

Statement of the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, for the Hearing “Children are Not for Sale: Examining the Threat of Exploitation of Children in the U.S. and Abroad” before the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

2141 Rayburn House Office Building

Thank you, Chairman Biggs, for convening this important hearing today to discuss a deeply disturbing and pervasive issue that is plaguing our country and the world - child exploitation. I regret not being with you today to discuss this issue, which is deeply personal to me and many of my constituents. But for medical reasons, I am not permitted to travel.

Although the United States is a nation known for its foundational ideals of liberty and the protection of its citizens, we continue to struggle with the existence and prevalence of child exploitation. It takes on various forms, ranging from child labor and sex trafficking to the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material and online harassment or sextortion.

