February 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader Pelosi:

As organizations and leaders in the movement to end human trafficking, we want to thank you for scheduling this important floor vote on H.R. 1865, the *Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (FOSTA)*, originally introduced by Representative Ann Wagner. The need for legislation to clarify Section 230 of the Communication’s Decency Act (CDA) is urgently needed given the 1st Circuit ruling in *Doe v. Backpage*. That ruling held that even if Backpage had participated in the crime of sex trafficking, Section 230 shielded the company from the claims filed by child victims. We greatly appreciate the support of all of the bill’s co-sponsors who fully understand the barriers Section 230 has created in the ability of state law enforcement and survivors to seek justice against websites that are engaged in facilitating human trafficking.

To that end, we would like to express our strong support for the crucial amendment being offered by Representative Mimi Walters to the underlying bill that will specifically address the Section 230 problem. Representative Walters’ amendment is critical to stemming the tide of online human trafficking. Importantly, in its ruling, the 1st Circuit Court recommended that child victims seek a legislative remedy to this problem— and the children have done just that. We are thrilled that the Internet Association (IA), has not only endorsed H.R. 1865, but also its Senate counterpart, S.1693, the *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017 (SESTA)* introduced by Senators Rob Portman and Richard Blumenthal. Representative Walters’ amendment mirrors the SESTA legislation that currently has 67 bipartisan Senate co-sponsors.

Assuming the Walters’ amendment is adopted and there are no additional amendments added that would weaken these measures, we strongly urge the House to pass this package and send it to the Senate.

We thank you for your leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor for a vote. As survivors and advocates dedicated to eradicating human trafficking, we are grateful for your commitment to ensuring that websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking will at long last, be held accountable for their actions.

Sincerely,

1. Shared Hope International  
   Arlington, VA
2. Rights4Girls  
   Washington, DC
3. Covenant House International  
   New York, NY
4. ECPAT USA  
   Washington, DC

