-taps obtained through state courts to be used for child sex trafficking, trains federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, and trains law enforcement on facilitating physical and mental health services for trafficking victims they encounter.

According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), at least 100,000 American children each year are the victims of commercial child prostitution and child trafficking. Women and children, especially girls, are also advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease, anonymity, and impunity. This happens in every city, in every state.

The elimination of sex trafficking is fundamentally linked to targeting the demand for commercial sex. Without buyers of commercial sex, sex trafficking would not exist. It is for this reason and others stated above that we, as representatives of law enforcement and the courts, support this bill.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 addresses a critical need by providing the necessary tools and support services for domestic victims of trafficking in the U.S. We urge Congress to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

National District Attorneys Association, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, National Association of Police Organizations, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, National Fusion Center Association, National Black Prosecutors Association.

National Troopers Coalition, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, National Sheriffs' Association, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I also take this opportunity to thank the organizations Rights4Girls, Shared Hope International, the Polaris Project, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, among many other supporters of the bill, for their effort in assisting in our refinement of this legislation so it could move forward in this manner.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. If the Senator will yield for a question, there is so much of this bill I strongly support. In fact, a lot of it reflects legislation I have written and actually passed through the committee before. I have a couple of concerns, but one that comes to mind is that we don't want to hold out false promises to victims, and I know the Senator doesn't want to either.

I certainly support having any money that the traffickers are fined go to supporting this, but my experience earlier as a prosecutor and my experience now in talking to prosecutors around the country is that most of these people, when they get prosecuted, are basically judgment-proof—they don't have any money or they have a very small amount of money. They will go to prison. Who pays for that? Of course taxpayers pay for the prison, whether it is Federal or State. They will pay for the prisons, but there is no money for the victims.

What happens if the fine money does not materialize? We have talked about up to \$30 million, I think, in fines, but let's suppose we only come up with a few thousand dollars in fines. Are we making a promise to these victims that can't be met? Is there an alternative for them in case the fines don't pay for it?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I guess, based upon the experience of the supporters of the legislation and the expert advice they got in coming to the conclusion of how to fund this fund, they feel the money is going to be available to do that.

You ask a legitimate question. I suppose I ought to have an answer for it, and I don't have from this standpoint. I think that I have great faith in the figures they have presented us and that we will have to deal with the issue you bring up at some future time because I think we will want everybody to be made whole if what you say happens.

Mr. LEAHY. The reason I ask, Mr. President, is because I know in the House of Representatives they have been concerned that the money might not be there.

I think we all want to accomplish these things for the victims. I just want to make sure we are not holding out a promise that we can't complete. Do I agree with all the fines going into this fund? Absolutely. But the experience of a lot of prosecutors I have talked with is that the court may say: I fine you \$20,000 or \$30,000, but this is never paid. They go to prison. They have no assets. We are spending \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year as taxpayers keeping them in prison, and I want them to be in prison, but there is no money for victims.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I can say to the Senator that he raises a legitimate point because I know in other areas we have set up such funds and sometimes they come up short. But we have to remember that sometimes something is not paid out because a lot of times excess money is used for something else in the Federal budget and not paid out

entirely the way it was intended originally.

But I would urge my colleague to take the word of the people who have done the research on this legislation to bring it together and the consensus it has from 200 or more organizations and feel that it will be successful. If it isn't, then I pledge to help you deal with that at that particular time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the issues raised in this are serious matters, and the Senator from Iowa, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator CORNYN, and others should be concerned about this.

I think of a victim I have talked with, Holly Austin Smith. She was 14 years old when she ran away from home and quickly became a victim of human trafficking. She met a man in a shopping mall who told her she was pretty, and promised he would give her a glamorous life in California. Remember, she was 14 years old. Then he sold her for sex. The first man she was sold to commented that she reminded him of his own granddaughter—but then he paid \$200 to rape her.

Thankfully, Holly escaped and has rebuilt her life. She is now a fierce advocate of ending all forms of human trafficking because she knows what happens to those who are trafficked. But many are not so lucky. The physical and psychological scars of being bought and sold, of being raped multiple times a night by different men, are devastating. This terrible crime destroys lives.

As we consider legislation to combat human trafficking, we must remember Holly and the thousands of other vulnerable and victimized children she represents, and we must do everything we can to keep it from happening in the first place.

Last Congress, in 2013, I led the effort to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. That historic bipartisan legislation and the funds it authorized signaled our country's commitment to ending all forms of human trafficking, both here at home and around the world. So I am glad, after the attention we gave to my bill last Congress, to see the Senate return its attention to this issue. Stories such as Holly's make clear we have more work to do.

I support the bill we take up today, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, but I believe we must do more to prevent trafficking in the first place. We have to act to protect our young people before they become victims. It is one thing to say now that you have become a victim, we are here to help you. It does even more if we can stop them from being victims in the first place.

The legislation that Senator COLLINS of Maine and I have introduced seeks to do just that. Homeless and runaway kids are exceptionally vulnerable to human traffickers. A recent survey

found that one in four homeless teens was a victim of sex trafficking or had been forced to provide sex for survival needs.

These vulnerable children, alone and on the street, are walking prey. Human traffickers lurk around bus stops and parks where homeless children congregate. They offer promises of something to eat and a night off the streets. They exploit the very sad reality that most of these children have no place to go. The weather may be cold. Far too many of our cities have no shelter for kids, and those who do face a chronic shortage of beds. Then somebody comes up and says: I will offer you food, I will offer you a warm place to sleep for the night.

As Representative POE recently said at an event on ending human trafficking: We have more animal shelters in this country than places for young people to find a safe place to sleep. What does that say about our priorities? I have nothing against having the animal shelters, but shouldn't we have more for our children than we do for the animals?

If we are serious about preventing human trafficking, we must protect these kids. We have to provide better outreach to them, more beds for them to sleep in, and more counseling to get them on the path to a stable life. This kind of prevention costs money, but it saves lives and prevents the far more costly effects of human trafficking—not just the effects of human trafficking on the victims' part, but the cost to all of us. This is smart money we ought to be proud to invest in our children. We must include the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act in our efforts here to prevent more of our kids from becoming victims. I look forward, at the appropriate place, to offering our bipartisan legislation as an amendment.

I know other Senators have amendments they wish to see considered. Senator CORKER, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has an important piece of legislation to combat sex and labor trafficking in countries around the world. I thank him for working with me to make some improvements to its funding provisions and I hope this bipartisan legislation will be considered as an amendment by the full Senate.

I mentioned earlier Senator KLOBUCHAR has been working for years to see the safe harbor bill get passed, to make sure victims are treated as victims and not as criminals. I am proud to cosponsor her bill. After all, as I said about the Violence Against Women Act, a victim is a victim is a victim. They are not criminals. They are victims.

Senator MCCONNELL has long promised a full amendment process. I take him at his word and I expect we will have the opportunity to strengthen the underlying bill with a variety of ideas from Senators. We owe it to survivors

such as Holly to pass the strongest possible bill.

