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
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress