

United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance

Written Hearing Testimony

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“Protecting Victims of the Human Trafficking and Online Exploitation”

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Chairman Biggs, Ranking Member McBath, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today about protecting victims and survivors of human trafficking and online exploitation. My name is Anne Basham, and I am the Founder and Chair of the Interparliamentary Taskforce on Human Trafficking, the first global consortium of legislators and lived experience experts, and CEO of Ascend Consulting, a human rights advocacy firm which represents several anti-trafficking and exploitation organizations and convenes the bi-annual Anti-Trafficking in Persons Policy Roundtable in the U.S. Senate. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of legislative solutions to protect victims and survivors of human trafficking and online exploitation. While there are many important anti-trafficking and exploitation bills in Congress right now, I will be focusing primarily on two legislative solutions that have broad support and fill critical gaps: the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act and the GRACIE Act.

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act

There are two types of justice: punitive justice and restorative justice. Many people associate justice with punitive justice and think of incarcerating perpetrators and traffickers, and while punitive justice is crucial, this alone will not bring justice to survivors. Restorative justice advances restoration of dignity for victims and survivors—including the freedom to pursue a career and a life of their choice, and not to be forever limited by the violence and exploitation visited on them by their trafficker.

Human trafficking is perhaps the worst human rights violation in the world, and yet instead of receiving protection and justice, many trafficking victims are arrested and convicted of crimes their traffickers forced them to commit. Adult survivors of human trafficking too often have their

voices silenced by unjust felony convictions for crimes they committed as a direct result of their trafficking offenses¹. Traffickers often force their victims to commit crimes and the resulting criminal records prevent survivors from obtaining housing, employment, and other elements that are essential.

Currently, most states have legal mechanisms that allow trafficking survivors to seek vacatur or expungement of criminal records tied to their exploitation. However, there is no equivalent legal framework at the federal level. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act (TSRA) which is sponsored by Rep. Fry, Rep. Lieu and Rep. Wagner and passed through the House Judiciary Committee last year seeks to address this gap by providing a pathway for survivors to vacate convictions and expunge arrest records for certain crimes that were a direct result of their trafficking. Additionally, the bill establishes an affirmative defense for victims, ensuring they can avoid unjust criminalization at the outset.

The need for this legislation is urgent. Many survivors continue to suffer the consequences of wrongful convictions, which prevent them from moving forward with their lives. I am grateful to lead the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act coalition for the past few years, and in Appendix A to this written testimony I have included survivor impact statements, including the story of Hollie Nadel, a trafficking survivor who, despite building an incredible career and being acknowledged as a trafficking survivor by the Court, recently lost everything due to a wrongful federal felony conviction. Her story is not unique—many survivors face similar obstacles that this legislation seeks to remedy. There is often an abuse to prison pipeline and child trafficking survivors are often forced into the adult criminal justice system because their traffickers coerce them into committing offenses like robbery, money laundering, and bank fraud. This phenomenon, known as “forced criminality,” can lead to survivors being misidentified as willing perpetrators².

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act (TRSA) provides:

- **A pathway to vacate convictions for crimes that survivors were forced to commit.** Survivors should not be permanently branded by the criminal records imposed on them by their traffickers.
- **Availability of funding for survivors’ civil legal services** through the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. Good attorneys are expensive, and most survivors cannot afford the legal representation necessary to clear their records.
- **A pathway to restorative justice.** Vacatur secures survivors opportunities for employment, and employment provides more than just a paycheck: it builds self-respect,

¹ <https://sharedhope.org/2022/06/14/unjust-criminalization/>

² <https://rights4girls.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-Abuse-to-Prison-Pipeline-2024.pdf>

independence, new skills, and new connections with people of integrity and excellence. Survivors deserve the opportunity to define themselves by their futures, not by their past.

For both sex and labor trafficking survivors, their exploitation was uniquely tied to employment; they were the product sold by the trafficker to make money in a criminal business operation, so for survivors employment is more than a paycheck. Employment is a means of restoring dignity, building self-sufficiency, and recovering a new identity that is not defined by their past. Employment not only changes the circumstances for a survivor, but it often changes the most important opinion of all – how survivors see themselves. This is why it is essential for a survivor of trafficking to be able to have a career without being branded with a criminal record given to them by their trafficker. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act helps make this possible.

