



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 1, 2018

The Honorable Al Lawson
1337 Longworth HOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lawson,

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the Nation's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies, strongly supports any legislation that will help identify and bring to justice those in the heinous business of on-line sex trafficking. We believe the *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017* will do just that.

The FBI has reported that sex trafficking is the fastest growing organized crime, and that on-line channels permitting the exploitation have made it simple for predators to thrive. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reported an 846% increase in reports of suspected child sex trafficking from 2010 to 2015. NCMEC explains the staggering spike as being directly related to use of the internet to sell children for sex.

The *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act* would change the language of the *Communications Decency Act* to ensure that those who create and operate websites to intentionally or recklessly facilitate sex trafficking will be held liable, and their victims will be able to seek justice. Those found to have assisted or supported such on-line sex-trafficking will also face federal charges. Finally, this legislation would enable state law enforcement officials to take action against individuals or businesses that violate federal sex trafficking laws. Currently, only the Department of Justice has such authority.

Victims of this crime must live with physical and psychological repercussions for the rest of their lives. The MCCA believes meaningful deterrents, such as those that would be implemented with the passage of this measure, should become federal law, as they could spare thousands of women and children from becoming victims of sexual predators.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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