



Alliance to End Slavery and
Trafficking
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February 29, 2016

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

The Honorable José Serrano, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

The Honorable Chris Coons, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Dear Chairmen Crenshaw and Boozman, and Ranking Members Serrano and Coons:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to seek your assistance in the FY 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill to fight the widespread problem of human trafficking and forced labor. Human trafficking and forced labor continue to be a lucrative target of organized crime. Furthermore, these criminal networks have infiltrated parts of the U.S. procurement supply chain.

U.S. Department of Treasury / Financial Crimes Enforcement Network / Salaries and Expenses

1. Report Language on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor

Human trafficking and forced labor has grown into a \$150 billion a year industry by some estimates. The lucrative nature of this illicit industry has attracted the attention of other crime rings, most notably the illegal drug trade. Debilitating the financial networks of this industry will significantly assist law enforcement in cracking down on the trafficking trade. We are requesting report language to highlight this crime and bring it to the attention of the U.S. Department of Treasury and, most notably, its bureau of Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

Proposed Report Language:

*Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
Salaries and Expenses*

The Committee recognizes that human trafficking and forced labor are frequently conducted by trans-national criminal organizations and therefore directs FinCEN to work with federal and state law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking and forced labor and provide appropriate assistance to these agencies in their human trafficking investigations.

General Services Administration / Office of Government-wide Policy (GSA/OGP)

2. Report Language on Human Trafficking Prevention in Procurement Programs

Human trafficking and forced labor are pervasive in the manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and services industries (e.g., hotels) in the United States and around the world. As the largest consumer of goods and services in the world, the U.S. Government could significantly reduce human trafficking and forced labor worldwide by purchasing goods and services free of exploitative labor. Executive Order 13627 (*Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts*), the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act (ETGCA), and the Federal Acquisition Regulations, implementing the EO and ETGCA, laid the initial groundwork to eradicate human trafficking from the U.S. Government supply chain by focusing on procurement for overseas bases.

The final rule, promulgated pursuant to Executive Order 13627, Strengthening Protections against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts, was issued on January 29, 2015, and requires that federal contractors subject to EO 13627 no longer charge recruitment fees, prepare and implement a compliance plan, and be subject to onsite inspections, among other things. It also requires Inspectors General at the relevant agencies to provide reports, which may trigger an administrative hearing on any alleged violation. While this is the most robust effort to date to combat human trafficking in federal procurement of goods and services, past efforts have suffered from a lack of implementation. This must not happen with respect to these regulations. In that context, the GSA should ensure that its procurement that is subject to the Executive Order fully complies with the final rule, and that resources are available to train and otherwise support contracting officers to be able to assess whether the compliance plans required by the final rule meet its requirements. The GSA should also ensure that the Inspector General of the GSA is aware of its responsibilities and has the resources to carry out relevant investigations.

In addition, GSA should work with the Office of Management and Budget to provide support to other agencies to ensure that the requirements of the final rule are fully implemented across government, including sharing best practices on training and investigation. Sufficient resources for Inspectors General in all agencies must be provided to ensure to investigate the many likely infractions of the Executive Order that may arise as a consequence of the deep and pervasive nature of human trafficking globally. The GSA and OMB should work together to determine means by which transparency is afforded to U.S. citizens about the nature of Executive Order compliance plans from federal contractors and the review and enforcement actions taken by federal procurement officials. OMB and GSA also have a role in helping companies identify areas of risk within their supply chains so that particular focus can be made on contracts in that area. OMB and GSA should engage procurement officers at other agencies to foster robust implementation of the final rule across all agencies.

Proposed Report Language:

*General Services Administration
Office of Government-wide Policy*

The Committee expects the full implementation of regulations promulgated pursuant to Executive Order 13627, Strengthening Protections against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts, issued on January 29, 2015. The final rule requires that federal contractors subject to EO 13627 no longer charge recruitment fees, prepare and implement a compliance plan, and be subject to

onsite inspections, among other things. It also requires Inspectors General at the relevant agencies to issue reports that may trigger an administrative hearing on an alleged violation. The General Services Administration shall ensure that its procurement fully complies with the final rule, that it provides resources to train contracting officers, and that its Inspector General has the knowledge and resources to carry out relevant investigations. The Committee encourages GSA to work with the Office of Management and Budget to ensure this rule is fully implemented across government, including sharing best practices on training and investigation.

We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect true priorities that are targeted and focused on the most important and effective programs. The U.S. Department of Treasury and the General Services Administration have important roles in the federal effort to combat human trafficking and forced labor. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership in fighting the scourge of human trafficking and forced labor. 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.