We have to provide the resources desperately needed by those on the front lines protecting young people every day, such as those in my home State of Vermont at Spectrum Services and the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs service providers. We owe it to all the survivors who bravely come forward and tell their stories, hoping to prevent just one more child from falling prey to this terrible crime.

The Senate has to pass a strong, comprehensive bill that includes prevention and prosecution, but also services for victims. We haven't accomplished as much as we should if we are only able to prosecute the perpetrator after the fact and forget about helping the victim. We have to stop trafficking from happening in the first place; but if it does happen, we have to help the victims.

An editorial in the New York Times last week noted that:

... a consensus is emerging on new initiatives to confront this human-rights problem and help its victims, often runaways or homeless youngsters who have been forced or coerced into prostitution.

I agree with that editorial, and I look forward to working with every Senator here to ensure we get this done for the American people.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, March 5, 2015]  
STEPS AGAINST JUVENILE SEX TRAFFICKING  
(By the Editorial Board)

The impression that America's sex-trafficking problem mostly involves young people smuggled from overseas has given way to broad recognition of a cruel homegrown reality: the tens of thousands of juveniles who are exploited each year by traffickers in this country.

On Capitol Hill, a consensus is emerging on new initiatives to confront this human-rights problem and help its victims, often runaways or homeless youngsters who have been forced or coerced into prostitution.

The Senate Judiciary Committee last week unanimously approved a pair of anti-trafficking bills with wide backing from victim advocates and other experts, and the full Senate is expected to take up the package soon.

A bill championed by Senator John Cornyn, Republican of Texas, would create a new pool of financing—through additional fines on people convicted of sex and labor trafficking, child pornography and other crimes—for restitution, victim services and law enforcement. The idea of aiding victims without committing more tax dollars has drawn support from Republicans, and any new money for this badly underfinanced cause would help.

The Cornyn bill would also encourage prosecution of the "johns," or buyers of juvenile sex, who typically escape criminal charges even though they are paying for what amounts to the statutory rape of children and teenagers. Their demand is what's fueling the highly lucrative human slavery business.

The second bill, put forward by Senator Amy Klobuchar, Democrat of Minnesota, would give a preference for Department of Justice law enforcement grants to states that adopt "safe harbor" laws.

These laws help ensure that young people sold for sex are treated as victims and offered support services instead of being prosecuted. The House has approved similar bills, so it should not be hard to hammer out a strong final package.

A preventive measure that would help ensure housing and services for homeless juveniles, who are often prey to traffickers, unfortunately stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee. One obstacle was the resistance of some Republicans to its nondiscrimination provision guaranteeing fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youths.

No young person should "have to choose between selling their bodies and a safe place to sleep," said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, who introduced the bill with Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont. Undeterred, they plan to seek consideration from the full Senate.

Trafficking abroad remains a tremendous problem, so it is fitting that a promising approach comes from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which last week unanimously approved a measure to create an international public-private fund dedicated to the issue, similar to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. More resources could do a lot to help trafficking's victims at home, too.

Mr. LEAHY. We talk about the Runaway and Homeless Youth Trafficking and Prevention Act. This is a partial list of the local, State, and national groups which have urged its passage. There are too many to read—this has to be in small type; otherwise, we would have a dozen posters if we put it in larger type.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the complete list.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AccuWord, LLC; Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking (ATEST); American Psychological Association; Campaign for Youth Justice; Center for Children's Law and Policy; CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Center; Children's Advocacy Institute; Child Welfare League of America; Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Covenant House International; ECPAT-USA; Entertainment Industries Council, Inc.; Family Equality Council; Family Promise; First Focus Campaign for Children; Free the Slaves; Foster Family-based Treatment Association; FosterClub; Freedom Network USA; Funders Together to End Homelessness; Futures Without Violence; Girls Inc.; Healthy Teen Network; HEAR US, Inc.; Hetrick-Martin Institute; Human Rights Campaign; Human Rights Project for Girls; Indian Oaks Academy; International Human Trafficking Institute; International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA).

Jewish Women International; Lambda Legal; MANY; Marriage Equality USA; National Association of Counsel for Children; National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth; National Center for Housing and Child Welfare; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Children's Alliance; National Coalition for the Homeless; National Council on Jewish Women; National Council of Juvenile and

Family Court Judges; National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty; National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund; National Network for Youth; National PTA; National Safe Place Network; National Youth Advocate Program; Peace Alliance; Polaris; Reclaiming Lost Voices; SAFE Coalition for Human Rights; School Social Work Association of America; Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS); Shared Hope International; Southwest Key Programs; StandUp For Kids; Student Peace Alliance; The Equity Project; The Forum for Youth Investment; The General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church; The National Crittenton Foundation; The Peace Alliance; The Trevor Project; True Colors Fund; U.S. Fund for UNICEF; U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants; W. Haywood Burns Institute.

## REGIONAL

Art Expression Inc., Pittsburgh, PA; BeaSister2aSister, Brooklyn, NY; CAP Services, Inc., Stevens Point, WI; Caring for Children, Inc., Asheville, NC; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, NY; Center for Health Justice, Inc.; Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA; Community Youth Services, Olympia, WA; Compass Family & Community Services, Youngstown, OH; Congregation of St. Joseph, OH; Covenant House New Orleans, LA; Free2Be Safe Anti-Violence Project, Huntsville, AL; Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation, PA; Janus Youth Programs, Portland, OR; Latin American Youth Center, Washington, DC; Long Island Crisis Center/Pride for Youth, NY; Loving Arms, Inc., MD.

LUK, Inc., Fitchburg & Worcester, MA; Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; Rainbow House, MO; Runaway and Homeless Youth Services—Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Ryan's House for Youth, Freeland, WA; Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, CA; Safe Harbor Children's Center, Brunswick, GA; San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program; Staircase Youth Services, Inc., Ludington, MI; South Bay Community Services, Chula Vista, CA; United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Victoria Area Homeless Coalition, Victoria, TX; Volunteers of America of America Northern New England, Brunswick, ME; Youth and Shelter Services, Inc., Ames, IA; Youth Continuum, New Haven, CT; YouthLink, Minneapolis, MN; Youth OUTright WNC, Inc., Asheville & Western NC.

## STATE ORGANIZATIONS

AO: Advocating Opportunity, OH; AMP Iowa; Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS), Phoenix, AZ; Avenues for Homeless Youth, MN; California Coalition for Youth; Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Children and Family Services of NH; Children's Home + Aid, IL; Coalition for Homeless Youth; Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking; Cocoon House, Everett, WA; Covenant House Pennsylvania; Covenant House Florida; Texans Care for Children, TX; The DC Center for the LGBT Community.

Empire State Pride Agenda, NY; The Bridge for Youth, Minneapolis, MN; The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services; Family Resources, Inc., FL; Families On The Move, Inc., MI; Focus on Awareness and Information Resources of New York, Syracuse, NY; Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness, GA; Healing Place Serve, LA; Human Rights Advocacy Center, Inc., FL; Illinois Collaboration on Youth; Indiana Youth Services Association, Indianapolis, IN; Lutheran Social Services of MN; Lutheran Social Services, WI; Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless; North Little Rock School District, AR.

