

February 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader Pelosi:

As organizations and leaders in the movement to end human trafficking, we want to thank you for scheduling this important floor vote on H.R. 1865, the *Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (FOSTA)*, originally introduced by Representative Ann Wagner. The need for legislation to clarify Section 230 of the Communication's Decency Act (CDA) is urgently needed given the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit ruling in *Doe v. Backpage*. That ruling held that **even if Backpage had participated in the crime of sex trafficking, Section 230 shielded the company** from the claims filed by child victims. We greatly appreciate the support of all of the bill's co-sponsors who fully understand the barriers Section 230 has created in the ability of state law enforcement and survivors to seek justice against websites that are engaged in facilitating human trafficking.

To that end, we would like to express our strong support for the crucial amendment being offered by Representative Mimi Walters to the underlying bill that will specifically address the Section 230 problem. Representative Walters' amendment is critical to stemming the tide of online human trafficking. Importantly, in its ruling, the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court recommended that child victims seek a legislative remedy to this problem—and the children have done just that. We are thrilled that the Internet Association (IA), has not only endorsed H.R. 1865, but also its Senate counterpart, S.1693, the *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017 (SESTA)* introduced by Senators Rob Portman and Richard Blumenthal. Representative Walters' amendment mirrors the SESTA legislation that currently has 67 bipartisan Senate co-sponsors.

Assuming the Walters' amendment is adopted and there are no additional amendments added that would weaken these measures, we strongly urge the House to pass this package and send it to the Senate.

We thank you for your leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor for a vote. As survivors and advocates dedicated to eradicating human trafficking, we are grateful for your commitment to ensuring that websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking will at long last, be held accountable for their actions.

Sincerely,

1. Shared Hope International  
Arlington, VA
2. Rights4Girls  
Washington, DC
3. Covenant House International  
New York, NY

4. ECPAT USA  
Washington, DC
5. World Without Exploitation  
New York, NY
6. Mary Mazzio & I AM JANE DOE Community  
Boston, MA
7. Courtney's House  
Washington, DC
8. Legal Momentum  
New York, NY
9. Equality Now  
New York, NY
10. National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)  
Washington, DC
11. My Life My Choice  
Boston, MA
12. Truckers Against Trafficking  
Englewood, CO
13. Sanctuary For Families  
New York, NY
14. Trafficking in America Task Force  
Gainesville, FL
15. CSA San Diego County  
El Cajon, CA
16. Villanova Law School Institute on Commercial Sexual Exploitation  
Villanova, PA
17. National Council of Jewish Women New York  
New York, NY
18. Dawn's Place  
Philadelphia, PA
19. Child's World America  
Villanova, PA
20. Freedom From Exploitation, Inc.  
San Diego, CA

21. Women's Justice NOW  
New York, NY
22. Children's Law Center of California  
Sacramento, CA
23. Carole Landis Foundation For Social Action  
Haverford, PA
24. The Voices and Faces Project  
Chicago, IL
25. NH Traffick Free Coalition  
Milford, NH
26. The Samaritan Women  
Baltimore, MD
27. Free to Thrive  
San Diego, CA
28. Enough Is Enough  
Great Falls, VA
29. The Lynch Foundation for Children  
Ranchero Santa Fe, CA
30. Bags of Hope Ministries  
Boston, MA
31. Hope Ranch For Women  
Wichita, KS
32. Wings of Refuge  
Iowa Falls, IA
33. North Star Initiative  
Lititz, PA
34. Zoë Ministries  
Greenwood, DE
35. Abolition Ohio  
Dayton, OH
36. Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
Baltimore, MD
37. Consumer Watchdog  
Washington, DC

38. Airline Ambassadors International  
Arlington, VA
39. Journey Out  
Los Angeles, CA
40. The Ricky Martin Foundation  
San Juan, PR
41. Praesidium Partners  
Richmond, VA
42. Worthwhile Wear  
Silverdale, PA
43. Amirah  
Woburn, MA
44. Saved in America  
Oceanside, CA
45. Awaken  
Reno, NV
46. Ala Kuola  
Honolulu, HI
47. Glory House of Miami  
Miami, FL
48. Generate Hope  
San Diego, CA
49. Refuge for Women Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV
50. Girls Inc.  
Washington, DC
51. New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Concord, NH
52. National Association of Counsel for Children  
Aurora, CO
53. New Hope Youth Ministries  
Russellville, AR
54. Living in Freedom Together Inc.  
Worcester, MA

55. Her Song Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, FL
56. Convo Church  
Reno, NV
57. The Daughter Project  
Perrysburg, OH
58. New Life Refuge Ministries  
Corpus Christy, TX
59. LifeWire  
Bellevue, WA
60. Hope Ranch for Women  
Wichita, KS
61. The Lighthouse Community Center  
Lynchburg, VA
62. Artworks for Freedom  
Washington, DC
63. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation  
Chicago, IL
64. Stolen Youth  
Seattle, WA
65. Prevention Works Joint Task Force & Coalition  
Conyers, GA
66. Engedi Refuge Ministries  
Lynden, WA
67. True Justice International  
New Bern, NC
68. Girls with Grit  
Austin, TX
69. eWomenNetwork  
Dallas, TX
70. ExposeSexEdNow  
Charleston, SC
71. National Council of Jewish Women  
Washington, DC

72. TraffickStop  
Burleson, TX
73. Survivors for Solutions  
Denver, CO
74. Family Watch International  
Gilbert, AZ
75. American Family Association of Pennsylvania  
Franklin, PA
76. Christian Action League of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN
77. Restored Hope Ministries  
Dallas, TX
78. In Our Backyard  
Redmond, OR
79. Universal Peace Federation  
Tarrytown, NY
80. International Athletes' Abolition Mission  
Havelock, NC
81. Being a Voice  
Philadelphia, PA
82. iCare4, Inc.  
Evans, GA
83. Delaware Family Policy Council  
Dover, DE
84. Institute on Religion and Democracy  
Washington, DC
85. New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking  
Shorthills, NJ
86. S.H.A.D.E. Movement  
Emeryville, CA
87. Florida Abolitionist  
Orlando, FL
88. The Refuge for DMST  
Austin, TX

89. Girls Against Porn & Human Trafficking/Men Against Porn  
Nashville, TN
90. Second Life Tennessee  
Chattanooga, TN
91. Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Silver Spring, MD
92. Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS)  
New York, NY
93. Graham Windam  
Brooklyn, NY
94. National Council of Jewish Women—Essex County  
Livingston, NJ
95. SeraphimGLOBAL  
Arlington, VA
96. Protect Young Minds  
Richland, WA
97. Refuge City  
Richardson, TX
98. West Coast Children's Clinic  
Oakland, CA
99. National Crittenton Foundation  
Portland, OR
100. National Decency Coalition  
Mount Juliet, TN
101. Beloved Haven  
Moyock, NC
102. Blue Ridge Fellows  
Roanoke, VA

### **Individual Signatures**

J.S.  
Child sex trafficking survivor  
Chattanooga, TN

Tom and Nacole S.  
Parents of a child sex trafficking survivor  
Chattanooga, TN

Kubiiki Pride  
Mother of a child sex trafficking survivor  
Boston, MA

Ambassador Swanee Hunt

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Penny M. Venetis  
Clinical Prof. of Law / Director, International Human Rights Clinic  
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New York, NY

Sarah Robinson  
Public Defender  
Defender Association of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA



Dayle Ann Hunt  
Playwright  
The Trauma Brain Project  
Chicago, IL

Kathleen Mitchell  
Founder of the DIGNITY Diversion Program  
Catholic Charities  
Phoenix, AZ

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Ombudsman for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking  
Nevada Attorney General's Office  
Reno, NV

Dawn Jones  
Survivor  
The Lighthouse Community Center  
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Advocate  
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Angela Pena  
Pediatric RN  
Special Kids Care  
San Antonio, TX

Darlene Pawlik  
Survivor of child sex trafficking  
Concord, NH

Barbara Amaya, CDA, PhD  
Survivor  
Arlington, VA

Nancy Mills, MS, LPC  
Therapist  
Bridgeton, NJ

Joseph Prud'homme  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Washington College  
Chestertown, MD

Jill Manning, PhD  
Dr. Jill Manning, PLLC  
Louisville, CO

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Catholic University, Columbus School of Law  
Alexandria, VA

Autumn Burris  
Survivor Leader  
Denver, CO

Nikki Bell  
Survivor Leader  
Worcester, MA

Jen Spry  
Survivor Leader  
Philadelphia, PA

Kenneth Cooper  
Pastor, West EFC  
Wichita, KS

Derek Thompson  
Regional Advocate  
More Too Life  
Sarasota, FL

Jahyda Iris Cortes-Villegas  
Case Manager  
Worthwhile Wear: The Well

Lisa Larson  
Mother, Convent of the Sacred Heart  
New York, NY