

June 5, 2017

Senator Bob Corker
United States Senate
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building SD-425
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Ed Royce
United States House of Representatives
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Ranking Member, Foreign Relations
Committee
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs
Committee
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Corker, Chairman Royce, and Ranking Members Senator Cardin and Rep. Engel:

On behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), Exodus Cry, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Shared Hope International, and the undersigned organizations and individuals, we write to express our strong support for bipartisan HR 466 “Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act,” its inclusion in the House version of the Trafficking Victim’s Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), and its inclusion in the Senate version of the international TVPRA.

Combating the crime of human trafficking has been named a top priority by the United States Government (USG).¹ Emphasis has been placed on prevention of human trafficking, prosecution of perpetrators, and protection of victims. Prosecution and protection are unquestionably important; however, *prevention* of human trafficking is essential in order to eradicate the crime. The international community, scholars, NGOs, International Organizations, human trafficking experts, and other governments have all recognized that one of the most critical components of preventing human trafficking from occurring is reducing the demand for trafficked persons.²

HR 466’s language specifically addresses the need to prevent sex trafficking, a form of sexual exploitation that affects an estimated 4.5 million victims globally,³ by reducing the demand for commercial sex.



Research demonstrates that the legalization and decriminalization models of prostitution increase the market for commercial sex and thereby increase the demand for prostituted persons, thus increasing rates of human trafficking.⁴ In contrast, economic theory supported by case studies proves that reducing demand for commercial sex by criminalizing the purchase of sexual services reduces the market for sex and thereby reduces trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation.⁵ Internationally, there is ever-increasing support for criminalizing demand.⁶ The USG has been clear and consistent on its position regarding the importance of demand reduction and has specifically taken a strong stance against legalizing prostitution. The government has done so because it recognizes that prostitution fuels human trafficking and creates an enabling environment for it to flourish.⁷ Both Democratic and Republican administrations have reaffirmed in multiple national policies, publications, and in statements and directives the government's position against legal prostitution.⁸ The TIP Office itself has produced research demonstrating the clear connections between legalized prostitution regimes and increased demand fueling sex trafficking.⁹

Despite the USG's clear position in support of commercial sex demand reduction, this critical stance is not being implemented in the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) report to Congress, even though making "serious and sustained efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex"¹⁰ is a specific requirement for meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. Unfortunately, the TVPA has no clear guidelines on what constitutes compliance with the demand reduction criterion or how this important criterion is to be measured. This lack of clarity has created an opportunity for diplomatic expediency taking precedence over effective reporting. Provisions included in H.R. 466 remedy this problem by setting a straightforward standard for determining what constitutes legitimate demand reduction efforts.

Because legal prostitution fuels human trafficking, nations that have the ability to federally regulate prostitution, and maintain the legality of the purchase of sex, are not simply neutral in meeting the criteria mandated by the TVPA of making serious and sustained efforts to reduce demand for commercial sex, but are actually making serious and sustained efforts to *increase* that demand. Nevertheless, the State Department continues year after year to ignore this fact and award full compliance in the TIP Report to nations that allow for the uninhibited purchase of sex. The lack of rigor and quality in addressing demand in the TIP Report is having negative consequences on the prevention of human trafficking around the globe and inhibits progress that could be made if proper evaluation and reporting were taking place. HR 466 creates a simple solution by making the criminalization of the purchase of sex a requirement for meeting the TVPA's criterion of "making serious and sustained efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex."

