



**Alliance To End
Slavery & Trafficking**

A Project Of Humanity United

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May 2, 2011

The Honorable Denny Rehberg, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa Delauro, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

Dear Chairmen Rehberg and Harkin and Ranking Members Delauro and Shelby:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), we, the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership in the fight to end child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and slavery, and appreciate your efforts to pass legislation to curtail these practices and provide resources to the federal agencies who are engaged in this issue. We are writing to seek your assistance in funding several programs related to child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and slavery in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill.

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).

Congress unanimously reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-386) in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2008 (P.L.110-457). This bipartisan reauthorization extended and modified certain programs that form the core of the Department of Labor's efforts to better document and deter the trafficking problem, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to provide services to victims of trafficking, most especially children.

ATEST recommends robust funding for DOL and HHS programs to fulfill the highest priority mandates of the TVPRA. With your leadership, DOL and HHS will document the trafficking problem and deter future trafficking, as well as provide significant services to assist trafficking victims.

1. \$7,000,000 for the DOL International Labor Affairs Bureau/Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking

ATEST is requesting \$7,000,000 in FY 2012 for the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT) in the International Labor Affairs Bureau in the Department of Labor to implement Sec. 105(b)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005 (P.L.109-164) and Sec. 110 of the TVPRA of 2008 (P.L.110-457). We are seeking the following report language:

Report Language:

The Committee recommends \$7,000,000 for the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking to implement sections Sec. 105(b)(2)(A), Sec. 105(b)(2)(D), and Sec. 105(b)(2)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L.109-164) regarding monitoring, standards, and consultations.

OCFT has been involved in monitoring, reporting on and consulting with other government agencies regarding child labor since 1993 and forced labor since 1999 – the longest of any government agency. As such, OCFT provides expertise and information for the range of government agencies that address forced and child labor issues.

This funding initiative will ensure that the TVPRA mandates are adequately fulfilled, and in doing so will advance OCFT efforts to accomplish related monitoring and reporting under the Farm Bill and Trade and Development Act mandates. The \$7,000,000 increase will be used to implement Sec. 105(b)(2) of the TVPRA of 2005 as follows:

- to monitor the use of forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards;
- to work with persons who are involved in the production of goods on the list described above to create a standard set of practices that will reduce the likelihood that such persons will produce goods using the labor described in such subparagraph; and
- to consult with other departments and agencies of the United States Government to reduce forced and child labor internationally and ensure that products made by forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards are not imported into the United States.

2. \$10,000,000 for the DOL/Department of Wage and Hour

We are requesting \$10,000,000 for services for victims of trafficking to implement Sec. 107(b) of the TVPA of 2000. The Department of Labor (DOL) is oftentimes the initial investigator of human trafficking crimes, including most recently a case involving over 400 victims. DOL needs the resources to protect and support victims during these investigations, including providing access to shelter, medical care, mental health, legal services and case management. Without these necessary services many victims of this horrific crime will remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. We are also requesting inclusion of the following report language.

Report Language:

The Committee recommends \$10,000,000 for the Wage and Hour Division to implement Sec. 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-386) to ensure comprehensive services for human trafficking victims.

Although funding for victim services through DOL has been authorized for the last 11 years, no funds have been provided for victim service programs through DOL. The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, which ranked U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking in our own country for the first time, highlighted that in the U.S.:

"Trafficking occurs **primarily for labor** and most commonly in domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, hotel services, construction, health and elder care, hair and nail salons, and strip club dancing." (Report (2010) p 338. *Emphasis added.*)

These are all areas where DOL has investigative oversight. Furthermore, the report highlighted the need for increased funding for victims services. *Id.* As DOL is beginning to take steps to increase identification of trafficking victims, it is imperative that the U.S. government appropriate sufficient funds to serve these additional victims once identified.

3. \$21,800,000 for the HHS/Administration for Children and Families/Refugee and Entrant Assistance Program

In addition to the funds for DOL, the funds we are requesting for the Department of Health and Human Services will make significant strides toward serving victims of trafficking and fulfilling the mandate of three distinct sections of the TVPRA:

- to identify and serve foreign national victims (Sec. 301(2));
- to provide shelters for minor victims of sex trafficking (Sec. 302(4)); and
- to create specialized case management programs to assist U.S. citizens (Sec.213).

We are seeking the inclusion of the following paragraph in the report accompanying the FY12 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Report Language:

Within the funds provided under this heading, the Committee recommends \$21,800,000 for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to implement the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (P.L.110-457), as follows: \$11,800,000 to serve foreign national victims; \$4,000,000 to provide shelters for minor victims of sex trafficking; and \$6,000,000 to provide grants to non-governmental organizations working in communities around the country providing case management programs for U.S. citizens and legal permanent resident victims of severe forms of trafficking.

Assistance to Foreign National Victims: Since the passage of the TVPRA in 2000, certified foreign national survivors have received medical and psychological treatment, housing, access to educational programs, life skills development, and other assistance through HHS-funded NGO programs. This program has also funded public awareness, training, and coalition building to raise awareness about human trafficking among law enforcement, social services, medical staff and other potential first responders, and other faith-based and community groups.

Funding for these programs has been level for the last five years and is currently insufficient to meet victims' needs. Although the U.S. government estimates that up to 17,500 individuals are trafficked into the U.S. each year, HHS and its grantees have only had the resources to identify and certify an average of 170 victims per year. Furthermore, HHS service periods for some clients are only as long as four months. This short service period challenges a survivor's ability to recover and to participate in criminal prosecutions, which can often last as long as two years.

Assistance to Minors: Minor victims of trafficking face a major hurdle to recovery – the lack of appropriate and safe housing. Law enforcement around the country has identified the lack of specialized housing programs as the greatest obstacle in bringing effective prosecutions against child sex traffickers. Anecdotal data from selected cities illustrates the need for these funds. For example, in Las Vegas, outreach workers identified over 400 trafficked children on the streets in May 2007 alone. In Dallas, during a three-year period from 2004-2007, the Dallas Police Department identified approximately 280 child victims of sex trafficking by screening children who were at high risk due to past abuse and histories of running away from home. Furthermore, the Senate Appropriations

Committee called on the Administration to request funding for assistance to minors in its report accompanying the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (Senate Report 111-066).

Assistance to U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents: Many U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who are victims of trafficking need specialized services. In particular, survivors who have been long-term victims of abuse and trauma, often since childhood, are in need of comprehensive case management services in order to access specific recovery programs for which they may be eligible. Similar to the assistance provided for foreign national victims, recovery programs for U.S. citizens include medical and psychological treatment, housing, access to educational programs, life skills development, and other assistance through HHS-funded NGO programs. These funds may also support public awareness, training, and coalition building to raise awareness about human trafficking among law enforcement, social services, medical staff and other potential first responders, and other faith-based and community groups. Furthermore, the Senate Appropriations Committee called on the Administration to request funding for assistance to U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents in its report accompanying the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (Senate Report 111-066).

As a champion of the victims of child labor and forced labor, you understand the complexities of these issues and the resources needed to respond to these problems. We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect the true priorities of the community, focusing on the most important and effective programs. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership in fighting to end child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and slavery. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Smith at csmith@humanityunited.org or (202) 361-1442.

Sincerely,