The GRACIE Act

What is most alarming is that for many of these adults who are convicted in their late teens and early twenties, their trafficking experience began when they were children. Research shows that the average age at which children are targeted for both sex trafficking and labor trafficking is 11 to 14 years old.³ While the more than 200,000 unaccompanied migrant children missing from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service program⁴ has garnered due public attention, many people do not know that one of the main trafficking pipelines in the U.S. is our domestic foster care system. As the National Foster Youth Initiative has shown, more than 60% of child trafficking victims are current or former foster youth.⁵ The GRACIE Act (Generate Recordings of All CPS Interviews Everywhere), which was introduced just last week by Senator Blackburn and Senator Ossoff, is a Child Protective Services modernization bill that equips Child Protective Services (CPS) to interrupt the foster care-to-trafficking pipeline by incentivizing states to mandate audio or video recordings of all CPS interviews. It also provides necessary transparency and accountability to those who are on the frontlines of protecting children.

Let me share with you the story that inspired the GRACIE Act. “Abby,” as I will refer to her, was a young girl caught in a nightmare that too many children face. Her parents were divorced and during a visit to her father’s house a quarrel escalated into physical violence, and Abby’s father grabbed her neck. The incident was reported to a counselor, and the case was referred to CPS. The caseworker interviewed Abby at her mother’s home because school happened to be closed that day because of snow. The mother listened from the next room and recorded the interview. Abby told the investigator the same story. However, the case was curiously dismissed. Months after the case was closed it was discovered that the official report distorted Abby’s

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430910/>

⁴ <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2024-08/OIG-24-46-Aug24.pdf>

⁵ <https://nfyi.org/mission/>

testimony, downplaying the assault as a mere grab to the arm—not the neck, an act which could have qualified as a felony under state law. Abby’s voice was silenced.

37.4% of children in the United States will be interviewed by CPS before age 18.⁶ Without recordings, children’s testimonies can be easily misrepresented, manipulated, or even disregarded. How many more even worse acts of child abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking have gone unaddressed because of inept or biased caseworkers, unreliable documentation, or simple human error?

Let me provide an analogy for you. I have here a copy of the Congressional Record from just one day on the House floor. This Record contains every word that was spoken on the House floor in a 24-hour span. What if you as Members of Congress went to the House floor and gave an important testimony, and it was never recorded? What if there was only one witness in the hearing room—not a stenographer, but an observer who recorded a personal analysis of your testimony? Would you take this personal analysis as an accurate record of your testimony? Do you want the most important statements of your life to be at the mercy of one stranger with a pen?

I encourage you to read the expert impact statement from a human trafficking prosecutor in Appendix B. Camila Zolfaghari was rarely able to use the scribbled or typed unreliable notes from a CPS interview when prosecuting cases. Recorded interviews not only help prosecutors, but they also decrease the number of times a survivor must recount their traumatic experiences.

CPS interview protocols are outdated and the lack of transparency and accountability within these child welfare systems is appalling. Police are required to wear body cameras in most states, and the Department of Justice has mandated interrogation recordings for about a decade. But child victims of neglect, violence, and abuse are not afforded the same basic and necessary protections—despite the fact that the National Children’s Advocacy Center and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Department of Justice have long recommended electronic recordings of child interviews to ensure transparency, accuracy, and accountability.

If the GRACIE Act and the complementary state laws pass, it will be the biggest child welfare reform in our lifetime. I urge you to pass the GRACIE Act and ensure that basic CPS modernization standards protect the most vulnerable children from violence, exploitation, and human trafficking.

⁶ [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5227926/#:~:text=We%20estimate%20that%2037.4%25%20of.%2FPacific%20Islanders%20\(10.2%25\)](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5227926/#:~:text=We%20estimate%20that%2037.4%25%20of.%2FPacific%20Islanders%20(10.2%25))

The National Human Trafficking Database Act: Strengthening Our Response to Human Trafficking

Finally, the National Trafficking Database Act, introduced by Representative Kiley, Representative Hageman and Representative Hank Johnson in the House and Senator Blackburn and Senator Klobuchar in the Senate, represents a historic step forward in the fight against human trafficking. Data allows legislators, government leaders, and others to identify survivors by documenting and accounting for each survivor whose story deserves to be heard.

This bill would establish a national human trafficking database housed at the Department of Justice, creating a much-needed mechanism to centralize and improve trafficking information about individuals. By incentivizing state law enforcement agencies to report data through the Office for Victims of Crime grant funding, this legislation strengthens collaboration between federal, state, and local partners—reducing silos and ensuring a more coordinated response to this crisis. This database would allow state and federal government to track patterns, identify hotspots, and allocate resources more effectively. It would also foster collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies, ensuring that data is not siloed but shared in a way that enhances our collective ability to respond to trafficking.

