



Alliance to End Slavery and
Trafficking
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February 29, 2016

The Honorable John McCain, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate

The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate

The Honorable Mac Thornberry, Chairman
Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives

The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen McCain and Thornberry and Ranking Members Reed and Smith:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we thank you for your leadership in the fight to end child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery, and appreciate your efforts to curtail these practices. We are writing to seek your assistance in authorizing a program to prevent child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery in the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The Defense Department has a zero tolerance policy for trafficking in persons. As you know, DOD has released its Strategic Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP). The implementation of the CTIP Strategic Plan includes issuing a DOD-wide policy that conforms to laws and executive orders on CTIP such as Title XVII of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) entitled, "Ending Trafficking in Government Contracting." It also includes instituting training, education, and outreach programs to ensure greater awareness within the Department, as well as implementing standardized CTIP monitoring and enforcement processes and procedures that improve compliance and the reporting of incidents of trafficking.

As DOD operates around the world, it has a moral obligation to fight this heinous crime, protect freedom, and create stability. DOD's obligation holds its military, civilian employees, and contractors accountable. ATEST commends DOD's leadership in fighting human trafficking, but challenges the Department to implement this policy on a Department-wide basis through a dedicated office for this purpose. As such, ATEST is seeking the following provision in the FY17 NDAA:

Office of the Secretary of Defense / Office of Human Trafficking

We are requesting that the FY17 NDAA establish an Office of Human Trafficking located in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) with an authorized funding level of \$2,000,000 for FY17. The authorized funding will allow OSD to hire staff to implement, educate, and train DOD staff on the Department's CTIP policy.

We believe the creation of a central DOD-wide office located within the OSD is the most efficient and effective organizational structure to ensure consistency in implementing the Department's CTIP strategy, which involves training, procurement and acquisition, and other DOD activities. An office located within the OSD would also provide a central point of contact internally, as well as externally, and coordinate all functions within the Department for CTIP activities.

As a champion of the victims of child labor, forced labor, and sex trafficking, 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 modern slavery. If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at msperber@humanityunited.org or (631) 374-0749.

Sincerely,

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

ECPAT-USA

Free the Slaves

Futures Without Violence (FUTURES)

International Justice Mission

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

Polaris

Safe Horizon

Solidarity Center

Verité

Vital Voices Global Partnership

ATEST is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based human rights organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end all forms of modern-day slavery and human trafficking domestically and globally. ATEST member organizations include: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), ECPAT-USA, Free the Slaves, Futures Without Violence (FUTURES), International Justice Mission, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), National Network for Youth (NN4Y), Polaris, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.