

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

HEAL Trafficking endorses the proposed legislation (SIL223723) to prevent human trafficking survivors who bring civil claims against their traffickers from being forced into arbitration. Survivors whose employment contracts require arbitration have been forced into dispute settlement rather than being able to have their cases heard by a jury. This can be deeply traumatizing, prevents public accountability, and prevents class action lawsuits when an employer has exploited multiple employees. Last year, Congress banned employers from utilizing forced arbitration for sexual assault or harassment disputes. This bill would expand that law to include human trafficking disputes.

HEAL Trafficking comprises a network of more than 4,000 health care workers and other multidisciplinary professionals in 55 countries, including survivors of human trafficking. HEAL Trafficking's mission is to lead innovative health solutions to eradicate human trafficking in our communities worldwide. HEAL's services - including education, training, customized materials, consultation, technical assistance, and advocacy work - are used the world over to not only shine a spotlight on the plight of those being trafficked, but also to put an end to the practice; the settings we work in include hospitals, health centers and clinics, prehospital care, and all other physical and mental health-related venues where trafficked people receive medical and behavioral health care. HEAL is keenly aware of the harms that can result from human trafficking survivors being unable to hold their traffickers accountable.

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Nani Cuadrado, MSPAS, PA-C