By including language from bipartisan HR 466 in the TVPRA, major steps can be made with regard to preventing global sex trafficking because countries will be encouraged to take meaningful and concrete steps to reduce the demand for commercial sex. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Laila Mickelwait, Exodus Cry’s Director of Abolition at 951-990-9960 or e-mail lailamickelwait@exoduscry.com

Sincerely,

Taina Bien Amie, Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), NY
Benjamin Nolot, CEO, Exodus Cry & Director of *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls* Documentary, MO
Patrick Truman, President & CEO, National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), Washington D.C.
Linda Smith (U.S. Congress 1995-1999), Founder and President, Shared Hope International, D.C. & WA

CC: Rep. Carolyn Maloney
Rep. Chris Smith

Titled

Professor Donna M. Hughes, Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair in Women's Studies, University of Rhode Island, Editor-in-Chief, *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence*
Ambassador Mark Lagon, Former Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. State Department
Ambassador Swanee Hunt

Survivors

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| A.C., Survivor | C.R., Survivor | E.J., Survivor |
| A.R., Survivor | Courtney Reed, Survivor | F.S., Survivor |
| Angel, Mother of 6 Year Survivor | D.D., Survivor | G.R., Survivor |
| C.B., Survivor | Danielle, Survivor | H.A., Survivor |
| | E.G., Survivor | H.M., Survivor |

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| H.T., Survivor | Meshell Lee Mullamphy, Survivor | Rachel Moran, Survivor Leader |
| J.M., Survivor | | Rebecca Bender, Survivor Leader |
| Jewell Baraka, Survivor Leader | N.K., Survivor | |
| Julie Shematz, Survivor Leader | P.M., Survivor | S.S., Survivor |
| K.M., Survivor | P.W., Survivor's Mother | V.S., Survivor |
| Kayla, Survivor | R.J., Survivor | |
| Lauren, Survivor | R.M., Survivor | |

National Organizations

Adam LaRoche, Founder, E3 Foundation, KS

Adrienne Livingston, Director of Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiatives, World Venture, OR

Alisa Bernard, Director and Survivor, The Survivor LENS, WA

Amy Kratzer, Founder and CEO, Girl Set Free, OH

Andrea McHenry, Director, Freedom & Restoration for Everyone Enslaved (FREE), PA

Angela S. Kepperling, President, Scarlet Advocacy Agency, OH

Anne Mack, Vice President, Bon Secours, VA

Autumn Burris, Founding Director, Survivors for Solutions, CO

Barbara Seidle, Founder, The Hannah More Project, NJ

Benny Yu, President, 27Million, CA

Bernadette Ward, Chair, Set Them Free, CO

Beth Anne Grib, Director, United States National Prayer Council, PA

Billy McConnell, President and Founder, Authentic Relationships International, AK

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Cat French, Founder, Elijah Rising, TX

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Chantel Plautz, Founder and CEO, Hope for the Soul Ministries, NE



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 Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces, MD
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| Hugo Tejada | Janice Wonf | Jenna Strick |
| Ian Doss | Janine Montgomery | Jennie Huyett |
| Inka Mathew | Jannifer Tse | Jennifer Ashworth |
| Ioana Humelnicu | Jasmin Ivins | Jennifer Baldrige |

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| Jennifer Estes | Jillian Harp | John Lemyre Jr |
| Jennifer Gautier | Jo Lembo | John Melton |
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| Jennifer Pool | Joan Risinger | Johnathan Blauw |
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| Jennifer Verdery | Joanna Frazer | Jordan Ronalder |
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| Jeremy Greenlee | Jocelyn Fedak | Jose Cuevas |
| Jeri Moomaw | Jocelyn Hamsher | Joseff J. B. Smith |
| Jess Bernstein | Jodi Fletcher | Joseph Madison |
| Jesse Goodman | Jodie Slayton | Josephine Appelqvist |
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| Jessica Neely | Joel Rogers | Joshua Goeke |
| Jessica Reynolds | Joey Forbes | Joshua Kennedy |
| Jessica Robertson | Johanna Lynch | Joshua Lyon |
| Jessica Torres | Johanna Pilverdier | Joshua Meranda |
| Jessica venosdel | John Lowe | Joshua Progner |
| Jessica Wayne | John Andrews | Joyce Lee |
| Jessica Williams | John Forber | Juanita Hernandez |
| Jessica Ziegler | John Hageman | Judi Parris |
| Jewell Baraka | John Harth | Judi Riccio |

