



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

May 26, 2015

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
SH-110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Heitkamp and Collins:

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 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families' Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) National Technical Working Group and the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States. Our vision is "A world healed of trafficking."

We write in strong support of your Senate bill S.1446 to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Training pilot program. This bill complements the health care training outlined in the Justice for Victims Trafficking Act as passed by the Senate and the House.

As the U.S. Government continues to coordinate interagency anti-trafficking efforts, HEAL Trafficking supports expanding the SOAR pilot program that HHS already has in place, codifying the program, diversifying the reach of those facilities and individuals to be trained, and increasing the types of trainings to be offered. This legislation has the potential for substantial impact, as it builds upon the SOAR pilot project's multiple years of engagement with diverse stakeholders and federal partners as well its strong interagency integration with the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services to Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States<sup>1</sup>. HEAL Trafficking has in-depth comprehension of this program through engagement in the SOAR National Technical Working Group and the national SOAR to Health and Wellness site trainings.

HEAL Trafficking believes the most effective way that the crime of human trafficking can be disrupted and victims identified, treated, and supported is through a government initiated,

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/initiatives/soar>



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

coordinated, and funded plan. The success and impact of efforts addressing the health needs of victims of trafficking will be based on the dedication of sufficient and additional resources. We strongly support the development of funding streams to sustain the provision of comprehensive, culturally relevant, survivor and trauma-informed care. We do not support unfunded mandates or programs that would divert funding from existing programs that serve survivors of violence and other vulnerable populations.

HEAL Trafficking applauds this proactive legislation from Senators Heitkamp and Collins to improve health professional training about human trafficking specifically and violence in general, through a trauma-informed lens; to promote wide-spread implementation of successful trafficking prevention programs; and to further delivery of comprehensive, integrated health services to survivors of trafficking and other forms of violence. Therefore we strongly support the introduction and eventual passage of the Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness, S.1446.

Sincerely,

HEAL Trafficking Steering Committee and Working Group Leaders

**HEAL Trafficking Steering Committee**

Susie Baldwin, MD, MPH  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (for identification purposes only)  
Los Angeles, CA

Hanni Stoklosa, MD, MPH  
Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
FXB Center for Health & Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health  
Boston, MA

Kimberly Chang, MD, MPH  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, MA

Makini Chisolm-Straker, MD, MPH  
International Rescue Committee  
New York, NY



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

Nicole Littenberg, MD, MPH  
Pacific Survivor Center  
Honolulu, Hawaii

### **Working Group Leaders**

#### ***Advocacy***

Victoria Bawel  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Palo Alto, California

Vicki Rosenthal, MSW  
Florida Atlantic University  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Abigail English, JD  
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law  
Chapel Hill, NC

#### ***Direct Services***

Jules Geynisman, MD  
New York-Presbyterian - Cornell  
Survivor Clinic  
New York, NY

Babette Hankey, MS  
Aspire Health Partners, Inc.  
Orlando, Florida

Becca C. Johnson, PhD, Licensed Psychologist  
Agape International Mission  
Engedi Refuge  
Bellingham, WA

#### ***Education & Training***

Tonya Chaffee, MD, MPH  
University of California – San Francisco  
San Francisco General Hospital  
San Francisco, CA



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

Jordan Greenbaum, MD  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Atlanta, GA

***International***

Katherine Welch, MD  
Relentless  
Thailand

***Legal***

Mariam Garuba, MD  
Kings County Hospital  
Manhattan Psychiatric Institute  
Brooklyn, NY

***Media & Technology***

Holly Atkinson, MD  
Mount Sinai Global Health  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY

***Protocols***

Jeffrey Barrows, DO, MA  
Hope for Justice  
Zanesfield, OH

Suzanne T. Poppema, MD  
Director, International Medical Consulting  
Edmonds, WA

***Research***

Roy Ahn, ScD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA

Jennifer Makrides, MA, MD Candidate  
University of Vermont  
South Burlington, VT