



January 11, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510-0001

The Honorable John Cornyn, Assistant Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Assistant Majority Leader Cornyn:

We write as organizations and individuals working to end human trafficking with allies across the country, including Kentucky and Texas, and concerned citizens who respect the pressures you face conducting the nation's business.

But the issue we write about is literally a matter of life and death. Last month in Portland Oregon, the family of a 24-year old mother, murdered on Christmas by a man who bought her for sex on Backpage.com, sued the web site for allowing sex trafficking in its ads.¹ The case is similar to testimony heard by the Senate Commerce Committee from the mother of a 16-year-old daughter murdered by a man who bought her via Backpage.com on Christmas Eve.²

Congress granted victims of human trafficking a private right of action under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003 to provide protection and to help prevent this despicable crime. Yet court after court, has ruled the Communications Decency Act (CDA) of 1996 shields Internet Service Providers like Backpage.com from accountability. As a result, online trafficking has surged, online entities continue to facilitate trafficking with

¹ http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2017/12/family_of_woman_killed_in_port.html#

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2017/09/19/mother-of-slain-teen-makes-tearful-plea-for-congress-to-amend-internet-law/>



impunity, and victims have no effective legal redress. The First Circuit Court of Appeals pointedly stated, “[T]he remedy is through legislation.”³

Therefore, it is time to bring S 1693, Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) to the floor for a vote. SESTA is the product of years worth of discussion and negotiation. It has the support of the anti-trafficking community, key stakeholders in the Internet community, Law Enforcement entities, private citizen advocates, and concerned firms in the private sector. No more citizens should be murdered, raped, or sexually exploited as a result of a legal loophole.

As of January 11, 2018, 64 Senators have co-sponsored SESTA. Please hear the cries for help from innocent victims of a perverse, deadly, unintended consequence of the law. Please bring SESTA to a vote as soon as possible in coming weeks!

Sincerely,

Ambassadors and Former Members of Congress

Linda Smith, (U.S. Congress 1995-99;
Washington State Senate/House 1983-94),
Founder and President, Shared Hope
International **WA**

Barbara Kennelly, U.S. Congress, 1982-
1998; Professor Trinity Washington
University **CT**

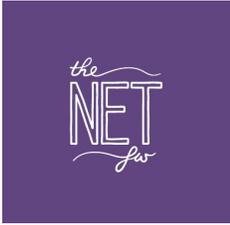
Amb. Swanee Hunt, Author and Former U.S.
Ambassador to Austria **DC**

Amb. Mark P. Lagon, Former U.S.
Ambassador at Large to Combat Trafficking
in Persons, Distinguished Senior Scholar,
Georgetown University **VA**

³ <http://media.ca1.uscourts.gov/pdf/opinions/15-1724P-01A.pdf>



Empowering Youth. Ending Exploitation.



PROSTITUTION
RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Organizations with Anti-Trafficking Programs

Florence Buchanan, Board Member
3 Generations NY

Tony Talbott, Director
Abolition Ohio / University of Dayton Human Rights Center OH

Shannon Brown, CEO
Believe Despite TX

Katie Martinez, Assoc Dir of Development
CHILDREN AT RISK TX

Taina Bien-Aime, Executive Director
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women NY

Maureen McGowan, RGS, Province Leader
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces MD

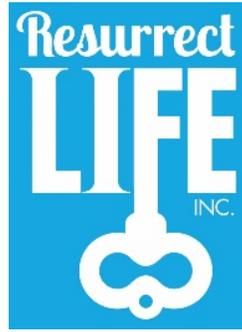
Brigid Lawlor, Province Advocacy Liaison
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces MD

John Simpson, Privacy & Technology Project Dir.
Consumer Watchdog CA

Tina Frundt, Founder & Executive Director
Courtney's House DC

Kevin Ryan, CEO
Covenant House International AK, CA, GA, FL, LA, MI, MO, NJ, NY, PA, TX

Cecile Roeger, Promoter of Justice & Peace
Dominican Sisters of Houston TX



Jason Matthew, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations ECPAT USA	NY, DC
Micah Gamboa, Executive Director Elijah Rising	TX
Derri Smith, CEO End Slavery Tennessee	TN
Shelby Quast, Americas Director Equality Now	NY
Cherie Jimenez, Director EVA Center	MA
Benjamin Nolot, CEO/Founder Exodus Cry	MO
Marianela Acuna Arreaza, Executive Director Fe y Justicia Worker Center	TX
Kathi Hardy, Executive Director Freedom From Exploitation, Inc.	CA
Rev. Dr. Sunny Philip, Pastor Gateway Christian Center	NY
Deborah Pfluger & Audrey Pfluger, co-Founders Girls with Grit	TX
Melba Robinson, Program Director Haven Atl, Salvation Army	GA
Mary Mazzio, Producer I AM JANE DOE community	MA



SWLA Abolitionists
Helping Stop Human Trafficking in SWLA



Shea Rhodes, Esq, Director Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation at Villanova Law	PA
Pamela Perkins Carn, Director Interfaith Children's Movement	GA
Sarah McCarron, Committee Co-chair Junior League of Chicago, Civil Rights and Social Action Committee	IL
Carol Robles-Roman, President & CEO Legal Momentum	NY
Allaudin Abdulla, Director Love People Not Pixels	TX
Heather Fischer, Mobilization & Partnerships Love146	CT
William D. Lynch, Founder & President Lynch Foundation for Children	CA
Lisa Goldblatt Grace, LICSW, MPH My Life My Choice	MA
Lawrence Couch, Director National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd	MD
Brooke Burris, Director of Policy National Association for Missing and Exploited Children (NAMEC)	NC