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| Judy Malone | Karen Bohling | Kathy Betteridge |
| Judy Vermillion | Karen Fenkart | Kathy Lebron |
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| Julianne Adan | Karen Ridge | Kathy Sullivan |
| Julie Bass | Karen Watt | Katia Blanco |
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| Julie Brown | Kari Sewell | Katie Prather |
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| Julie McCue | Kate Berryman | Kayla Rogers |
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| Kaley Grace | Kathleen Winn | Kim Biddle |
| Kalyn Girdley | Kathryn Doss | Kim Jacobson |
| Kalynn Dresser | Kathryn McDaniel | Kim Penland |

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| Kimberly Carson | Laura Meyer | Lexi Chiles |
| Kimberly Fallows | Laura Osborn | Libby Ryan |
| Kimberly Klady | Laurel Botsford | Liisa K. Rettedal |
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| Kris Chang | Lauren Griffin | Linda McDaniel |
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| Kris Nichols | Lauren Hersh | Lindsay Brashear |
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| Lori Rubenstein | Marci Weidler | Masielle Vega |
| Lucy Bloom | Marcia Post | Matt Osborne |
| Lucy Higgins | Margaret Codd | Matt Richards |
| Luzete Verdan | Margaret Dell | Matthew Foster |
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| Mallory Mills | Mary Spencer | Melissa Fry |
| Manuel Becker | Mary VanHook | Melissa Gregory |
| Maraike Mahnke | Maryia Dewey | Melissa Holland |

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| Melissa Oxford | Monica Catto | Nellie Navarro |
| Melissa Potter | Monica Monlar | Nick Lemke |
| Melissa Richardson | Monique Haagen | Nicol Epple |
| Melissa simard | Morgan Casteel | Nicole Blasor |
| Memory Ryan | Morgan Perry | Nicole D Hall |
| Meshell Lee Mullamphy | Moriah Gable | Nicole Eckman |
| Micah Gamboa | Moriah Scott | Nicole Emory |
| Michael Bartel | Moses Rivas | Nicole Hall |
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| Michael Mansfield | Nadia Kohn | Nicole Kristin Medina |
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| Pamela Mickelwait | Philippa Goodwin | Rebekah Mally |
| Parker Richmond | Rachael Cokayne | Rebekkah Dreski n |
| Pat Budig | Rachael Rhodes | Rekha Ghimire |
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| Peter Knotts | Rebecca Walker | Rosalyn Dekker |
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| Peter Ma | Rebekah Anderson | Rosie Bachand |

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| Rozanne Haddad | Sara Lee | Shannon Higgins |
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| Steven Monson | Suzanne Young | Tirzah McFarland |
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| Sue Carter | Tailer Rinker | Tom Lienert |
| Sue Wilkinson | Tammi Bennett | Tomas Perez |
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| Summer Hughes | Tammy Pizzitola | Tommye Washburn |
| Susan Cheney | Tammy Stauffer | Toni McKinley |
| Susan Cummings | Tara Hoppman | Tonya Dalton |
| Susan Finley | Tara Madison | Tonya Gaines |
| Susan Gilbreath | Tara Pennington | Tori Ferebee |
| Susan Graham | Tara Tolson | Tracey Moore |
| Susan Hart | Taylor Tennis | Trish Keady |
| Susan Holtby | Tera Wurtz | Trish Riddell |

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| Ty Tinsley | Wanee McCabe | Yasmin Vafa |
| Valerie Cheah | Warren Coven | Yvette Tennis |
| Valerie Norcross | Wayne & Carolyn Denton | Yvonne Palmer |
| Vanessa Carter | Wendy Francis | Zac Rogers |
| Vanessa Smith | Wendy Lou Pollock | Zach Schroeder |
| Vednita Carter | Wendy Mitchell | Zachariah Thrasher |
| Veronica Bullock | Wesley Whitaker | Zachary Nick |
| Veronica Leguire | Whitney Bolds | Zaina Greene |
| Victoria Stratton | Whitney Summerhays | Zara Perciful |
| Vikas Lal | Winifred Doherty | Zion Sharma |
| Vincent Kanagaraj | Wrenda McKnight | Zoie Cowan |
| Violet Ahrenholtz | Wrenda McZknight | |
| Virginia Czapla | Yaa Boateng | |

