

June 26, 2018

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Committee on Energy and
Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2152 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blackburn:

As Organizations fighting against human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children around the world, we want to thank you and express our support for the inclusion of the “Sense of Congress” language in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) reauthorization bill on the need to preserve the domain name system and the importance of maintaining a free, accessible, transparent, and publically available WHOIS database.

Unfortunately, some Registrars and Registries have used the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as an excuse to shut down public access to a full range of WHOIS data. As anti-human trafficking, survivor, and child safety groups, we work closely with law enforcement who utilize the WHOIS database as a critical tool to help determine who is operating a criminal website that is knowingly engaged in human trafficking. Without an open WHOIS database, we are very concerned that the ability to go after these websites will be curtailed and thus make the recently enacted FOSTA-SESTA law less effective.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you on this important issue in order to make the Internet safe, secure and sustainable for all.

Sincerely,

ECPAT USA
Enough is Enough
Mary Mazzio and the I AM JANE DOE, Survivors and Families