

Congressman David B. McKinley, P.E. (WV-01)
Statement for the Record
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
RE: Hearing Entitled “Latest Developments in Combating Online Sex
Trafficking”
Nov. 30, 2017

While the internet and e-commerce have revolutionized our lives in many ways, the staggering growth in this sector has allowed illicit activities to proliferate. Despite the majority of good actors online that are beneficial to the way we shop, communicate, and obtain information, we must pay more attention to companies and individuals involved in trafficking and smuggling of illegal goods and services. The rise of human trafficking and the online sex trade is a particularly abominable practice operating in the shadows – it is time for Congress and the Department of Justice to shine light on these bad actors to protect the victims of this industry from exploitation and enslavement. I commend the efforts of those testifying before the Committee today and encourage Congress to continue working on legislative solutions that improve our ability to fight human trafficking and the sex trade. By modernizing our laws and enforcement power to reflect changing technology, we can better position the United States as leaders in the fight against these crimes against human dignity.