



Alliance to End Slavery and
Trafficking
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 520
Washington, DC 20006
www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Chairman Grassley, and
Ranking Member Leahy:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge the U.S. Senate to reach a bipartisan compromise on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA). For well over a decade, the work to combat modern slavery and human trafficking has been an example of Congress's ability to put partisanship aside in the interest of tackling a difficult and seemingly intractable problem. That willingness to be thoughtful, practical, and balanced in approach has proven successful in this work, and made tremendous contributions to the fight against this heinous crime.

The debate that is emerging over the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, S. 178, and the application of the Hyde Amendment to funds collected from perpetrators of human trafficking jeopardize this pragmatic balance in favor of a partisan confrontation that undermines the achievement of our joint goal of ending modern slavery in the United States and around the world.

For these reasons, we urge all members of the Senate to turn away from this divisive debate and find a bipartisan approach to this new initiative to protect and serve the needs of survivors.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in the fight to combat human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at msperber@humanityunited.org or (631) 374-0749.

Sincerely,

300M4Freedom

Advocating Opportunity

Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking (ATEST)

Angel's Ministry

Beating Trauma, LLC

Bluff Country Family Resources

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers

Christian Inn Ministries, Inc.

Church Women United in New York State

Civil Society

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

CREA

ECPAT-USA

Empowered You, LLC

End Slavery Tennessee

ENC Stop Human Trafficking NOW

FCCAC

Free the Slaves

Freedom From Exploitation

Funders Together to End Homelessness

Futures Without Violence

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services

Girls Inc.

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

Hephzibah Children's Home

Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services

Hope Run Kenosha

Hope Through Healing Hands

Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH)

IOFA

Jo-Thor's Dog Academy

Justice Ministry

Love Never Fails

Michigan Abolitionist Project

Mission at Serenity Ranch

Modern Slavery Research Project

More Too Life

My Life My Choice

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

National Network for Youth

New Life Refuge Ministries

Pacific Survivor Center

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Women

Restore NYC

Ricky Martin Foundation

Rights4Girls

RRT

Sanctuary for Families

Scott County Sheriff's Office

SEMO Crime Victim Unit

Set Free-Decatur

Sex Trafficking Survivors United

Shared Hope International

Slavery Today

Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province

Sojourners Advocacy

Students Ending Slavery at the University of Maryland

Survivors for Solutions

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

The Advisory Council on Child Trafficking

The EVA Center

The International Human Trafficking Institute

The Wild Therapist/Margaret Howard Consulting

There Is Hope For Me, Inc.

WestCoast Children's Clinic

West Florida Center for Trafficking Advocacy

Worker Justice Center of New York

ATEST is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based human rights organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end all forms of modern-day slavery and human trafficking domestically and globally. ATEST member organizations include: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), ECPAT-USA, Free the Slaves, Futures Without Violence (FUTURES), International Justice Mission, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), National Network for Youth (NN4Y), Polaris, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Vision.