

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Tim Walberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kilili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Walberg and Sablan:

On behalf of the International Franchise Association (IFA), the world's oldest and largest organization representing franchising worldwide, I thank you for your leadership on the *Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act*, or H.R. 443. This legislation would aid prevention and awareness by ensuring staff at the Department of Labor (DOL) receive the appropriate training and continuing education to recognize instances of human trafficking and refer these cases to law enforcement agencies.

The franchising community is comprised of approximately 806,270 franchise establishments that support nearly 8.7 million direct jobs. Our members include franchise companies from over 300 different business format categories, individual franchisees, and companies that support the industry in marketing, law, technology, and business development. These businesses play a critical role in helping mitigate human trafficking by training their employees on how to recognize and report human trafficking indicators, recovering victims, and disrupting trafficking networks while demonstrating their commitment to community safety.

IFA commends you on introducing this important legislation and we look forward to working with you toward passage of the *Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act*.

Sincerely,



Michael Layman
Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Public Affairs
International Franchise Association