Outreach Resource Centers, UT; Preble Street, Portland, ME; Reed City Housing Commission, Reed City, MI; Sparrow's Next NW MT; Student Advocacy Center of Michigan; The Mockingbird Society, WA; The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.; Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking, AZ; Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs; Youth Bridge, Fayetteville, AR; Youth Pride, Inc., RI; Youthworks, Bismarck and Fargo, ND; WI Association for Homeless and Runaway Services.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Adventure Church, Kalispell, MT; Alameda Family Services, Alameda, CA; Alternative House, Fairfax, VA; Attention Homes, Boulder, CO; Avenues for Homeless Youth, Minneapolis, MN; Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, Allentown, PA; Bill Wilson Center, San Jose, CA; Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley, Appleton, WI; Briarpatch Youth Services, Madison, WI; Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Boston, MA; Broward Human Trafficking Coalition, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, Bronx, NY; Catholic Charities of Herkimer County, NY; Catholic Charities, Lubbock, TX; Center for Family Services, Camden, NJ; Center on Halsted, Chicago, IL; Central Texas Youth Services Bureau, Belton, TX; Children's Home Society of FL—WaveCREST Shelter, Fort Pierce, FL; Community Resources in Service to People, Winterset, IA; Compator, Inc., South Gate, CA; Compass House, Buffalo, NY.

CORY Place, Inc., Bay City, MI; Covenant House NY, New York, NY; Crisis Center Inc., a Youth Service Bureau, Gary, IN; Crosswinds Youth Services, Cocoa, FL; Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Piedmont, AL; Daybreak, Dayton, OH; Educational and Treatment Council, Inc., Lake Charles, LA; Evergreen Youth & Family Services, Bemidji, MN; Face to Face Health and Counseling Service, Inc., St. Paul, MN; Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, Fairfield-Suisun, CA; Family Assistance Program, Victorville, CA; Friends of Youth, Kirkland, WA; Gay & Lesbian Community Services of SE MN, Rochester, MN; Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, New York, NY; Give Them Wings, Inc., dba WINGS, Hood River, OR; Good Shepherd Services, New York, NY; Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids, MI; HDC Project Reach Out, Superior, WA; Health care for the Homeless, Pittsburgh, PA; Hillcrest Youth Program, Kansas City, KS; Home Start, Inc., San Diego, CA.

Hudson Pride Connections Center, Jersey City, NJ; Human Development Center/Project Reach Out, Duluth, MN; In Our Own Voice, Inc., Albany, NY; Interfaith Emergency Services, Ocala, FL; Intersect Youth Services, Inc., Chicago, IL 1 in 10, Inc., Phoenix, AZ; Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Inc., Corvallis, OR; Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY; Juneau Youth Services, Juneau, AK; Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, Kalamazoo, MI; Karis, Inc., Grand Junction, CO; Kenosha Human Development Services, Kenosha, WI; Kids in Crisis, Greenwich, CT; Kids in Need Youth Program, Rhinelander, WI; Krista THP+, Redding, CA; Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco, CA; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, New York, NY; LGBT Center of Raleigh, Raleigh, NC; LIFE Skills Foundation, Durham, NC; Light-house Youth Services, Inc., Cincinnati, OH.

Lutheran Social Services SW RAYS, Baraboo, WI; Lutheran Social Services Youth Services, Brainerd, MN; Matrix Human Services, Detroit, MI; MCCNY Charities, Inc., New York, NY; Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Miami, FL; Montgomery County Youth Services, Conroe, TX; Morgan

County System of Services, Inc., Decatur, AL; New Morning Youth & Family Services, Placerville, CA; Northwest Family Services, Inc., Alva, OK; Oasis Center, Nashville, TN; Open Arms, Inc., Albany, GA; Open Door Youth Services, Green Bay, WI; Ozone House Youth and Family Services, Ann Arbor, MI; Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc., Milwaukee, WI; PathWays PA, Holmes, PA; Positive Alternatives, Inc., Menomonie, WI; Pride Center of Staten Island, Inc., Staten Island, NY; Pridelines Youth Services, South FL; Project Oz, McLean County, IL; Project 16:49, Janesville, WI; Project Reach, New York, NY; Project YES, Ceres, CA.

Proud Haven, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA; Redwood Community Action Agency—Youth Service Bureau, Eureka, CA; Richmond Gay Community Foundation, Richmond, VA; Roanoke Diversity Center, Roanoke, VA; Safe Haven of Racine, Inc., Racine, WI; Sanctuary of Hope, Los Angeles, CA; Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc., Washington, DC; School District 27J, Brighton, CO; Shaw House, Bangor, ME; Social Advocates for Youth, Santa Rosa, CA; Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville, MA; StandUp for Kids, Chicago, IL; StandUp for Kids, Washington, DC; SunServe, Wilton Manors, FL; Tahoe Youth & Family Services, South Lake Tahoe, CA; Tamar Counseling Services, Upland, CA; Teens Alone, Hopkins, MN.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT; The Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV; The HEAT Program, Brooklyn, NY; The Night Ministry, Chicago, IL; The Youth and Family Project, Inc., West Bend, WI; Urban Peak Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO; Walker's Point Youth & Family Center, Milwaukee, WI; Livingston Family Center—The Connection Youth Services, Howell, MI; School District 27J, Brighton, CO; YMCA of San Diego County, San Diego, CA; YMCA Safe Place Services, Louisville, KY; Young Adult Guidance Center, Inc., Atlanta, GA; YouthCare, Seattle, WA; Youth Emergency Services, Omaha, NE; Youth In Need, St. Louis, MO; Youth Outreach Services, Inc., Chicago, IL; YouthLink, Minneapolis, MN; Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County, Inc., South Bend, IN; Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County, Bloomington, IL; Youth Services for Stephens County, Inc., Duncan, OK; Youth Services of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see the distinguished senior Senator from Texas on the floor seeking recognition. I wonder if we could suggest the absence of a quorum for just 1 minute.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from West Virginia will be giving her first speech in the Senate here shortly and I look forward to listening to that, but I wanted to say a few words about the legislation we will be debating and hopefully passing this week, and that is the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

This is without a doubt one of the most shocking and troubling issues facing our country today. It is no exaggeration to say modern-day human slavery, at a time when we believed as a country that slavery was a part of

our past and something we only read about in our history books.

Many people are under the impression that human trafficking is a problem somewhere else or at some other time in history, but the fact is human trafficking is a problem right now in all 50 States, right here in the United States of America, the most affluent country in the world. It is not just a problem in Texas, it is not just a problem in Arizona, it is not just a problem in West Virginia, it is a problem in all 50 States.

Thousands of young girls, many of them middle school age, are trapped into a life of bondage where they are abused and sold for sex every day. It is not easy to say, but it is true, and we must say it and we must acknowledge it.

This is of course unconscionable. As the father of two daughters myself, it is simply heartbreaking to hear the stories of young women who have been trapped in this system. Of course, we can imagine it is every parent's worst nightmare.

One woman I have had the privilege of meeting and who shared her very personal story about this is Melissa Woodward from the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas. When she was 12 years old—12 years old—she was sold into the sex trade by a family member, somebody whom she had every right to assume cared for her, loved her, wanted her to grow up being a loved and productive person. But she was sold into the sex trade by a family member. Eventually she was pulled out of school and trafficked full time when she was in sixth grade. Her life became a prison.

She was chained to a bed in a warehouse. She endured regular beatings and, of course, she was sexually assaulted with regularity. She was even set on fire by one of her captors. All the while, she was forced to serve between 5 and 30 men every day.

Melissa has said that she wished she were dead. Her story of her time in captivity is gut-wrenching and heartbreaking, but just as sad is the way she was treated once she escaped from her captors. As is the case with so many victims, Melissa struggled for years to distance herself from her past. But instead of being treated as the victim she was, the criminal justice system actually treated her as the criminal. That is an all too common outcome for victims of trafficking, who are labeled as prostitutes and are left with few options but to return to the nightmare that so sadly exists in our country.

That needs to change. That is why I am glad the Senate is taking up the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, because this begins the process of making that important change. The bill helps law enforcement crack down on criminal trafficking rings and perpetrators of these crimes.

Instead of a slap on the wrist and a fine, the so-called johns—the demand side for this terrible trade—will be

treated as the child rapists and the criminals they are. No longer are we just going to deal with the supply side. We are going to pay attention to the demand side too.

Critically, this bill takes fines from the perpetrators of these awful crimes and redirects them into a crime victims fund which will help people such as Melissa and others get a fresh lease on life, to begin to heal and to get the help they so badly need in order to get on with their lives.

This week we have a wonderful opportunity in the Senate, in a town that is too often divided by ideology and partisanship, to do something together on a bipartisan basis that can help people such as Melissa and the thousands of young girls like her waiting to be saved. All of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, are committed to working together to do everything we can to help these victims and to put an end to this abhorrent practice.

This particular legislation we are taking up today passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee a few weeks ago. That doesn't happen very often, but it did for this legislation. More than 200 groups around the country—such as the NAACP, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Rights4Girls, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Conference of State Legislatures—have all endorsed our work on this issue.

I want to particularly thank some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who joined me on this effort: the senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and the senior Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN. They have been great partners in this fight—not just this year but for many years. And there are many others. Another great partner has been the junior Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK, who has worked for years to get antitrafficking legislation to the floor. He introduced a bill called the HERO Act which authorizes a program to recruit wounded, injured, and returning veterans and provides them with training in high-tech computer forensics and law enforcement skills to help fight child exploitation.

I also want to acknowledge the great contribution of the junior Senator from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, who has a bill called the Bringing Missing Children Home Act, which improves the way cases of missing children are handled, strengthening law enforcement reporting and response procedures.

Both the HERO Act and the Bringing Missing Children Home Act have been incorporated into the underlying bill, and I want to thank both of them for their efforts and willingness to work with us to make the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act even stronger.

I know there are Members who are interested in offering amendments to this legislation. Thanks to the majority leader, we are going to have an open process where anybody with a better idea who wants to add to this base

of work that is contained in this bill will have the opportunity to do so, both offering amendments and seeking votes on those.

This is a fight that sadly must be fought, but it is a fight we will win. When we do, we will finally have done our part to help deliver our Nation's promise of freedom to those who are enslaved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

MAKING WASHINGTON WORK FOR WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to deliver my maiden speech as a Senator from West Virginia. I am deeply humbled by the confidence placed in me by fellow West Virginians. To serve as West Virginia's first female Senator is a true honor and one that comes with great responsibility. I hope to serve as an example for that next generation of West Virginians, including my own grandchildren Celia and Charlie, and hopefully for many others. I find myself in a unique place in history, and I am grateful to and inspired by my own loving family, my husband Charlie and our three children, Charles, Moore, and Shelley, and their spouses.

For 14 years I have proudly served the people of West Virginia's Second Congressional District in the House of Representatives. I bring that experience to the Senate combined with a strong desire to make Washington work for West Virginia.

West Virginia has a time-honored history of exceptional Senators, including my predecessors, Senators Jay Rockefeller and Robert C. Byrd. I am appreciative of their efforts to better West Virginia during their more than 80 years of combined public service in this great body.

I am proud of our State's rich history, culture, and natural beauty. But it is our people that I hold dearest in my heart. West Virginians are strong and resilient. We are the embodiment of our State's history. Born of the Civil War, West Virginians fought for freedom in the face of great turmoil. As a result, President Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation making West Virginia the 35th State admitted to the Union.

Today, our State's forceful motto, "Mountaineers are always free," remains emblazoned in Latin on our State flag. We will never forget the principles on which our great State was founded. The Mountain State is home to unmatched scenery and natural resources that can power our Nation's economy. A State filled with small towns, Main Streets and tight knit communities, West Virginians come together to solve problems and help neighbors in need. I have often said that West Virginia is one big small town.

West Virginians expect the Senate to find pragmatic solutions to the momentous problems confronting our

country. That is particularly true now during this period of divided government. There are clear differences among the American people, and these differences are certainly reflected in the Senate.

West Virginia is represented by both parties in the Senate, and I look forward to continuing to work with my friend Senator JOE MANCHIN in the months ahead, and I thank him for being here with me as a source of support today. Together, I hope we can reinstate respect for the institution, a place where deliberation and debate are valued and all voices are heard. We owe it to the American people to do better.

Throughout my time in Congress I have heard a clear and consistent message from West Virginians: Improve the economic opportunities for our State, stop the bickering, and fight for our jobs. As Leader MCCONNELL has stated, to do this the Senate must work more, have an open amendment process—which we are going to be having here in the next several days—and take the tough votes. After all, that is why we are here.

Today I will outline how I plan to produce bipartisan, commonsense solutions in the Senate to make West Virginia communities stronger. This plan will create economic opportunities by bridging the gap and tackling America's infrastructure crisis, better connecting West Virginia and rural communities through increased broadband access, caring for our Nation's veterans, and ensuring a bright future for young West Virginians, and implementing a commonsense energy policy that utilizes our vast natural resources to provide affordable and reliable energy.

First, addressing our country's crumbling infrastructure is an area that can bridge the partisan divide and further economic growth. American communities need a strong Federal highway program and a full 6-year bill to meet the needs of our growing population, to ensure safety for travelers, and to offer opportunity for growth in areas that struggle economically.

West Virginians, like many across the Nation, rely heavily on roads, bridges, and highway transit to fuel our economy, to access hard to reach areas in our State, to get to and from work, and to transport necessary goods and services.

U.S. Route 35 will drastically improve safety for residents in Putnam and Mason Counties. Corridor H will unleash the economic potential of our State's eastern highlands. U.S. Route 340 will help address congestion in our eastern panhandle, and the Coalfields Expressway and the King Coal Highway can help isolated communities attract businesses and provide jobs. Point Pleasant's Charles Lanham, a well-respected gentleman, had a vision. With his friend Jack Fruth, they began a crusade for their community.

For many years Charles has worked to build the case for a 4-lane U.S.

Route 35, a project that will provide a secure route to school for our children and serve as a regional transportation artery between Interstate 64 and the Great Lakes region. Charles understands the economic and safety benefits the road provides and has fought for them.

Working with Charles we have made significant progress on Route 35, but all of our States need certainty to invest in our transportation infrastructure. That certainty comes with a long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill, which brings these projects to reality across the country. Working together we can and we must achieve this goal. Now is the time to move our transportation system forward.

Second, I am committed to expanding access to broadband in communities across West Virginia, and I will be a champion for connecting our State. High-speed Internet access is a pillar of our 21st century infrastructure and a gateway to growth in rural America. High-tech businesses can power our small communities. The world literally can be at your desktop. Unfortunately, for all the potential opportunities that broadband can offer to rural America, not having this important service can place an almost insurmountable barrier to economic development, and there are many areas in my State and the leader's State that still do not have adequate access. These areas are at risk of being left behind. In Capon Bridge, WV, a lack of broadband access is an obstacle to attracting jobs and economic development. Sadly, Capon Bridge is not unique in this regard.

Small communities across West Virginia and elsewhere in rural America lack fundamental infrastructure and lack access to vital opportunities as a result.

The answer for Capon Bridge is not a regulated Internet. Too much government control would be counterproductive, choking off private sector expansion projects and hindering new technologies. But we have to recognize that there is a role for government in helping broadband reach those hard-to-serve communities. We should leverage resources at all levels of government and encourage public-private partnerships to expand access to rural Americans. This is a necessary and achievable goal. It may sound like a small desire, but connectivity is essential to compete and thrive.

Health care access is critically important to West Virginians. We must continue to provide access to our veterans and to our children. West Virginians have a strong history of service to our Nation. These brave men and women have put themselves in harm's way to defend our freedoms. It is our solemn responsibility to care for them when they return home.

These American heroes deserve the best possible treatment and top-notch mental health services.

Access to care can be especially challenging for our veterans who live in rural communities. Many West Virginia veterans must travel significant distances to get to a VA hospital. In many cases, allowing veterans to receive treatment closer to home is more convenient for the patient and more efficient for the VA. While we have made strides to improve access for our veterans, the current program is not working as well as it should. More must be done.

Expanded access to private medical providers will help improve the quality of care we offer to our veterans. Our children in the Mountain State also deserve quality health care. If our children, the next generation of leaders, are going to realize their potential, they must have a healthy foundation. A solid education and good health are pillars for success of future generations. As a parent and grandparent, this is personal. We must work together to continue funding the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

I started my legislative career in the West Virginia House of Delegates where I served on the committee that first implemented the SCHIP program in our State. Today this program provides access to health care for tens of thousands of West Virginia's children. Maintaining this program is a priority I share with my predecessor, Senator Rockefeller, who was a tireless advocate for children's health insurance during his three decades of service in this body. I am encouraged that Senators in both parties have recognized the importance of providing continued funding for the bipartisan SCHIP program.

Finally, and of critical importance to the State of West Virginia and the country, we need to work together to implement a commonsense energy policy. We need an affordable and reliable energy policy that utilizes our State's vast natural resources. We need a policy that grows the economy and creates new job opportunities. We need a policy that supports a strong middle class. We need a policy that ensures we continue to improve safety and our environment even as we expand energy production.

The administration's overreach has contributed to thousands of coal miners losing their jobs in West Virginia and our neighboring States, devastating—I can't overstate this enough—local communities and families.

Last year I met a recently laid off coal miner from Raleigh County. After losing his job, his church came together to prepare meals for other coal miners and their families while they searched for work. Neighbors helping neighbors—the West Virginia way. This is a stark reminder of the impact misguided Federal policies can have on the lives of real people.

Anti-coal policies impact more than miners and their families. In West Virginia the attack on coal mines reduces

revenues for education programs, roads, and other public services. Higher utility prices caused by overregulation means fewer jobs in energy-intensive manufacturing. And sadly, lower income families and senior citizens who live on fixed incomes are disproportionately impacted by higher energy costs. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, I will lead the fight against excessive government regulation that has been devastating my State.

There are many areas of energy policy where we can find common ground. While the EPA's proposed greenhouse gas standards are misguided, we should continue to make the use of fossil fuel cleaner and more efficient. We must continue to support important research at Morgantown's National Energy Technology Lab and other labs that allows us to make environmental progress even as we continue to use our natural resources.

Natural gas is a large and growing part of West Virginia's economy. As a child of Marshall County, which is the heart of the Marcellus Shale development in West Virginia, I am delighted to see these communities come alive with opportunity. It is proof positive that an energy economy is a jobs economy. We need improved infrastructure in order to make full use of these gas reserves. We need new natural gas and oil pipelines that safely connect producing regions with manufacturers. We need new markets that can make use of these vital resources. We need a pro-exports policy that will benefit our country in multiple ways. The Nation will see more jobs and investment, more security, and a more independent future, and at the same time we can strengthen our relationships with important allies overseas by providing them with the energy they need.

These are just a few of the ideas I hope to refine and accomplish during my first term in the Senate. Notably, there are many other very important issues—such as national security, fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget, and replacement of the Affordable Care Act—on which I will be focusing. Our plate is full, and expectations are high, as they should be. We need to roll up our sleeves and deliver. I am optimistic that we can find solutions that move our country forward. There will be differences of opinion and philosophy along the way, but Americans expect us to bridge those gaps.

Senator Byrd, the longest serving Senator, said it best:

I love this Senate. I love it dearly. I love the Senate for its rules. I love the Senate for its precedence. I love the Senate for the difference that it can make in people's lives.

Fighting for West Virginians always has been and always will be my top priority. I am honored—I can't overstate that—to represent the great people of the Mountain State as we strive to create a strong and prosperous future. Now is the time for Washington to work for West Virginia, and I stand ready to do my part.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CONGRATULATING THE SENATOR FROM WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say to our new Senator from West Virginia what an outstanding speech not only for her State but the way forward for our country, and I congratulate her for an outstanding set of comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I also wish to congratulate my colleague from West Virginia. We spoke earlier about how she and I can show the way to have a better relationship-building effort here in the Senate by working together in order to better serve the people of West Virginia and also the country. I congratulate my colleague on her great speech and look forward to working with her. I think she has done a great job for the people of West Virginia, and I again thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

TACKLING NATIONAL SECURITY QUESTIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to address a question to myself and every Member of this body, and the question is a serious one: Is the Senate capable of tackling challenging national security questions in a mature and responsible way?

We have many hard national security challenges before us now. Three of those challenges are urgent: the discussions about a potential nuclear deal with Iran, the discussions in this body about military action by the United States against ISIL, and the deliberations that will take place this month about the American budget, which will determine whether we have the resources we need to meet our security challenges. We have to show the American public—and I would argue the world—that we can give these issues the careful consideration they deserve, but I am forced to admit that recent events have caused me to have some significant doubts about our institutional capacity to tackle these issues in a responsible way.

