

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2014

The Honorable Eric Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

The FBI's recent successful operation targeting child sex trafficking is welcomed news. We congratulate you and the other the law enforcement officials who worked diligently to bring some of the perpetrators to justice.

It is encouraging that 281 arrests were made and nearly 170 children were rescued, but we are deeply concerned that none of the buyers of underage children were apprehended. These individuals are actively involved in the exploitation of young girls, yet are continuously let off the hook. We appreciate the desire to focus on the traffickers, but we cannot ignore the buyers. Without buyers, there would be no market for the traffickers.


Until we target both the traffickers and buyers, who are complicit in child sex trafficking, we are failing to address the root of the problem. The FBI and the Department of Justice must broaden their focus from arresting traffickers to also going after buyers.

As Members of Congress, we are deeply committed to protecting America's children and bringing awareness to the issue of child sex trafficking. It is happening in our backyards and neighborhoods across the country, and it has been grossly overlooked.

Last month, the House unanimously passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which addresses the culture of impunity for those who buy children for sex. The legislation clarifies the language of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) to remove all doubt as to its criminal applicability to buyers of child sex. Moreover, the Act requires anti-human trafficking task forces throughout the U.S. to increase the investigative capabilities of state and local law enforcement to go after buyers.

We urge you to send a strong message to both the buyers and traffickers involved in child sex trafficking that America's children are not for sale.


Sincerely,



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress


Ted Poe
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


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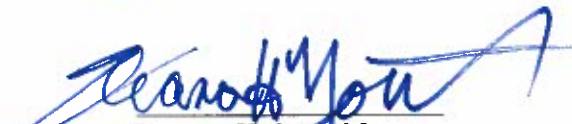

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Jim Moran
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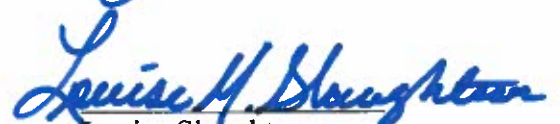

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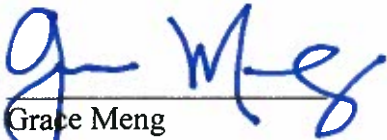
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