5. World Without Exploitation  
   New York, NY

6. Mary Mazzio & I AM JANE DOE Community  
   Boston, MA

7. Courtney’s House  
   Washington, DC

8. Legal Momentum  
   New York, NY

9. Equality Now  
   New York, NY

10. National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)  
    Washington, DC

11. My Life My Choice  
    Boston, MA

12. Truckers Against Trafficking  
    Englewood, CO

13. Sanctuary For Families  
    New York, NY

14. Trafficking in America Task Force  
    Gainesville, FL

15. CSA San Diego County  
    El Cajon, CA

16. Villanova Law School Institute on Commercial Sexual Exploitation  
    Villanova, PA

    New York, NY

18. Dawn’s Place  
    Philadelphia, PA

19. Child’s World America  
    Villanova, PA

20. Freedom From Exploitation, Inc.  
    San Diego, CA
21. Women's Justice NOW  
   New York, NY

22. Children's Law Center of California  
   Sacramento, CA

23. Carole Landis Foundation For Social Action  
   Haverford, PA

24. The Voices and Faces Project  
   Chicago, IL

25. NH Traffick Free Coalition  
   Milford, NH

26. The Samaritan Women  
   Baltimore, MD

27. Free to Thrive  
   San Diego, CA

28. Enough Is Enough  
   Great Falls, VA

29. The Lynch Foundation for Children  
   Ranchero Santa Fe, CA

30. Bags of Hope Ministries  
   Boston, MA

31. Hope Ranch For Women  
   Wichita, KS

32. Wings of Refuge  
   Iowa Falls, IA

33. North Star Initiative  
   Lititz, PA

34. Zoë Ministries  
   Greenwood, DE

35. Abolition Ohio  
   Dayton, OH

36. Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
   Baltimore, MD

37. Consumer Watchdog  
   Washington, DC
38. Airline Ambassadors International
   Arlington, VA

39. Journey Out
   Los Angeles, CA

40. The Ricky Martin Foundation
   San Juan, PR

41. Praesidium Partners
   Richmond, VA

42. Worthwhile Wear
   Silverdale, PA

43. Amirah
   Woburn, MA

44. Saved in America
   Oceanside, CA

45. Awaken
   Reno, NV

46. Ala Kuola
   Honolulu, HI

47. Glory House of Miami
   Miami, FL

48. Generate Hope
   San Diego, CA

49. Refuge for Women Las Vegas
   Las Vegas, NV

50. Girls Inc.
   Washington, DC

51. New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
   Concord, NH

52. National Association of Counsel for Children
   Aurora, CO

53. New Hope Youth Ministries
   Russellville, AR

54. Living in Freedom Together Inc.
   Worcester, MA
55. Her Song Jacksonville
   Jacksonville, FL

56. Convo Church
   Reno, NV

57. The Daughter Project
   Perrysburg, OH

58. New Life Refuge Ministries
   Corpus Christy, TX

59. LifeWire
   Bellevue, WA

60. Hope Ranch for Women
    Wichita, KS

61. The Lighthouse Community Center
    Lynchburg, VA

62. Artworks for Freedom
    Washington, DC

63. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
    Chicago, IL

64. Stolen Youth
    Seattle, WA

65. Prevention Works Joint Task Force & Coalition
    Conyers, GA

66. Engedi Refuge Ministries
    Lynden, WA

67. True Justice International
    New Bern, NC

68. Girls with Grit
    Austin, TX

69. eWomenNetwork
    Dallas, TX

70. ExposeSexEdNow
    Charleston, SC

71. National Council of Jewish Women
    Washington, DC
72. TraffickStop
   Burleson, TX

73. Survivors for Solutions
   Denver, CO

74. Family Watch International
   Gilbert, AZ

75. American Family Association of Pennsylvania
   Franklin, PA

76. Christian Action League of Minnesota
   Minneapolis, MN

77. Restored Hope Ministries
   Dallas, TX

78. In Our Backyard
   Redmond, OR

79. Universal Peace Federation
   Tarrytown, NY

80. International Athletes’ Abolition Mission
   Havelock, NC

81. Being a Voice
   Philadelphia, PA

82. iCare4, Inc.
   Evans, GA

83. Delaware Family Policy Council
   Dover, DE

84. Institute on Religion and Democracy
   Washington, DC

85. New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking
   Shorthills, NJ

86. S.H.A.D.E. Movement
   Emeryville, CA

87. Florida Abolitionist
   Orlando, FL

88. The Refuge for DMST
   Austin, TX
89. Girls Against Porn & Human Trafficking/Men Against Porn
   Nashville, TN

90. Second Life Tennessee
   Chattanooga, TN

91. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
   Silver Spring, MD

92. Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS)
   New York, NY

93. Graham Windam
   Brooklyn, NY

94. National Council of Jewish Women—Essex County
   Livingston, NJ

95. SeraphimGLOBAL
   Arlington, VA

96. Protect Young Minds
   Richland, WA

97. Refuge City
   Richardson, TX

98. West Coast Children’s Clinic
   Oakland, CA

99. National Crittenton Foundation
   Portland, OR

100. National Decency Coalition
     Mount Juliet, TN

101. Beloved Haven
     Moyock, NC

102. Blue Ridge Fellows
     Roanoke, VA

**Individual Signatures**

J.S.
Child sex trafficking survivor
Chattanooga, TN
Tom and Nacole S.
Parents of a child sex trafficking survivor
Chattanooga, TN

Kubiiki Pride
Mother of a child sex trafficking survivor
Boston, MA

Ambassador Swanee Hunt

Marian Hatcher
Senior Project Manager/Human Trafficking Coordinator
Cook County Sheriff’s Office
Chicago, IL

Penny M. Venetis
Clinical Prof. of Law / Director, International Human Rights Clinic
Rutgers Law School
Newark, NJ

Michelle Madden Dempsey
Professor of Law
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law
Villanova, PA

Donna M. Hughes
Professor, Eleanor M and Oscar M Carlson Endowed Chair
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI

Jody Raphael
Senior Research Fellow
DePaul University College of Law
Chicago, IL

Audrey Rogers
Professor of Law
Elisabeth Haub School of Law
New York, NY

Katha Pollitt
Columnist, The Nation
New York, NY

Sarah Robinson
Public Defender
Defender Association of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA
Dayle Ann Hunt  
Playwright  
The Trauma Brain Project  
Chicago, IL

Kathleen Mitchell  
Founder of the DIGNITY Diversion Program  
Catholic Charities  
Phoenix, AZ

Nicole O’Banion  
Ombudsman for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking  
Nevada Attorney General’s Office  
Reno, NV

Dawn Jones  
Survivor  
The Lighthouse Community Center  
Lynchburg, VA

Mary Dreisbach  
Advocate  
Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST)  
Allentown, PA

Tammy Gilden  
Senior Policy Associate  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
New York, NY

Angela Pena  
Pediatric RN  
Special Kids Care  
San Antonio, TX

Darlene Pawlik  
Survivor of child sex trafficking  
Concord, NH

Barbara Amaya, CDA, PhD  
Survivor  
Arlington, VA

Nancy Mills, MS, LPC  
Therapist  
Bridgeton, NJ

Joseph Prud’homme  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Washington College  
Chestertown, MD
Jill Manning, PhD
Dr. Jill Manning, PLLC
Louisville, CO

Mary Graw Leary, JD
Professor
Catholic University, Columbus School of Law
Alexandria, VA

Autumn Burris
Survivor Leader
Denver, CO

Nikki Bell
Survivor Leader
Worcester, MA

Jen Spry
Survivor Leader
Philadelphia, PA

Kenneth Cooper
Pastor, West EFC
Wichita, KS

Derek Thompson
Regional Advocate
More Too Life
Sarasota, FL

Jahyda Iris Cortes-Villegas
Case Manager
Worthwhile Wear: The Well

Lisa Larson
Mother, Convent of the Sacred Heart
New York, NY