We recently—at the end of February—ran up to the very brink of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security at a time when terrorist threats and other threats to our homeland security are so obvious on our borders and throughout the world. Thank goodness, after a week's extension of funding for Homeland Security, we pulled back from the brink. But that did not lead to an increase in confidence in this body, that Congress would contemplate not funding the Department of Homeland Security.

Last week there was a joint address to Congress by Prime Minister Netanyahu. I spent many hours conversing with Prime Minister Netanyahu in his office about Iran and other topics, but I am sad to look at that joint address and basically say it

was history-making in some unfortunate ways.

Congress has heard from the Prime Minister or President of Israel seven times in the last 50 years—eight times if you count last week. Last week's address was unusual because it was designed in a partisan way. It was an invitation by the leadership of one party with an intentional decision not to let the White House know, not to let the minority party in Congress know, and to schedule the speech days before a contested foreign election, leading many to conclude that it was an effort by Congress to affect a foreign election, which we should never do.

Following that speech, a carefully worked bipartisan bill that has been introduced in Congress to give Congress an appropriate review role over any potential Iranian nuclear deal was basically hijacked. Instead of allowing the bill to go through Congress, there was a decision to force the bill to the floor for an immediate vote, which was seen by all as a partisan move. It was described by one of the Republican sponsors of the bill as an effort to embarrass Democrats. Thank goodness that at the end of the day that effort to accelerate consideration of what was a bipartisan bill was pulled back, and we will not be doing that this week. We will be allowing a normal committee process. But the fact that the effort was made did damage to reasonable bipartisan consideration of this important issue.

Then yesterday we all awoke to the news that there had been a partisan letter signed by 47 Senators—47 of my colleagues, many of whom I work with very closely—not to the President saying “We have concerns about a deal, and we are going to weigh in” but instead to the leader of a nation that we characterize as a terrorist state. This letter presumed to instruct the nation about what Congress might or might not do. The letter was widely viewed as an effort to undercut or dilute diplomatic negotiations that are in the best tradition of our country, the notion of diplomacy.

I just came from hearings this morning in the Armed Services Committee where we heard what we have heard for 2½ years: advice from our military leadership to the Senate that sequester is hurting our national defense. Will you finally listen to us? Will you do something about it?

All of these events over the last few weeks when taken together suggest the sad possibility of a Senate that will elevate partisan political division over careful and constructive deliberation, even on the most critical security issues that affect the security of our country and the world. I deeply believe that this body—the Senate and Congress generally—has to pull back from the brink of irresponsible and partisan action with respect to these critical security questions because the stakes are simply too high.

With respect to the Iranian nuclear negotiation, I share many of the concerns of my 47 colleagues who wrote the letter. I share many of the concerns of the Prime Minister that were shared in his speech last week. But I deeply believe we should not try to tank a deal, critique a deal, or undercut a deal before there is a deal because to the extent there are efforts to stand and say this is a bad deal before there is a deal, the message that is communicated to the American public and to the world is: We will never accept any deal. We are not interested in diplomacy. We are not interested in negotiation.

That attitude plays directly into the hands of the nation of Iran, which is currently engaging in terrorist activity. They want to be able to blame the absence of any deal on an intransigent United States that is unwilling to negotiate in good faith.

We should not tank a deal before there is a deal. Instead, why don't we do what we are supposed to do as the greatest deliberative body in the world? Why don't we allow negotiators who have been working in the best traditions of American diplomacy to see if they can find a deal and then put it on the table for the review of Congress, as has always been contemplated?

I am a proud original cosponsor and worked on the draftsmanship of a bipartisan bill that was introduced under the key sponsorship of Foreign Relations chair Senator CORKER and ranking member Senator MENENDEZ to guarantee to Congress an appropriate review of any final deal with Iran over their nuclear program if such a deal was reached. This is a bill which is rigorously bipartisan—not partisan, not political, not rushed, not accelerated, but rigorously bipartisan. It respects the ongoing process by allowing the negotiators to do their work and see if they can find an outcome. It guarantees Congress a debate and vote if a deal includes relief under the congressional sanctions Congress has enacted over the years. It is appropriately deferential to the Executive, allowing the Executive the flexibility to do sanctions relief under Executive or international sanctions that have not been part of any congressional statute.

This is a bipartisan bill which provides some assurance to allies. Our allies in the region—allies that are most affected by the Iranian nuclear ambitions are not part of the P5+1, whether you are talking about Israel or Gulf State nations or Jordan. The nations most affected by Iranian nuclear ambitions are not part of the P5+1, and the Corker-Menendez bill would give them some comfort that a deal, if announced, would receive some careful scrutiny in this body.

Finally, I believe the Corker-Menendez bipartisan approach even provides some important assurances to Iran in the negotiation. We want Iran to make not small concessions, we want them to make big and bold concessions and

give up any intent to develop nuclear weapons. But what is the likelihood that Iran will make those concessions if they have no knowledge about what Congress's intent is vis-à-vis the congressional statutory provisions?

There is a right way and a wrong way to approach these matters. To rush it, to label a deal as a bad deal before there is a deal, to make it entirely partisan rather than bipartisan, reflecting the will of the body, is an effort to undercut negotiations that weakens our President, weakens our country, and weakens our credibility; whereas if we proceed in a bipartisan way, we can make the deal stronger.

Similarly—and then I wish to cede the moment to my colleague, the Senator from Maine—we are about to start work on another critically important issue—whether Congress should finally, after 7-plus months, have a debate to authorize an ongoing war against the Islamic State in the Levant that was begun on August 8 by the President. We are now in the eighth month of a unilateral war, and aside from a Foreign Relations Committee vote in committee in December, Congress has not had a meaningful vote or debate on this fundamental responsibility. We owe it to ourselves and to this institution, we owe it to the important national security interests at stake, and especially we owe it to the people who are risking their lives in this war—and we have already had deaths of American servicemembers as part of Operation Inherent Resolve—we owe it to them to show we can have a meaningful debate that is not partisan, that is not rushed, but that is careful and deliberate. They have been waiting for 7-plus months to see whether Congress even cares.

We are at war by a Presidential act. Does Congress even care enough to have the debate on the floor of the Senate and in the House of Representatives? Is it just partisanship now? Is it just delay now? Does the fact our service men and women are risking their lives even matter to us now?

This is the debate we will be entering into within the next few days, starting with the hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow. We can't afford, on important issues of national security such as Iran or such as the war against ISIL, to send the impression to our troops, to our citizens, to our global citizens around the world, that on these important matters Congress is now just a partisan sort of sideshow rather than the deliberative body we were set up to be. We have to find a bipartisan path forward on these important security issues or we weaken confidence in this institution and in the leadership of this country.

In conclusion, the national security interests that are at stake right now before us are fundamental, whether it is about Iran, whether it is about the battle against ISIL, or whether it is about the budgetary deliberations we will be undertaking this month—a

budgetary deliberation that will determine whether we can meet our commitments in these national security challenges. We have to get these debates right for the good of our country and the world, and we have to get them right to demonstrate to all that this institution does have the maturity to tackle these issues in a reasonable way.

With that, I yield the last minute or so of my time to my colleague from Maine, Senator KING.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, there is little I can add to the remarks of the Senator from Virginia on this issue.

I think this institution is being tested this week, this month, and over the next several months in a way that is really somewhat new. The test, the question, is: Can we deal with the most serious of issues facing this country and the world in a responsible, reasonable, and, yes, bipartisan, nonpartisan way?

I also worked with BOB CORKER, Senator Kaine, and the whole group that worked on putting together—Senator MENENDEZ—a bipartisan bill to provide Congress a role in the approval of whatever deal is struck with Iran. I believe Congress should have that role. But in those discussions, my concern was that some of our Members will not be able to resist the temptation to politicize and make a partisan issue—even this grave issue of war and peace, this grave issue that faces this country and the entire world—of the possibility of a regime such as that in Iran achieving nuclear weapons.

This is not an ideological debate. This is a serious debate about the future of this country. This is one of the most serious negotiations of our adult lives. I want Congress to have a role, but I want it to play that role weighing the merits, pro or con, the actual materials that are in the treaty—in the agreement. I want us to have that role, but I want to be sure we can respond to that in a responsible way. Frankly, the actions of the last few days have shaken that confidence, because we have seen what appears to be an effort to gain political and partisan advantage from this gravest of national issues.

I understand there are differences about what the deal should look like and what the terms should be. That is OK. That is what we should be discussing. But to turn this into a partisan issue I think does a grave disservice to this entire country, and to undercut the President in the last stages of the negotiation to me is unprecedented and unthinkable.

I was a young man at the time of the Cuban missile crisis. I cannot imagine the Congress of the United States writing a letter to Khrushchev in the midst of those discussions and saying, Don't worry about this guy Kennedy, he doesn't speak for the country. Yet that essentially is what took place yesterday. I don't understand the need or the

helpfulness of such a statement at a time when we were already moving toward a bipartisan—I believe probably veto-proof—bill to provide this institution with a check on the quality of the deal that is being struck.

It is not productive or helpful to turn issues of this kind into partisan issues. I hope we can step back from this partisan posture and meet this solemn responsibility to assess what the President and the administration and the other five countries—the agreement they come to with Iran—to determine whether, indeed, it is in the best interests of the region and the world. That is our responsibility. I hope we can muster the ability to meet that responsibility in a serious way and not, for once, turn it into a partisan issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

DR. FRANCIS COLLINS, DR. NANCY SULLIVAN,  
AND DR. WILLIAM GAHL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a few moments today to speak about Federal workers in general and some of the people at the National Institutes of Health in particular.

Government workers guard our borders, protect us from terrorists, treat our wounded veterans, dispense Social Security checks to our retirees, find cures for diseases, guide the Nation's air traffic, explore the tiniest particles and the vast expanse of outer space, ensure our air is safe to breathe, our water is safe to drink, our food is safe to eat, support our service men and women in harm's way, and promote our interests and ideals abroad. For whom does the government work? Government works for America.

The Washington Post recently reported that since reliable data first became available shortly before World War II, the percentage of all employed people working for the Federal Government hit an all-time low in December. Fewer than 2 percent of the total U.S. workforce is employed by the Federal Government. Over nearly the past half century, from 1966 to 2012—the most recent year for which comparable data is available—the number of Federal workers in the executive branch dropped by 83,000. During that time, the U.S. population increased from under 200 million to over 300 million people and the gross domestic product nearly quadrupled.

We can argue over whether we want bigger government or smaller government, but we should all agree we want better government. We can't have better government when Federal workers are constantly under assault. We need to stop treating the Federal workforce like a rented mule. We need to treat the Federal workforce like the critical asset it is.

A 2011 report by the National Academy of Public Administration and the Kettering Foundation concluded that programs operated by civil servants re-

ceive "significantly higher" scores for management and effectiveness than those run by "grant- and contract-based third parties."

I think part of the problem is that Americans have come to accept that Federal workers are nameless, faceless bureaucrats. They aren't. They are people who are patriotic Americans and dedicated to public service. They have families and support their communities. They have been asked to do more and more with less and less while being subjected to pay freezes, sequestration-related furloughs, government shutdowns, and threats to their benefits. They have contributed \$150 billion to deficit reduction while still working hard on behalf of all Americans.

Today, as I mentioned, I wish to focus on the Federal workers at the National Institutes of Health. I wish to introduce my colleagues and all Americans to a few of the Federal workers who are making life better for all of us. But first a description of the NIH so people can understand its mission.

I can sum up its mission in two words: saving lives. The NIH is the world's premier biomedical and health-related research facility. Its job is to perform and fund the research that helps improve the Nation's health—a job it has carried out for over a century.

I am proud the NIH is headquartered in Maryland, but it is important to understand that NIH support of medical research at other research institutions has created jobs and fostered economic growth in each and every State, while establishing and maintaining the United States as the global leader in the life sciences. NIH-supported research added \$69 billion to our GDP and supported 7 million jobs in 2011 alone.

In the weeks and months ahead, Congress and the administration will have to decide whether they have to replace sequestration with a more logical, coherent, strategic, and responsible form of budgeting.

While we will have disagreements over the details, if anyone needs to be convinced about the value of replacing sequestration, look no further than the situation at NIH. Funding constraints there not only cost people their jobs, they are costing people their lives.

NIH funding has multiple drivers, but comparing the fiscal year 2013 figures with the fiscal year 2012 figures, largely because of sequestration, approximately 640 fewer competitive research project grants were issued and approximately 750 fewer new patients were admitted to the NIH Clinical Center. Each of these affects a person's life. Each of these has consequences when we do not move forward as we should.

A recent survey determined that nearly 20 percent of the biomedical scientists have considered leaving the United States due to sequestration. We are losing our best. Nearly one-half of the scientists surveyed said they have laid off staff in their laboratories or are considering laying off staff due to

losing NIH grants. More than 50 percent of the researchers say they have colleagues who have lost his or her job.

What is the impact? Delays in life-saving medical progress. Medical breakthroughs do not happen overnight. In almost all instances, breakthrough discoveries result from years of incremental research to understand how diseases start and progress. Cuts to research are delaying progress in medical breakthroughs, including developing better cancer drugs that zero in on a tumor with fewer side effects; research on a universal flu vaccine that could fight every strain of influenza without needing a yearly shot; preventing debilitating chronic conditions that are costly to society and delay development of more effective treatments for common and rare diseases affecting millions of Americans.

NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recently wrote the column "Exceptional Opportunities in Medical Science" in which he describes the excitement over "personalized medicine," the BRAIN initiative, and development of the Ebola vaccine. He has also shared his concern about the budget challenges NIH faces.

Let me quote from Dr. Collins:

Although all of these ambitious scientific endeavors offer exceptional promise for advancing human health, the effect that unprecedented budget pressures are having on biomedical research cannot be ignored. Due to inflation, the NIH budget has lost almost 25 percent of its purchasing power over the last decade. The decline has had important consequences. The NIH once funded one in three research proposals, but now only has enough resources to support one in six. As a result, a great deal of excellent science is being left unfunded.

