

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy,

As organizations representing law enforcement leaders, officers, and state and local prosecutors from across the United States, we write to express our support for S. 178, the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015* (JVTA). The JVTA would provide much needed services and support to domestic victims of trafficking. More importantly, this bill provides necessary tools for law enforcement, courts, and the anti-trafficking task forces throughout the country to effectively target the demand that fuels the sex trafficking market.

The JVTA provides unprecedented resources to address the issue of *domestic* victims of trafficking, who are too often invisible and underserved, by creating grants for state and local governments to develop comprehensive systems to address these crimes and provide services for victims. In addition, the legislation allows wire-taps obtained through state courts to be used for child sex trafficking, trains federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, and trains law enforcement on facilitating physical and mental health services for trafficking victims they encounter.

According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), at least 100,000 American children each year are the victims of commercial child prostitution and child trafficking. Women and children, especially girls, are also advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease, anonymity, and impunity. This happens in every city, in every state.

The elimination of sex trafficking is fundamentally linked to targeting the demand for commercial sex. Without buyers of commercial sex, sex trafficking would not exist. It is for this reason and others stated above that we, as representatives of law enforcement and the courts, support this bill.

The *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015* addresses a critical need by providing the necessary tools and support services for domestic victims of trafficking in the U.S. We urge Congress to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

National District Attorneys Association
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
National Association of Police Organizations
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
National Fusion Center Association
National Black Prosecutors Association

National Troopers Coalition
Major Cities Chiefs Association
Major County Sheriffs' Association
National Sheriffs' Association
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys