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September 20, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins,

Thank you for hosting this Member Day hearing to allow for the submission of testimony to the House Judiciary Committee. Enclosed with this letter is my written testimony on the subject of human trafficking—an issue of great importance to my constituents and the people of Illinois.

Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Congressman Adam Kinzinger
Submitted Testimony
House Judiciary Committee Member Day Hearing
September 20, 2019

Thank you to Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins for allowing me to share my thoughts on the affliction of human trafficking facing our nation.

Illinois ranks among the states with the highest rates of human trafficking across the country. Sex traffickers sell their victims multiple times a day, and these victims are often children. Rockford, the largest city in my district, has the second-highest rate of trafficking in Illinois. While the Administration and Congress have worked on a bipartisan basis to combat this crime, more must be done.

One step Congress can take is passing victim-centered legislation, such as the bipartisan *Reducing the Demand for Human Trafficking Act*, which I introduced with my colleague Representative Robin Kelly. This legislation amends the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* to give preferences to law enforcement grant applicants who attest they will make efforts to seek out those who purchase or solicit these horrific services and hold them accountable for their crimes. When confronting human trafficking, we must go after the buyers in the human trafficking industry as well as the suppliers.

More broadly, we must help our local communities through grants to combat human trafficking. I am pleased to report that, last year, the City of Rockford was awarded a federal grant of \$450,000 to combat domestic violence and human trafficking within the city. This funding will allow the city to build a single centralized facility to aid victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. This grant will bring together law enforcement personnel, medical providers, prosecutors, social service representatives, and mental health professionals to assist in mitigating the cycle of human trafficking.

Thank you again for allowing me to share my thoughts, and I appreciate the Committee's work to address this crisis our country faces. I look forward to working with the Committee to get the *Reducing the Demand for Human Trafficking Act* signed into law.