

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, & Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, & Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 18, 2017

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

We are an alliance of survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation from all across the country writing to express our strong support for S.1693, *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017* (SESTA). This critical legislation would correct a legal loophole in the Communications Decency Act (CDA) that shields websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking.

A law originally drafted in 1996, the CDA simply cannot address the reality of violent crime on the internet today. Every day, thousands of women and children are marketed online where buyers purchase them with ease, anonymity, and impunity. As survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, we know the deep and profound harm caused by this crime. Many of us are survivor leaders of organizations working to provide safety and healing to others, including American children who were bought and sold online. For years, we have tried unsuccessfully to hold these websites accountable, but court after court has made it clear: Congress must correct the blanket immunity provided by CDA.

This legislation is vital. *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017* represents an incredible bipartisan effort to seek justice for countless survivors who are sold on websites that shamelessly profit from our exploitation. As survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking, we ask you to please prioritize the safety and rights of our nation's most vulnerable women and children and pass SESTA to at long last, provide us a pathway to justice. As the father of a child sex trafficking survivor perfectly stated: "Children are not acceptable collateral damage. They are our hope, our future, America's conscience."

Sincerely,

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