Lisa L. Thompson, VP of Research & Education
National Center on Sexual Exploitation

DC

Debra Boyer, PhD
Organization for Prostitution Survivors

WA

EXODUS CRY

girls
with GRIT



Timothy R. Baack, President & CEO Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc	WI
Kate O'Donnell OSF, Co-chair Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis, Phil.	PA
Dr. Melissa Farley Prostitution Research & Education	CA
Camille Cooper, Director of Government Affairs PROTECT	TN, VA
Barbara Rodriguez, Director Refuge City	TX
Meg Baldwin, Executive Director Refuge House, Inc.	FL
Kari Tamburin, Founder Resurrect Life, Inc	TX
Yasmin Vafa, Executive Director Rights4Girls	DC
Len Pagano, Founder & CEO Safe America Foundation	GA
Michelle Thames, Executive Director Safe Spot Children's Advocacy Center	VA
Rebecca Zipkin, Senior Staff Attorney Sanctuary for Families	NY
Joseph Travers, Founder & President Saved in America	CA
Brooke Burris, Legislative Chair SC Attorney General Human Trafficking Task Force	SC
Linda Smith, Founder & President Shared Hope International	WA



LOVE146

Joetta Venneman, Director, Office of Social &
Environmental Justice
**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational
Leadership** KY

Joetta Venneman, Director, Office of Social &
Environmental Justice
**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western
Province Leadership** KY

Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher
SPACE International USA IL

Melba Robinson, Founder
STRIVE GA

Autumn Burris, Founding Director
Survivors for Solutions CO

Marjorie Saylor, Board President
Survivor Leader Network of San Diego CA

Rusty Havens, Founder
SWLA Abolitionists LA

Ty Bowden, Director, Men Against Sexual
Exploitation
The NET TX

Anne K. Ream, Founder
The Voices and Faces Project IL

Marjorie Saylor, Founder/CEO
The Well Path CA

George Lynch, CEO
Traffick911 TX

Kylla Lanier, Deputy Director
Truckers Against Trafficking CO

Mary Frances Bowley, Executive Director
Wellspring Living GA

World Without Exploitation

The movement to end human
trafficking and sexual exploitation



Living in Freedom Together

Strong women LIFT each other up

Nancy Hoffman, State Coordinator West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services	WV
Lauren Hersh, National Director World Without Exploitation	NY
Jennifer Swain, Executive Director youthSpark, Inc	GA



Individual Advocates

Yvonne Ambrose , Human Rights Activist	IL
Alisa Bernard , Survivor Advocacy Coordinator	WA
Gabriella Cipriani , Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator	OH
Vanessa Forbes , Intervention Coordinator, Elijah Rising	TX
Allison Franklin , Survivor Leader	TX
Kathryn Freeman , Director of Public Policy, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission	TX
Brittany Gaines , Admissions Specialist, Project Woman	OH
Athena Haddon , Survivor, LIFT	MA
Teena Halbig , B.S., ret. MT(ASCP), President, Kentucky Division of United Nations Association-USA	KY
Rev. Doctor Marian Hatcher , SPACE International USA	IL
Professor Theresa C. Hayden , PhD, MSSW, University of Louisville, KY	KY



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW

THE INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Lois A. Herman , Founder/Coordinator Women's UN Report Network - WUNRN	MN
Hayden Hernandez , Operations Director, Elijah Rising	TX
Jennifer Hohman , Community Leader, #FightForUs	TX
Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair Donna M Hughes , University of Rhode Island	RI
Cynthia Kirby , Administrative Assistant, First Baptist Church Pasadena	CA
Katie Martinez , Associate Director of Development, CHILDREN AT RISK	TX
Ane Mathieson , Policy Fellow, Legal Momentum	NY
Maureen McGowan , RGS, Provence Leader, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	NY
Clare Nolan , Justice Advocate, Sisters of the Good Shepherd	NY
Chris A. Owen , Women's Rights Advocate	KY
Brad Pfluger , President Pfluger Architects	TX



**Wellspring
Living**

Kubiiki Pride, Mother of Sex Trafficking Survivor **GA**

Dara Reppucci, Corporate Counsel, Sanofi Genzyme **MA**

Katherine Robichaux, Social Worker, YMCA International Services **TX**

Loren Runnels, Associate Professor, Rutgers RWJ Medical School **NJ**

Jacqueline Santiago-Duran, Hispanic Community Advocate, Project Woman **OH**

Carolay Serna, Survivor Advocate, YMCA International **TX**

Amy Sickle, Survivor, Kendleton Farms **TX**

Linnea Smith, M.D. **NC**

Carl Springer, Coordinator, Village Anti-Trafficking Team **OR**

Dr. Gabrielle Starr, Executive Director Ladies of Favor, Inc. **GA**

Autumn Hanna VandeHei, Member Advisory Council on Child Trafficking **DC**

Rev. Ann Weeks, Diocese of East TN **TN**

Jeanette Westbrook, MSSW, Leadership Team, Survivors of Prostitution Abuse Calling for Enlightenment (SPACE Int'l) **KY**