These legislative solutions address the biggest gaps in U.S. domestic efforts to protect human trafficking, and they ensure that survivors are heard and seen. I urge each of you to co-sponsor the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act and the GRACIE Act and to support other important anti-trafficking and exploitation bills such as the National Human Trafficking Database Act, the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Training Act, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, the SHIELD Act, the Renewed Hope Act and the Take It Down Act. The safety and future of our nation's children and all trafficking survivors depend on their passage.

APPENDIX A

February 27, 2025

Dear Chairman Biggs and Ranking Member McBath:

I write to you today as a Human Resources and Operations Specialist, a business owner, a certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist, a lived experience expert on PTSD and trauma, a policy consultant on Anti-Trafficking legislation, a human rights advocate, an artist, a daughter, as sister, a friend, a leader, and truly so much more. But lastly, I want to highlight that I am a Survivor of Human Trafficking who was federally criminalized as a result of my trafficking victimization. I say it last because it is something that happened to me, but it does not define me. It is not my identity. Nothing will ever make what happened acceptable, but as a result I am a survivor through and through. I am the strongest version of myself that I have ever been, and I choose to get up every single day and fight with everything I have to make this world a better place. To make it that our children and our children's children grow up in a better world. To make it that other survivors won't have to go through what we went through.

I want to clarify some common misconceptions. There is no black and white survivor story. There are all types of trafficking in this world. I am grateful to say that I did not grow up in a broken home. I was not an at-risk youth. I was an honor student. I received a talent and academic scholarship to go to Ithaca College to pursue a career in Costume Design. I graduated Cum Laude with a BFA in Theatre Production Design and began a successful career in television, film, and theatre. My moral compass was always straight. If anything, I was a goody two shoes. The closest I ever came to a crime was one time accidentally walking out with a water bottle that I had opened since I was thirsty while shopping at CVS- as soon as I realized, I went back immediately, and paid for it. However, none of this matters because none of that stopped me like so many others from being vulnerable. In my early twenties, I was laid off from my job. It also coincided with heartbreak after a relationship ended. I was a perfectionist. I was so hard on myself. I felt like a failure. I was ashamed. I didn't want to ask for help. I went into a depression. And that is when I met my traffickers. I was a prime target for them. And they were patient. It was a long grooming process. A process whereby they learned my vulnerabilities in order to exploit them. They gained my trust, they built up my confidence- they helped me start working again in my chosen profession. Just when I felt that my life was getting better, they went to the next phase. The take down.

This turned into eight years of abuse - abuse that a judge called akin to torture - involved involuntary domestic servitude, labor trafficking, sex trafficking and finally, forced marriage. I was under constant threat and fear for my life and for the safety of my loved ones. I was made to live out of suitcases, and was isolated from those who could help me. I took actions under extreme duress to survive. I received no profit from the crimes of my traffickers, only suffering. And yet today, along with so many other survivors, I pay the price for my traffickers' crimes. Many survivors during their trafficking victimization may experience "forced criminality," in which traffickers coerce their victims into committing crimes to profit the traffickers. As a result, trafficking victims may face unjust prosecution and punishment for their traffickers' crimes.

I did not benefit from any of this. Every penny that I "earned" at the direction of my traffickers was passed directly to them. For years, I lived out of a suitcase and I was rendered completely dependent on the traffickers. I was tortured. Yet, I was prosecuted. I had to resign from a job that I had only stellar performance reviews from when my unjust conviction for bank fraud and money laundering was finalized. I have to work so much harder now to earn a living due to my unjust criminalization. This is

often what leads to survivors being revictimized. Despite this, I am continuing to rebuild my life in ways within my control to do so.

During this time since my sentencing in September of 2024, I have continued my work that I have been doing over the last 7 years within this sector. Some of these highlights include the following:

- I started my own Human Resources and Recruiting firm. I also use this expertise to mentor and coach survivors to help them gain better employment and tackle the hurdles that we have to face.
- As a Certified Anti-Money Laundering specialist, I work with financial institutions nationwide to educate on the realities of Human Trafficking and how they can identify trafficking through the financial footprint and properly escalate to the authorities.
- I provided survivor support to financial institutions for the Survivor Inclusion Initiative.
- I worked on and testified on The Debt Bondage Repair Act and the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act. I am continuing to educate on these two pieces of legislation.
- I have been a featured speaker at ACAMS AML Symposiums, NGA's Criminal Justice Policy Advisor's briefing on Human Trafficking, and The Virginia Attorney General's Annual Human Trafficking Summit, HHS
- I was awarded the Pembroke Fellowship at the Human Trafficking Legal Center to help with Survivor Leadership Programs
- I am Secretary for the Survivor Advisory Board and a policy consultant.

I am determined to use my lived experience from these horrific years to bring meaningful change and protect others from human traffickers, and if I can't stop it from happening before, then I can at least help to provide a solution. It is important that there is recourse in place for victims who have been unjustly prosecuted. I urge you to please help pass this legislation to provide a vehicle for expungement for victims of trafficking like myself and so many others. The passage of this federal bill would merely bring federal procedure into alignment with state procedure which already provides for this relief for state criminal convictions. This will provide salvation for myself and so many others. Without it, I don't know what the future holds. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act will provide recourse to right this injustice that I and so many survivors face. It will help to restore faith in a system that is meant to protect, rather than punish us.

Sincerely,

Hollie Nadel

Lucy Bloom
Director of Impact Strategies
Altus Solutions, Inc.
February 24, 2025

Chairman Andy Biggs
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Lucy McBath
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Andy Biggs and Ranking Member Lucy McBath,

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act provides courts and defense with tools to recognize forced criminality in human trafficking cases and to relieve the survivor from criminal charges. As a survivor leader and an advocate who has stood in court rooms alongside survivors and sat at tables with judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors struggling to find legal remedy, I can tell you that THIS IS A BIG DEAL!

As survivors are charged for crimes they are forced to commit as part of being human trafficked, they are further harmed by the very system intended to protect them. And independence is out of reach as a criminal record now stands in the way of living-wage employment, housing, and educational opportunities. Not being identified as victims of a crime, they often return to their trafficker after serving time, not seeing any other option, and not having the options presented to them that they would have had they been identified and received victim services.

Seeing survivors charged for the crimes committed against them has been one of the most heartbreaking experiences in this work. Judges and Attorneys need these tools to support the freedom of survivors. Please do all that you can to support the TSRA!

Sincerely grateful for your service,

Lucy Bloom



Chairman Biggs, Ranking Member McBath, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the matter of essential trafficking survivor relief for victims, like Emma.

Emma was lured by her trafficker at 16, after being abused by the adults responsible for her care. She fled to him for food and shelter, and he demanded sex. He grew violent and kept her from school. He hurt her so badly she was hospitalized. Terrified, she did what he demanded: taking pictures of his other victims and posting them online. She quietly taught the other victims how to protect themselves from violent buyers. Despite the evidence of her own victimization, she received a ten-year prison sentence for child sex trafficking and was added to the sex offender registry.

Tragically, Emma’s story is like many others analyzed by Shared Hope International in the Victim Offender Intersectionality (VOI) report and training for stakeholders. There is a great injustice complicating the battle against trafficking in the United States referred to as victim-offender intersectionality, or VOI. Increasingly we are seeing trafficking victims charged, often alongside their own trafficker, with crimes related to their victimization—even sometimes with trafficking others. Injustice is inherent in this response; it is inconsistent with the actual dynamics of how trafficking occurs, the nature and extent of control exerted by sex traffickers, and the influence of trauma on sex trafficking survivors. While we work to end VOI criminalization and welcome the 45 state laws providing post-conviction relief, the many victims already convicted under federal offenses need the Trafficking Survivor’s Relief Act (“TSRA”) to rebuild their lives.

Since the 117th Congress, Shared Hope has worked in coalition with national partners, lived experience experts, and congressional offices to introduce and pass the TSRA. It is critical legislation that, when passed, will enable survivors of human trafficking to rebuild their lives free of the lasting stigma of a federal criminal record. Simultaneously, Shared Hope has engaged in post-conviction relief advocacy at the state level, achieving some form of vacatur or expungement law for survivors in 45 states including D.C., allowing survivors to clear criminal records and allowing them to fully engage in community roles previously closed to them as felons, like volunteering in their children’s schools and coaching their children’s sports teams. These laws have demonstrated profound benefits, including increased access to employment, stable housing, education, and financial independence—key factors in preventing re-victimization.

As states gain momentum in passing comprehensive post-conviction relief legislation, Congress must also act. The TSRA establishes a pathway for survivors to vacate non-violent criminal convictions that are a direct result of their trafficking experience, as well as an opportunity to raise an affirmative defense to avoid criminal liability. This provision is essential because it recognizes that survivors are often coerced or manipulated into committing crimes by their traffickers and should not be further victimized by the criminal justice system.

