



Health Education, Advocacy, Linkage
Because Human Trafficking is a Health Issue
HEALTrafficking.org

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Senators McConnell, Cornyn, Ayotte, Collins, Murkowski, and Leahy:

HEAL Trafficking unifies and mobilizes interdisciplinary professionals combating human trafficking through a healthcare lens, and serves as a centralized resource on health for the broader anti-trafficking community. Our members include leaders from clinical practice, public health, global health, academia, and government, working in 28 states and at the national and international levels. Among many other anti-trafficking activities, we have been active members of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families' SOAR National Technical Working Group and the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the United States. We have contributed to proposed human trafficking coding for the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases.

We write with great concern about the impasse over S. 178, the Cornyn-Klobuchar Justice for Trafficking Victims Act (JVTA). The JVTA includes critical provisions that expand services for survivors and strengthen the criminal justice system's ability to combat human trafficking. We implore the Senate to pass S. 178 without the inclusion of Hyde Amendment language, which would place limits on trafficking survivors' access to vital health services. We support its replacement with amendment S.A. 300 offered by Senator Leahy, which provides an added focus on prevention, and encompasses bipartisan proposals that recently have gathered strong support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

HEAL Trafficking signatories



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