1 “When we stop this crime from happening in the first place, we are preventing the abuse of those who are victimized as well as the ripple effect that caused damage throughout communities into our broader environment and which corrupt our global supply chains. We all have an interest in stopping this crime. That’s why President Obama is so focused on this issue. And that’s why, as Secretary of State, I will continue to make the fight against modern-day slavery a priority for this Department and for the country.” Secretary of State John Kerry. Remarks at the 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report Release. Benjamin Franklin Room, Washington, D.C. 19 June 2013. Address.

2 See, e.g., Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, as amended (“TVPA”), United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 (“Palermo Protocol”), the Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking, and the 2011 EU Directive of the European Parliament and the Council. European Commission Communication From the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016 Brussels, 19.6.2012 COM (2012).

3 International Labor Organization Global Estimate of Forced Labour, 2012

4 See, e.g., Di Nicola, Andrea, Isabella Orfano, Andrea Cauduro, and Nicoletta Conci. Study on National Legislations on Prostitution and the Trafficking in Women and Children. Brussels: European Parliament, 2005. Transcrime. Web. 11 July 2013.; Jakobsson, Niklas, and Andreas Kotsadam. “The Law and Economics of International Sex Slavery: Prostitution Laws and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation.” European Journal of Law and Economics 35.1 (2013): 87-107. Print.; Cho, Seo- Young, Axel Dreher, and Eric



Neumayer. "Does Legalized Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking?" World Development 41.1 (2013): 67-82. Social Science Research Network. Web. 12 July 2013 <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1986065>.

In 2012 researchers Seo-Young Cho, Axel Dreher, Eric Neumayer published their research findings that demonstrated "the scale effect of legalizing prostitution leads to an expansion of the prostitution market and thus an increase in human trafficking, while the substitution effect reduces demand for trafficked prostitutes by favoring prostitutes who have legal residence in a country." Their quantitative empirical analysis for a cross section of up to 150 countries proved that the scale effect dominated the substitution effect. "On average, countries with legalized prostitution experience a larger degree of human trafficking inflows." In addition, in 2005 Di Nicola et al. provided descriptive statistics focusing on 11 EU countries. According to their results, stricter prostitution laws are correlated with reduced flows of human trafficking. In addition to Cho et al. and Di Nicola et al., researchers Niklas Jakobsson and Andreas Kotsadam found a causal link between legal prostitution and increases in human trafficking. Using recent sources of European cross country data Jakobsson and Kotsadam found that trafficking of persons for commercial sexual exploitation is least prevalent in countries where prostitution is illegal and most prevalent in countries where prostitution is legalized.

5 Ibid

6 In early 2014 the European Parliament voted and adopted a resolution stating that Europe should criminalize the purchase of sex, and that prostitution is a form of violence against women. See <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/nordic-model-prostitution-approved-by-european-parliament-1438009>. The French government lower house recently approved a bill to criminalize the purchase of sex and the law is expected to be passed by the senate by summer. See http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/09/opinion/frances-new-approach-to-curbing-prostitution.html?_r=0 Additionally, the UK three days ago released a report of its findings from an investigation into the effectiveness of the UKs current prostitution laws. The parliamentary group concluded that the UK needed to criminalize the purchase and not the sale of sex. See <http://appgprostitution.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/shifting-the-burden.pdf>

7 Overlaps of Prostitution, Migration and Human Trafficking, Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Berne, Switzerland (November 12, 2008) <http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/2008/111997.htm> see also United States. Department of State. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report ("2013 TIP Report"), p. 27 Print.

8 See e.g., TVPA; National Security Presidential Directive-22. The White House. Washington, D.C. December 16, 2002. <http://www.combat-trafficking.army.mil/documents/policy/NSPD-22.pdf> ("Presidential Directive 22"); United States. Department of State. Bureau of Public Affairs.

9 DEMAND, Shared Hope Intl, 2007

10 Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, § 108(a) (2000), as amended.