



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Debbie Smith
*Senate Assistant Minority Leader
Nevada
President, NCSL*

Margaret 'Peggy' Piety
*Senior Staff Attorney
Legislative Services Agency
Indiana
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

RE: Klobuchar/Cornyn Anti-Human Trafficking Package

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we are writing to express strong support for the Klobuchar/Cornyn anti-human trafficking package, which includes the, "Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act" (S. 2599) and an amended version of the, "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act" (S. 1738). NCSL is the bipartisan national organization that represents the legislatures of our nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL applauds your leadership in working to eradicate the inhumane practice of human trafficking. We appreciate your commitment to these issues by moving the Klobuchar/Cornyn package expeditiously through the Senate Judiciary Committee and we urge you to help this package move through the Senate by unanimous consent.

The Klobuchar/Cornyn package is important to states for many reasons. The additional Special Assessment called for in the Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund is a critical tool needed to assist state and local governments in developing victim-centered programs, training law enforcement, and prosecuting human traffickers. State policy makers appreciate this federal support and are grateful that funding will occur through criminal penalties which will not adversely impact existing federal criminal justice funding streams to states. It is likewise important to reward states that pass legislation that shields trafficking victims from prosecutions and provides services for them by granting incentives on local Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) applications. NCSL commends the creation of the National Human Trafficking Hotline as a much-needed resource for victims and law enforcement. Throughout the legislative process, NCSL has appreciated the opportunity to collaborate on important provisions contained within the Klobuchar/Cornyn anti-human trafficking package and we believe that this package represents a comprehensive and strong approach to combating human trafficking.

Human trafficking has become an increased concern for many state legislators throughout the country. Awareness of trafficking issues has led to an abundance of state laws since the first law was passed in the state of Washington in 2003. These laws attack the issue in varying ways, from the creation of task forces to study approaches to combating this epidemic to strengthened

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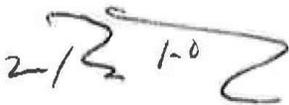
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criminal penalties on traffickers to increased measures that establish services for identified victims. During the 2011, 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions combined, 45 states enacted 221 laws that address human trafficking. In 2014, 41 states considered 289 anti-trafficking bills and resolutions.

Again, we urge you to support the Klobuchar/Cornyn anti-human trafficking package and we look forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation before the end of the current session. NCSL believes that this bill package respects existing state authority in this area and will support state efforts to eliminate the terrible practice of human trafficking. We hope to see the Klobuchar/ Cornyn package become law before the end of the year. For additional information, please contact Susan Parnas Frederick (202-624-3566) or Jennifer Arguinzoni (202-624-8691) in NCSL's Washington, D.C. office.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Senator Briggs Hopson, featuring a stylized 'B' and 'H' with '1-0' written below.

Senator Briggs Hopson, Mississippi
Co-Chair, NCSL
Committee on Law, Criminal Justice
and Public Safety

Handwritten signature of Representative John Tilley, written in cursive.

Representative John Tilley, Kentucky
Co-Chair, NCSL
Committee on Law and Criminal Justice
and Public Safety

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee