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November 2, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
President Pro Tempore
U.S. Senate

Via fax

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, President Pro Tempore Inouye, and Majority Leader Cantor,

We, the undersigned state Attorneys General, urge you to request funds in your fiscal year 2014 budget to combat human trafficking and modern day slavery in accordance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA, P.L. 110-457).

The National Association of Attorneys General has made anti-human trafficking efforts one of its major initiatives with its Pillars of Hope presidential initiative and now through a Standing Committee on Human Trafficking.

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, generating over \$32 billion in profits to traffickers annually, according to some estimates. Victims of trafficking include both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, children and adults, trapped in forced labor and situations of sexual exploitation, with little hope of escape. Victims often experience severe trauma that requires intensive therapy and rehabilitation. In addition, human trafficking and slavery criminal cases are often complicated and involve lengthy legal proceedings requiring additional resources for prosecutors as well as victims. Many of these victims require comprehensive case management provided by victim service organizations to see them through their recovery and help them navigate the legal system.

In December 2008, Congress reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which extended and modified certain programs that form the

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
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core of the Department of Justice's anti-trafficking efforts. Funded programs include taskforces across the country to protect victims and prosecute traffickers and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. The TVPA has been reauthorized three times by bipartisan majorities, but was allowed by Congress to expire last fall. The TVPA has funded efforts to combat modern-day slavery for more than a decade and legislators are attempting to reauthorize the Act before the end of this year.

We understand the tremendous fiscal challenges the nation faces. However, during this time, we cannot lose sight of the needless human tragedies that are occurring within and beyond our borders. We describe below the critical need for funding across the federal government to curtail the human trafficking industry and provide the resources necessary to rehabilitate survivors, both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs / State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

Human Trafficking Task Forces:

1. We request \$11,000,000 for the Justice Department's Enhanced Collaborative Model task forces that integrate federal, state and local law enforcement, and prosecutorial and victim service organizations to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and to protect the victims of trafficking and slavery. We are requesting additional funding to expand the number and geographic distribution of these task forces. We are seeking this funding in a distinct line in the President's FY14 Budget Request, separate from the Victim Services Grants described above. As part of the Budget Request, we are also seeking more transparency, including a substantive description of the Department's plans for this funding and its measures of success for this program.

2. Victim Services Grants for foreign nationals:

We request \$10,000,000 for the Victims of Trafficking Grant program for foreign nationals consistent with the Section 113(d) of the TVPA. We are requesting that this funding be specifically designated for foreign national victims of trafficking and provide additional resources for these victims. We recommend that other activities previously funded under this program should be addressed separately as we outline below. The designation of this funding for foreign nationals is consistent with the TVPA and will allow more resources to be directed to this very vulnerable group of victims in the U.S.

3. Victim Services Grants for U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents:

We request \$7,000,000 to start a new program authorized by Section 213(a)(2) of the TVPRA of 2008 and Section 113(d) of the TVPA. This program was authorized to assist U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who have become victims of human trafficking and slavery. Evidence shows U.S. citizens are becoming victims of these crimes whether for forced labor or sexual exploitation. For example, DOJ has

determined that 83% of underage sex trafficking victims in the United States are United States citizens. Therefore, we request a new category of funding to begin addressing the growing needs of U.S citizens and legal residents without diverting resources from other critical programs.

Legal Activities / Civil Rights Division

4. Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU):

We request \$6,500,000 for the HTPU. The HTPU has seen a significant increase in its caseload over the past several years, and needs resources to maintain its growing caseload. These cases are resource intensive because they are procedurally complex and involve multiple jurisdictions and defendants. Without this critical funding, the Department of Justice will be unable to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking and slavery cases.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

5. Salaries and Expenses:

We request \$15,000,000, as authorized by Section 113(h) of the TVPA 2000, as amended by the TVPRA of 2005 and the TVPRA of 2008, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Salaries and Expenses account to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons. As the lead federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and slavery would be significantly enhanced through additional resources devoted specifically to trafficking and slavery.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

6. Administration for Children and Families / U.S. Citizens:

We request \$7,000,000 for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to implement the TVPA, as amended by the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (P.L.110-457), by issuing grants to nongovernmental 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. These grants are crucial to providing victims, including children, the necessary aid and services once they have been identified as a victim of trafficking and slavery. Funding has never been provided under this program for case management programs for U.S. citizens despite its authorization under the TVPA. Currently, ACF through the Office of Refugee Resettlement only serves foreign national victims. We encourage the Administration to develop the expertise and staff within ACF to serve U.S. citizens consistent with the TVPA.

7. Administration for Children and Families / Foreign National Victims:

We request \$12,500,000 for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to implement the TVPA, as amended by the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (P.L.110-457) to serve foreign national victims. These grants are crucial to providing victims, including children, the comprehensive aid and services once they have been identified as a victim of trafficking and slavery. Funding for foreign national victims has stagnated at \$9,800,000 for 10 years, despite a 273% increase in the number of victims identified and certified as in need of comprehensive services. We support the Department's decision to include legal services within the comprehensive services available to victims. We encourage ORR to use a portion of these increased funds for legal services for victims.

8. Administration for Children and Families / Shelters for Minors:

We request \$5,000,000 for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to implement the TVPA, as amended by the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (P.L.110-457) to provide shelters for minor victims of trafficking, both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. Funding has never been provided under this program for shelters for minor victims, despite the growing demand for such services and Congress's direction in the FY2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that the Administration request funding for such programs.

9. Administration for Children and Families / State Child Welfare Agencies

We request sufficient funding and guidance directing the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop: (1) guidelines for State child welfare agencies to use in training child welfare employees and court employees, with regard to identifying, documenting, educating, and counseling children at risk of being trafficked or who are already victims of trafficking; (2) a best practices toolkit containing recommendations on how State child welfare agencies may prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking; and (3) guidelines for State child welfare agencies on how to best update licensing requirements for child-care institutions so that specialized, long-term residential facilities or safe havens serving children who are human trafficking victims can qualify as child-care institutions under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act. Currently, State child welfare agencies lack any formal federal guidance pertaining to human trafficking. As a result, these agencies fail to identify and serve these victims appropriately, and in some situations fail to prevent the trafficking of children under their supervision.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

10. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

We request \$18,000,000, as authorized by Section 113(i) of the TVPA of 2000, as amended by the TVPRA of 2005 and the TVPRA of 2008, for investigations by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to combat severe forms of

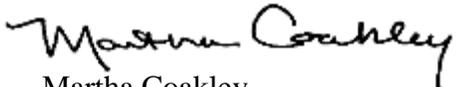
trafficking in persons. ICE plays a critical role in combating severe forms of trafficking originating from foreign countries and is therefore the first line of defense in stopping this crime. Additional resources will be used to expand investigations and enforcement actions against suspected traffickers and help reduce the incidents of trafficking and slavery in the United States.

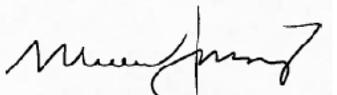
11. Blue Campaign:

Within the funds requested for the Blue Campaign, we request a portion of the funds be used to provide crisis services for victims identified through the Campaign. Currently, no funds are available through DHS to assist victims in the earliest stages of detention and identification. It is critical for victims to be able to address their shelter needs immediately, as well as other urgent needs including medical, legal, and financial support. This funding should specifically assist Victim Witness Coordinators who facilitate crisis needs for victims or service providers requesting emergency funds, thus initiating the stabilization of victim witnesses that can later help obtain successful prosecutions.

