December 17, 2013

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Daniel Coats, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Via U.S. Post and Fax

Dear Chairs Carter and Landrieu and Ranking Members Price and Coats:

The National Association of Attorneys General has made anti-human trafficking efforts one of its major initiatives. We, the undersigned states Attorneys General, urge you to appropriate funding for programs authorized by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013 (TVPRA), enacted March 7, 2013. These funds are critical to fighting the growing problem of human trafficking and slavery in the United States.

Human trafficking is tied as the second largest and is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, generating roughly $32 billion each year. According to a study of Department of Justice human trafficking task force cases, 83% of sex trafficking victims identified in the United States were U.S. citizens. Shockingly, the average age that U.S. children are first used in commercial sex is 12 to 14. Victims often experience severe trauma that requires intensive therapy. Due to the complexity and resource-intensive nature of human trafficking cases, law enforcement and victim services in the U.S. are in tremendous need of funding to support the fight against human trafficking.

The TVPRA makes significant progress in protecting domestic minor victims of human trafficking, encouraging further education and awareness about human trafficking, providing prosecutors with more effective tools for prosecuting offenders, and funding task forces across the country that battle trafficking each day. We understand the tremendous fiscal challenges the nation is currently facing. Nonetheless, without continued support, much of the progress made in the fight against human trafficking will be lost; ongoing funding for federal agencies, local task forces, and victim services programs is crucial.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and your continued dedication to the eradication of human trafficking in the United States.

Sincerely,
Greg Zoeller
Indiana Attorney General
Co-Chair, NAAG Standing Committee
On Human Trafficking

Luther Strange
Alabama Attorney General

Tom Horne
Arizona Attorney General

Kamala Harris
California Attorney General

George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General

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