



**Alliance To End
Slavery & Trafficking**

A Project Of Humanity United

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May 2, 2011

The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies

The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies

Dear Chairman Wolf / Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Members Fattah and
Hutchinson:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), we the undersigned organizations, are writing to seek your assistance to fund a series of authorized programs in the FY 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that are absolutely critical to fighting the growing problem of human trafficking and slavery.

ATEST is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based human rights organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking around the world. We work together to create fundamental change—from strengthening laws and business standards to building public will—to change the accepted norms that enable the phenomenon to persist around the world. The fact that the enslavement and trade in human beings exists in our modern world as a disturbingly large, highly profitable illicit industry is unacceptable. Slavery damages our communities, taints the products and services we consume and the profits we earn, and is one of the most pressing human rights challenges of our time. ATEST member organizations include: Coalition to

Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), ECPAT-USA, Free the Slaves, International Justice Mission, Not For Sale Campaign, Polaris Project, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verite, Vital Voices Global Partnership, World Vision, and one individual member, Julia Ormond, former U.N. Goodwill Ambassador and president and founder of the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking (ASSET).

In December 2008, Congress reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) through FY 2012. This bipartisan reauthorization extended and modified certain programs that form the core of the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and protect the victims of trafficking and slavery. Unfortunately, the problem of human trafficking and slavery is growing. These victims often experience severe trauma that requires intensive therapy and rehabilitation. In addition, human trafficking and slavery criminal cases are often complicated and lengthy legal proceedings requiring additional resources for prosecutors as well as victims. Many of these victims require comprehensive case management provided by victim service organizations to see them through their recovery and help them navigate the legal system.

The programs we request funding for are authorized or have received funding in previous years. With your help and leadership, we believe it is time to increase the resources available to the Department of Justice, victims, and the victim service organizations on the frontlines fighting to help the victims of these crimes. Therefore, we request the following:

Office of Justice Programs / State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

1. Victim Services Grants: \$15,000,000 and Report Language.

We request \$15,000,000 for the Victims of Trafficking Grant program for foreign nationals, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, and the Human Trafficking Task Forces. Within this amount, we are seeking no less than \$6,700,000 for victims of service grants for foreign national victims of trafficking as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106-386 as amended by Public Law 110-457.

A portion of the remaining funds shall be used to assist U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who have become victims of human trafficking and slavery, as authorized by section 213(a)(2) of the TVPA reauthorization of 2008. Thousands of U.S. citizens are becoming victims of these crimes whether for forced labor or sexual exploitation.

The remainder of these funds shall be used for the Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Task Forces. There are currently 40 task forces nationwide that integrate federal, state and local law enforcement, prosecutorial and victim service organizations to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and to protect the victims of trafficking and slavery. We support the continuation of the Human Trafficking Task Force program.

Proposed Bill Language:

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

\$15,000,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106-386, and for programs authorized under Public Law 109-164, provided that no less than \$6,700,000 shall be for victim services grants for foreign national victims of trafficking.

Proposed Report Language:

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

The bill provides \$15,000,000 for the Victims of Trafficking Grant program as authorized by Public Law 106-386 and amended by Public Law 110-457, of which no less than \$6,700,000 is for victim services grants for foreign national victims of trafficking.

Legal Activities / Civil Rights Division

2. \$5,300,000 for the Human Trafficking and Slavery Prosecution Unit (HTSPU) and Report Language.

We request \$5,300,000 for the HTSPU, a \$100,000 increase over the budget request and equal to the enacted funding level. The HTSPU has seen a 600% increase in its caseload in recent years. We ask that one sentence of report language be added.

Proposed Report Language:

Legal Activities / Salary and Expenses / General Legal Activities

The bill provides \$5,300,000 for the Human Trafficking and Slavery Prosecution Unit (HTSPU) in the civil rights division to fight human trafficking and slavery.

Legal Activities / United States Attorneys

3. Report Language Creating a Point of Contact in each USA Office.

We request that the Subcommittee include report language that directs the creation of a point of contact (POC) in each U.S. Attorney office to serve as the coordinator of all human trafficking and slavery matters within each U.S. Attorney office and to serve as a liaison with victim service organizations within each respective jurisdiction to improve coordination and communication in each.

Proposed Report Language:

Salaries and Expenses / United States Attorneys

The Committee directs the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, in consultation with the United States Attorneys, to designate a point of contact in each U.S. Attorney office who shall serve as the coordinator for all activities within that office concerning human

trafficking and slavery matters covered by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Designating a point of contact will improve communication and coordination within each jurisdiction, including victim service organizations, in order to better serve the victims of human trafficking and slavery.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

4. FBI Salaries and Expenses: \$15,000,000 for Investigations into Severe Forms of Trafficking and Report Language.

We request \$15,000,000, as authorized by Sec. 113(h) of the TVPA 2000, as amended by the TVPRA of 2005 and the TVPRA of 2008, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Salaries and Expenses account to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons. As the lead federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and slavery would be significantly enhanced through additional resources devoted specifically to trafficking and slavery.

Proposed Report Language:

Salaries and Expenses / Federal Bureau of Investigation

The bill provides \$15,000,000 for the FBI to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons as authorized by Section 113(h) of Public Law 106-386, as amended. As the lead federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and slavery would be significantly enhanced through additional resources devoted specifically to the growing problem of trafficking and slavery. The funding shall be used for investigations into trafficking and slavery and providing victim witness coordinators when needed on an emergency basis.

We understand the extremely difficult funding situation you are facing in FY 2012. We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect true priorities that are targeted and focused on the most important and most effective programs. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership in fighting the scourge of human trafficking and slavery. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Smith at csmith@humanityunited.org or (202) 361-1442.

Sincerely,