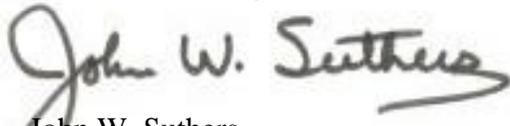
We look forward to working with you and with Congress to secure the funding necessary to make strong inroads into addressing the problem of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

Sincerely yours,

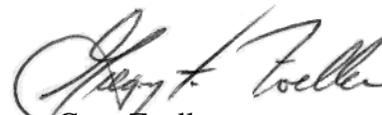

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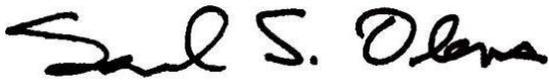

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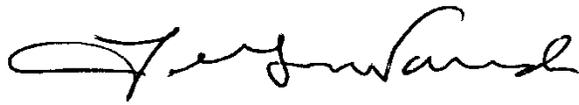
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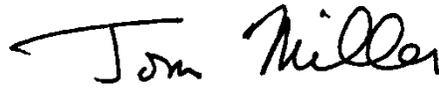
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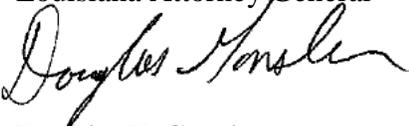
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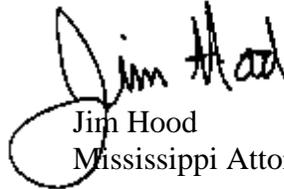
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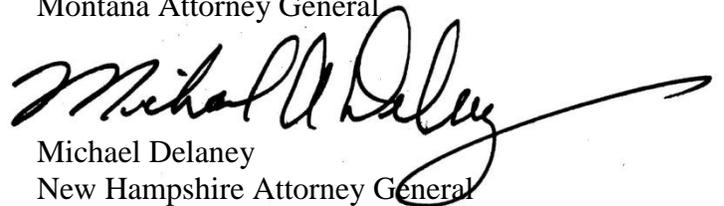
Chris Koster
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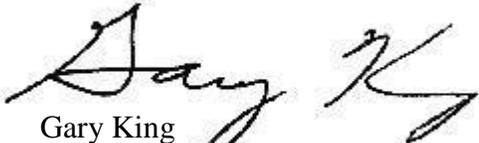
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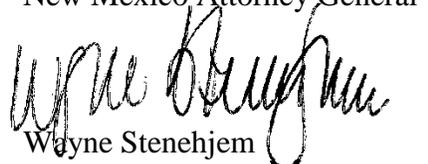


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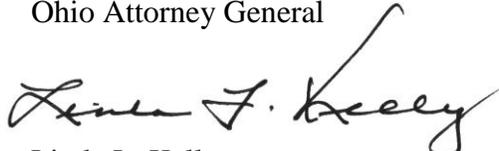


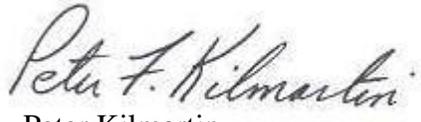
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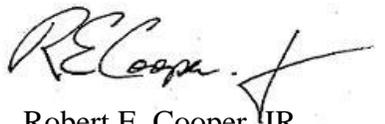

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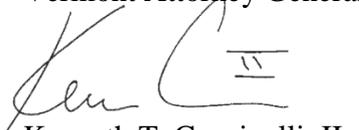

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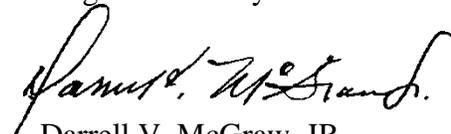

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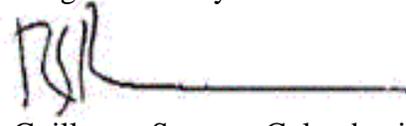

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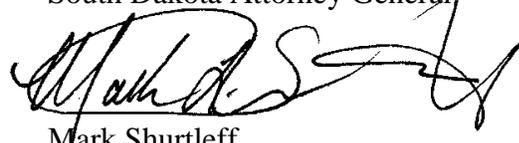

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