

# National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys

*Safeguarding Justice for All Americans*

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December 8, 2017

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The Honorable Bob Goodlate  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerry Nadler  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

## **Re: Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (H.R. 1865)**

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Nadler:

We write to express our support for the amendment in the nature of a substitute of the "Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017" (H.R. 1865). We understand that this bipartisan legislation may be considered in the very near future by the Judiciary Committee. It is deserving of the Committee's prompt approval because it provides an effective means for combatting internet websites that host sex trafficking advertisements.

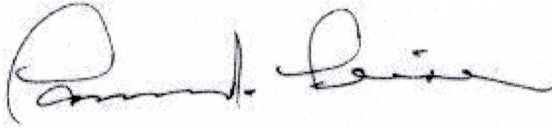
We believe the legislation is noteworthy for its inclusion of the following prosecutorial tools and statutory improvements.

- The bill creates a new federal statute within the Mann Act (18 U.S.C. §§ 2421-2424) that criminalizes the use of an interstate facility to promote or facilitate prostitution, which will allow prosecutors to more easily charge websites that facilitate prostitution and contribute to the proliferation of online sex trafficking.
- The bill also creates an aggravated violation for those websites that act in reckless disregard of the fact that sex trafficking occurs on their platform.
- The bill also would allow states to pass laws that conform to the new federal statute and enforce them without issue (through a narrow carve-out of section 230 of the Communications Decency Act).

- Finally, the bill contains a provision allowing for civil recovery for a violation of the crime established by the bill.

For the above reasons, we are pleased to endorse the *Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (H.R. 1865)* and encourage its prompt consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. Please call upon our counsel Bruce Moyer (301-452-1111, [bruce@moyergroup.net](mailto:bruce@moyergroup.net)) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Leiser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lawrence" being more prominent and the last name "Leiser" following in a similar style.

Lawrence J. Leiser  
President