

Please Take Action on Federal Human Trafficking Legislation!

“Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010” (H.R.5575)

HIGHLIGHTS OF H.R.5575:

- It authorizes up to six large block grants to create a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, victim-centered approach to addressing the sex trafficking of minors in regionally diverse locations within the United States
- The grants would be for \$2 million to \$2.5 million each and would be used both for law enforcement activities and for direct services to victims.
- It provides funding to implement improvements to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system. The NCIC system is used by federal, state and local law enforcement to track information about missing and exploited children, including runaway children. The bill encourages states to track information about children who are at high risk for sex trafficking, with the goal of using that information to provide a more protective response to those children.

REFERENCE POINTS: SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES

- Each year, at least 100,000 children are victimized through prostitution within the U.S.
- The Innocence Lost Initiative, created through a partnership of the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), the FBI, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has rescued over 1,000 trafficked and sexually exploited children to date.
- Children exploited through prostitution suffer post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues, physical health problems including STDs, and substance addictions.
- There are less than 80 beds nationwide in shelters prepared to provide the specialized care exploited children need.
- The State Department’s 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report included the recommendation for the U.S. to increase “efforts to identify and assist U.S. citizen victims” and “increase funding for victims services.”
- Sex trafficking of minors happens in every state, to children of every ethnic and economic background. If you have information specific to sex trafficking of minors in your state, this might be useful your call, meeting or email to legislators.

Our goal is simple: pass H.R.5575 out of committee, build Congressional support through co-sponsorship, and raise awareness of the sex trafficking of children in the U.S.

WHAT INDIVIDUALS CAN DO:

1. **Find your House Rep** – Go to this site to find your Congress member: <http://www.house.gov/Welcome.shtml>. In the top left corner you can type in your zip code to get a link to your rep’s website. Click to their website to get contact information for district and DC offices. You can use the Bill Summary to assist you in your meeting.
2. **Craft your message** - You can use this document and the bill summary to craft your message. If your house rep is a co-sponsor, then consider calling the other reps from your state to urge their support. Be concise and always ask for the member’s support.
3. **Reach out in person, by phone or email** - Urge him/her to support this legislation (you will likely talk to a staff person who will pass the message to the member). If you have time and your rep is already a co-sponsor, you may consider calling or emailing him or her to offer your thanks his/her leadership on this issue. Don’t hesitate, speak your voice and share your view.

These examples may serve as a guide, but please personalize your message to be most effective!

ADVOCACY CALL- EXAMPLE:

“Hi, my name is [], and I am a constituent of Congress(woman/man) []. I’m calling to urge [him/her] to co-sponsor and support H.R.5575, “Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010.” The bipartisan bill was introduced by Representatives Maloney and Smith, and currently resides with the Judiciary Committee. This is a unique bill in that it not only focuses on child victims but requires collaboration across non-profits, agencies and law enforcement. Funds will be used to increase victim services, provide law enforcement more resources to combat sex trafficking of children, and fund deterrence and outreach efforts. The bill also calls for improvements to the National Crime Information Center system which would help law enforcement better recognize at-risk homeless and runaway youth.

Will the Congress(woman/man) co-sponsor and support this important legislation?”

After you make your call, please follow up with a short email to thank your representative and restate your message.

ADVOCACY EMAIL / LETTER TO MAIL – EXAMPLE:

Dear []:

I am a constituent who is very concerned about the sex trafficking of children in the United States and in my state. I urge you to co-sponsor and support H.R.5575, “Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010.” This bipartisan bill was introduced by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-14) and Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ-04) on June 23rd. It currently resides in the Judiciary Committee.

An estimated 100,000 children are exploited through prostitution every year in America. The average age a child is first prostituted is 13. Due to the violence they endure, these children are known to suffer from post-traumatic stress, sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, and long-term health problems. Without access to a safe place and proper treatment, these victims are at risk of returning to their abusive trafficking situation.

Today, there is a severe lack of services for child sex trafficking victims in the United States. H.R.5575 helps address this by supporting holistic, multidisciplinary approaches that bring law enforcement, non-profits and agencies together to combat the problem. Block grants will fund collaborative programs in up to six regionally diverse areas across the U.S. Each grant will help increase victim services while increasing law enforcement resources to investigate and prosecute traffickers. Outreach and awareness efforts are also supported. The bill also makes improvements to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system which can better track homeless and runaway youth who are extremely vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.

Thank you for acting to protect our state’s and our nation’s children and to stop sex trafficking. Please support H.R.5575 and close the severe gap in victim services and law enforcement resources.

Sincerely,
[]

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS CAN DO:

- Urge everyone you know to contact their federal house reps and urge them to co-sponsor H.R.5575. Please feel free to send this advocacy document and the summary for H.R.5575 to your network. Contact Kaylan Sliney by July 14th at ksliney@polarisproject.org to have your organization/agency listed on the support letters to the committee.
- **Schedule a meeting in your house rep’s district (home state) office.** Personal visits with your house rep or his or her staff are the most effective means of getting your message across. Therefore take advantage of your house reps’ state offices by gathering a few local advocates and making an appointment to speak with a member of the legislator’s staff to urge the representative to support and co-sponsor H.R.5575.
- More information to come on a briefing scheduled for July 19th in Washington, DC. We will send details as soon as we have them.
- **1st Tier Targets:** Chairman John Conyers (MI) and Ranking Member Lamar Smith (TX). If one of these legislators represents your state, it is terribly important they hear from advocates like you.
- **2nd Tier Targets:** All members of the committee are important in our effort to build support and move the bills out of committee. Look for your house rep and let them know why these bills are needed. (see below)
- **3rd Tier Targets:** All house reps should be urged to co-sponsor H.R.5575. Having a large number of cosponsors demonstrates strong support for the bill, and increases its chance of passage.

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TARGETS FOR H.R.5575

Chairman John Conyers (D-MI, 14)

Howard Berman (D-CA, 28)
Maxine Waters (D-CA, 35)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA, 16)
Adam Schiff (D-CA, 29)
Linda Sanchez (D-CA, 39)
Judy Chu (D-CA, 32)
Jared Polis (D-CO, 2)
Ted Deutch (D-FL, 9)
Hank Johnson (D-GA, 4)
Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
Mike Quigley (D-IL, 5)
William Delahunt (D-MA, 10)

Melvin Watt (D-NC, 12)
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY, 8)
Anthony Weiner (D-NY, 9)
Dan Maffei (D-NY, 25)
Stephen Cohen (D-TN, 9)
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX, 18)
Charles Gonzalez (D-TX, 20)
Rick Boucher (D-VA, 9)
Robert Scott (D-VA, 3)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI, 2)
Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR)

Ranking Member Lamar Smith (R-TX, 21)

Trent Franks (R-AZ, 2)
Elton Gallegly (R-CA, 24)
Dan Lungren (R-CA, 3)
Darrell Issa (R-CA, 49)
Tom Rooney (R-FL, 16)
Steve King (R-IA, 5)
Gregg Harper (R-MS, 3)
Howard Coble (R-NC, 6)
Jim Jordan (R-OH, 4)
Louie Gohmert (R-TX, 1)
Ted Poe (R-TX, 2)
James Sensenbrenner (R-WI, 5)
Jason Chaffetz (R-UT, 3)
Bob Goodlatte (R-VA, 6)
J. Randy Forbes (R-VA, 4)

Pass this information to your friends and neighbors and urge them to join the fight!