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2030 M Street, NW
Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 326-6000
<http://www.naag.org/>

October 20, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned state and territorial attorneys general, urge you to join us in the fight against human trafficking in the United States. We commend your recent action to pass legislation to increase federal penalties and victim restitution and encourage you to act to protect children from being trafficked on the Internet by passing S. 2536, the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act (SAVE Act).

Human trafficking is tied as the second largest and is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, generating roughly \$150 billion each year. According to a study of Department of Justice human trafficking task force cases, 83 percent of sex trafficking victims identified in the United States were U.S. citizens. Shockingly, there are numerous cases nationally of children being used in prostitution as young as 12.

Every day, children in the United States are sold for sex. The use of the “adult services sections” on websites such as backpage.com has created virtual brothels where children are bought and sold using euphemistic labels such as “escorts.” The involvement of these advertising companies is not accidental—these companies have constructed their business models around income gained from those participating in commercial sex. In just one week this June, law enforcement arrested 281 alleged sex traffickers and took 168 children out of prostitution in a nationwide FBI crackdown where many child victims were offered for sale on “escort” and other “adult services” websites.¹ Organized crime groups as well as street gangs are involved with human trafficking, and many of these perpetrators use the Internet to sell their victims.

The undersigned attorneys general respectfully request that the Senate Judiciary Committee pass the SAVE Act so that these websites that are facilitating trafficking through their very business model will have to take

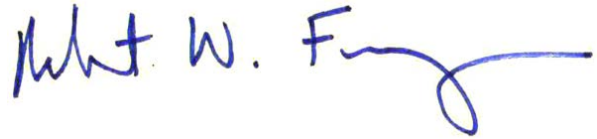
¹ <http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/168-juveniles-recovered-in-nationwide-operation-targeting-commercial-child-sex-trafficking>

steps to verify the identity of individuals posting advertisements and the age of those who appear in these advertisements.

We thank you in advance for your continued dedication to the eradication of human trafficking.



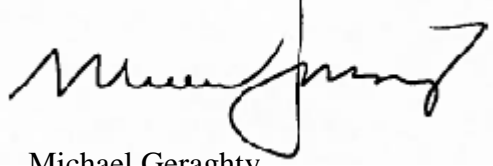
Greg Zoeller
Indiana Attorney General



Robert W. Ferguson
Washington Attorney General



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Michael Geraghty
Alaska Attorney General



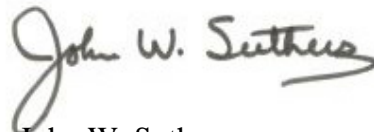
Tom Horne
Arizona Attorney General



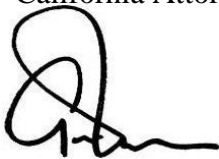
Dustin McDaniel
Arkansas Attorney General



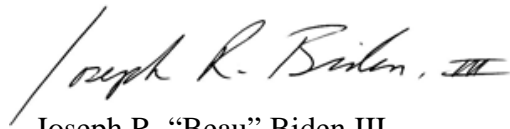
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California Attorney General



John W. Suthers
Colorado Attorney General



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General



Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III
Delaware Attorney General



Irvin Nathan
District of Columbia Attorney General



Pamela Jo Bondi
Florida Attorney General



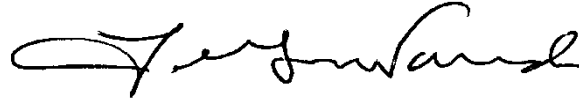
Samuel S. Olens
Georgia Attorney General



Lenny Rapadas
Guam Attorney General



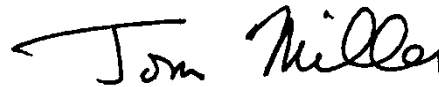
David Louie
Hawaii Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



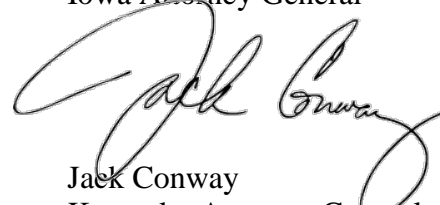
Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General



Jack Conway
Kentucky Attorney General



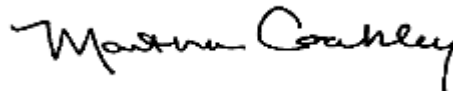
James "Buddy" Caldwell
Louisiana Attorney General



Janet Mills
Maine Attorney General



Douglas F. Gansler
Maryland Attorney General



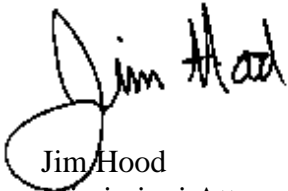
Martha Coakley
Massachusetts Attorney General



Bill Schuette
Michigan Attorney General



Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General



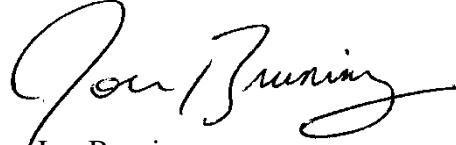
Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



Chris Koster
Missouri Attorney General



Tim Fox
Montana Attorney General



Jon Bruning
Nebraska Attorney General



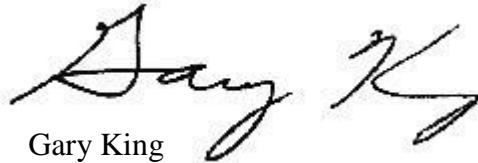
Catherine Cortez Masto
Nevada Attorney General



Joseph Foster
New Hampshire Attorney General



John Jay Hoffman
New Jersey Attorney General (Acting)



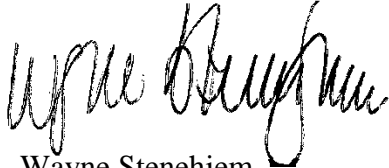
Gary King
New Mexico Attorney General



Eric T. Schneiderman
New York Attorney General



Roy Cooper
North Carolina Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



Gilbert Birnbrich
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General (Acting)



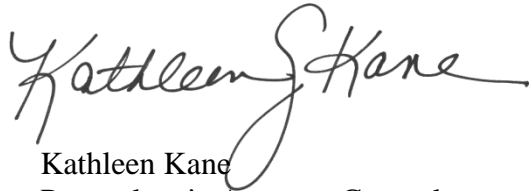
Michael DeWine
Ohio Attorney General



Scott Pruitt
Oklahoma Attorney General



Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



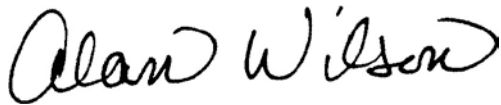
Kathleen Kane
Pennsylvania Attorney General



César R. Miranda Rodríguez
Puerto Rico Attorney General



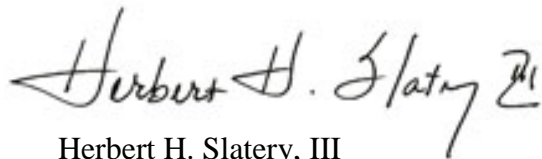
Peter Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General




Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Marty J. Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



Herbert H. Slatery, III
Tennessee Attorney General



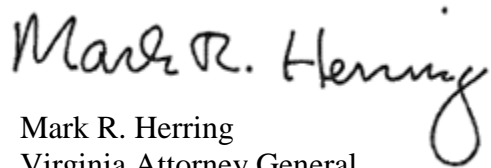
Greg Abbott
Texas Attorney General



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Mark R. Herring
Virginia Attorney General



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West Virginia Attorney General



Peter K. Michael
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