



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Acting Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Nadler,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you that we support the manager's amendment to H.R. 1865, the "Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act," which the Committee on the Judiciary will consider this week.

We reviewed the new text and share the view of Representative Ann L. Wagner (R-MO) that it will prove effective at allowing law enforcement to investigate and prosecute individuals and businesses that advertise or otherwise facilitate sex trafficking. The legislation will create a new Federal offense making unlawful the use or operation of an interstate facility, like a website, that promotes or facilitates illegal prostitution. The new statute includes two aggravating factors: intentional promotion or facilitation of prostitution and a reckless disregard with respect to contributing to sex trafficking.

The new language makes clear that local and State law enforcement agencies can enforce this crime without being impeded by the courts by a flawed understanding of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. In addition, the language of the manager's amendment will help victims by establishing a mandatory restitution program and allow for civil recovery.

We believe the enactment of this legislation will help prevent victimization and disrupt the trafficking industry by going after the websites which are connecting the victims of sex trafficking with their "customers."

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, we are pleased to support this amendment and look forward to working with you and your staff to get this bill to the House floor. If we can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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