



The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
2468 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 1, 2023

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

The U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (Council) was established by section 115 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015. Each member of the Council is appointed by the President and is a survivor of human trafficking. The Council's mandate is to advise the U.S. government to strengthen federal policy and programming efforts that reflect best practices in the anti-trafficking field.

We write to share our opposition to the National Human Trafficking Hotline Enhancement Act (H.R. 2601).

This proposed bill, if passed, would require the operator of the National Human Trafficking Hotline ("Hotline") to certify that it will provide information received via the Hotline to any state and local law enforcement agency upon their request—even when victims and survivors do not consent.

Many victims of trafficking do not report what is happening to them due to fear of law enforcement, and many trafficking survivors' fears of law enforcement are reasonable. Many survivors and people from marginalized communities have been profiled, harassed, or assaulted by law enforcement, or know that reporting will put them and their loved ones at risk. Automatically involving law enforcement without survivor consent will disproportionately harm the communities the Hotline intends to serve and have a chilling effect on calls made to the Hotline by human trafficking victims.

Survivors of human trafficking need and deserve a hotline that uses victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches and where they can understand their options and receive referrals to



the services they immediately need. They should not have to worry about mandatory reporting to law enforcement without their consent and against their will. Mandatory reporting should only occur in the most extreme of cases—cases that are often already covered under existing mandatory reporting laws.

We, as a Council, therefore, oppose H.R.2601.

Sincerely,

Members of the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking

cc: The Honorable Christopher H. Smith