Last October Dr. Collins stated that cuts in Federal funding slowed the development of vaccines and therapies for the deadly Ebola virus, saying: "Frankly, if we had not gone through our 10-year slide in research support, we probably would have had a vaccine in time for this that would have gone through clinical trials and would have been ready."

Think about the lives that could have been saved.

To Americans who wonder what their tax dollars do—well, some go to NIH to find treatments and cures for cancer, depression, arthritis, substance abuse, addiction, diabetes, and Alzheimer's disease. To date, 145 NIH-supported researchers have received or shared 85 Nobel Prizes.

Not everyone wins a Nobel Prize, so let me talk about people who aren't in the spotlight—people some of our colleagues might refer to as "nameless, faceless bureaucrats." I will highlight the work of two of them today who are making a tremendous contribution as public servants.

Dr. Nancy Sullivan, Chief of the Vaccine Research Center, has been working on an Ebola vaccine for nearly two decades, dating back to when she was an investigator at the University of Michigan with the then-NIH grantee

and now former Director, Dr. Gary Nabel. Most vaccines spur production of a person's immune system's antibodies that block a virus from entering the cells, but that approach doesn't work for Ebola.

Gene-based vaccines can induce additional virus fighters called T-cells, so that is what Dr. Sullivan created, using pieces of Ebola genetic material. It is the most promising approach yet, and it is being tested in the parts of West Africa that have been hit the hardest with Ebola, where more than 9,000 people have died.

The concept for Dr. Sullivan's vaccine has been 16 years in the making, beginning back when few people outside the global infectious disease community had even heard of the deadly disease. Over the years, Dr. Sullivan and her team continued to tweak her ideas, constantly improving on them. Eventually she followed Dr. Nabel to NIH.

Many experts in the vaccine research community had begun to believe Ebola was insurmountable. They thought it was too aggressive for a vaccine to ever protect against it. But Dr. Sullivan never lost heart that her work would one day prove successful.

The Ebola virus infection is a highly lethal disease for which there are no effective therapeutic or preventive treatments. Consequently, work with these viruses requires highly specialized BSL-4 containment labs—the highest biosafety labs. Dr. Sullivan is a leader in the field and has personally conducted many of the most critical experiments. Her work on immunology and vaccine development is widely considered as some of the very best in the field. In spite of the difficulties associated with access to BSL-4 labs, her work has consistently been the source of novel observations.

Dr. Sullivan received her Ph.D. in cell biology from Harvard University in 1997. She received her master of science in environmental engineering in 1989, also from Harvard University.

I brought a poster to the floor where we see President Obama visited NIH to personally congratulate Dr. Sullivan for her incredible work on behalf of world health.

Some people may be familiar with the TV show "House." The main character, Dr. Gregory House, is brilliant at diagnosing conditions and illnesses that baffle everyone else. The real-life Dr. House is Dr. William Gahl, the founding Director of the Undiagnosed Diseases Program at NIH. He is America's leading medical detective, a physician dedicated to finding answers for long-suffering patients with mysterious illnesses that long eluded diagnosis. Dr. Gahl has brought together a unique combination of elite medical specialists, researchers, and Federal resources to solve baffling illnesses and provide desperate patients and their families with information and possible solutions and treatments for their often life-threatening ailments.

Results include diagnosis and treatment of diseases so rare they don't even have names, plus new genetic discoveries, improved disease management, and the advancement of medical knowledge. NIH Director Dr. Collins said the Undiagnosed Diseases Program, which Dr. Gahl conceived and started, serves as a kind of court of last resort for patients without a diagnosis. Dr. Gahl has convinced some of the best, brightest, and busiest physicians to participate, and has devoted tremendous energy to examining patient records, selecting cases for in-depth analysis, and helping people who are seriously ill.

Under Dr. Gahl's stewardship, the program regularly involves a collective effort by more than 25 attending physicians of different specialties. The cooperation by a diverse group of experts has helped create a coherent view of each patient instead of the organ-by-organ orientation taken by most specialists. Patients are brought to the NIH campus in Bethesda for an intensive week. They meet with a parade of specialists who study their medical histories, perform thorough exams, and take numerous tests.

The doctors then meet to discuss what they have seen, discovered, or may have missed. They also debate various theories, trying to connect the dots, and come up with a possible diagnosis and treatment.

Scientists working with Dr. Gahl discovered the genetic cause of a vascular disorder not previously identified in the medical literature. The rare condition, identified in nine individuals, arises in adulthood and causes arterial calcification in the hands and feet, but does not affect arteries in the heart. The symptoms include acute pain after walking more than a short distance. The disorder previously baffled the medical field and evaded diagnosis when conventional methods were used.

In another instance, physicians working with Dr. Gahl identified the reason why a woman's muscles had grown painfully large and hard underneath her skin, making it increasingly difficult for her to perform daily activities. This turned out to be an extremely rare, generally fatal complication of multiple myeloma, and the diagnosis by the NIH Undiagnosed Diseases Program resulted in a stem cell bone marrow transplant that allows her to lead a normal life. These are people who had no hope, no hope at all. They came to NIH, and they have gotten government-supported help to give them hope and to give them life.

Dr. Gahl earned his B.S. in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1972 and his M.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1976. He obtained a Ph.D. degree in oncology research from Wisconsin's McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research in 1981. He has published more than 350 peer-reviewed papers and trained 36 biochemical geneticists.

Dr. Gahl has made a number of seminal discoveries regarding rare diseases

during his career. He said deciding who to admit into the Undiagnosed Diseases Program is always very difficult and much like triage on the battlefield. You have to make decisions about where you think you can do some good.

The Undiagnosed Diseases Program serves people who feel helpless, have suffered greatly, have waited many years for answers, and must be treated with respect and attention. According to Dr. Gahl, the NIH caregivers understand the desperation the patients and their families feel and try to balance the difficulty finding solutions with a realistic measure of hope.

Dr. John Gallin, Director of the NIH Clinical Center, said Dr. Gahl takes cases after everyone else has given up. He said that in a short time the program has developed new approaches for investigating, understanding, and diagnosing rare disorders, and has added to the body of medical knowledge. As Dr. Gallin put it, as a result of the NIH Undiagnosed Diseases Program, the language of medicine is changing. The different specialists working together now are beginning to find common ways.

Nancy Sullivan and Bill Gahl are just two of the dedicated people who work in the Federal Government. They are not nameless, faceless bureaucrats. They are dedicated, hard-working Americans trying to make life better for all of us under difficult circumstances. At a minimum, they deserve our gratitude and respect. They also deserve a predictable and reasonable budget to support their critical work.

In the weeks ahead I will be discussing the accomplishments of other outstanding Federal workers so that Americans can understand government works for America.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a serious crime and a violation of human rights that must be stopped—human trafficking. It is a form of modern-day slavery, people profiting from the control and exploitation of others.

I rise as a doc, a fellow who has practiced in the public hospital system for 32 years, understanding the unique role nurses, physicians, and other health care providers play in this issue.

Health care providers are frontline and one of the few to interact directly