Having walked alongside, befriended, and employed survivors who were wrongfully criminalized, we know firsthand the insurmountable barriers and vulnerabilities created by criminal records stemming from trafficking victimization. Believing survivors cannot be supported and protected if they are being criminalized, Shared Hope staunchly supports the passage of the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act as a critical step towards true justice.

Shared Hope International is a nonprofit dedicated to preventing, restoring, and bringing justice to survivors of child and youth sex trafficking. Shared Hope has been working across the country around the globe for over 25 years to guide and support appropriate responses to protect survivors, hold offenders to account, and ultimately prevent the crime entirely.

Thank you for holding this vitally important hearing.

APPENDIX B

February 27, 2025

Dear Chairman Biggs and Ranking Member McBath,

My name is Camila Zolfaghari and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for Street Grace and the former Chief Human Trafficking Prosecutor for the Georgia Attorney General. Street Grace is the single point of contact for survivors services in East Tennessee and Georgia working closely to support law enforcement on the frontlines.

Human Traffickers prey on the most vulnerable. Most minor trafficking victims have multiple interactions with CPS both before, during, and after their trafficking. **Research published using data from Street Grace's direct services has found that 65% of minor victims of trafficking have a history of placement in foster care, and the average number of out-of-home placements was 3.47 (Furlong & Hinnant, 2024).** Also, research has shown that **"approximately 1 out of 5 children in foster care have been paid by someone for sex."** Courtney et al. (2007). Only a very small portion of these cases result in an exploiter being prosecuted.

As a long time human trafficking prosecutor, I relied heavily on recorded law enforcement forensic interviews in my prosecutions, but rarely if ever was able to use the scribbled or typed unreliable notes from a CPS interview.

Recorded interviews will not only be useful for prosecutions, but also decrease the number of times a victim needs to recount their traumatic experiences. This is particularly important for trafficking survivors, as repeated interviews can be re-traumatizing.

Time after time, both prosecutors and service providers, see that the longer an individual experiences the trauma of trafficking, the longer the recovery process will take. Recorded interviews can capture more detailed information, leading to earlier identification of trafficking victims. This is crucial, as earlier intervention can significantly impact the recovery process and the victim's ability to participate in prosecutions.

As I write, names and faces of those that we failed to identify as trafficking victims through many interactions with CPS come to mind. I strongly believed recorded interviews will reduce trauma for survivors, help identify victims sooner, and improve the quality of interviews thereby increasing the prosecution of traffickers.

Sincerely,



Camila W Zolfaghari, JD, LLM
Vice President of Government Affairs
Streetgrace.org

Impact Statement – GRACIE Act & TSRA

February 27, 2025

Dear Chairman Biggs and Ranking Member McBeth:

My name is Ashlie Bryant, and I am the CEO of 3Strands Global Foundation, an organization dedicated to preventing human trafficking and supporting survivors through education, employment, and reintegration programs. I write to express my strong support for the GRACIE Act and the Trafficking Survivor Relief Act, two critical bills that will protect vulnerable children and provide relief for trafficking survivors.

Human trafficking is a national crisis, and children in the foster care system are among the most vulnerable. Of the 390,000 children in foster care, 60% of child sex trafficking victims have a history of foster care involvement, and one in three foster youth who run away are approached by a trafficker within 48 hours. These numbers underscore the urgent need for reforms to prevent exploitation.

At 3Strands Global Foundation, we have seen firsthand how instability, multiple placements, and lack of trusted adults put system-involved youth at heightened risk. We operate a drop in center for at risk youth at the intersection of foster care and human trafficking in California, and our programs have educated 1.13 million students, teachers, and community members and provided employment and reintegration support to over 1,000 survivors.

The GRACIE Act, introduced by Senators Blackburn and Ossoff, would require recording CPS interviews with children and adults, ensuring critical documentation is available for investigations. In my 15 years of working alongside survivors, I have met many whose cries for help were lost in an overburdened system. Properly recorded interviews will:

- Improve victim identification through reliable documentation.
- Reduce retraumatization by limiting repeated interviews.
- Strengthen evidence collection to hold traffickers accountable.

We must ensure vulnerable children are not overlooked due to poor documentation or agency miscommunication.

Additionally, survivors of human trafficking often face lasting consequences due to criminal records tied to their exploitation. The Trafficking Survivor Relief Act allows survivors to clear non-violent convictions resulting from their trafficking, removing barriers to employment, housing, and education.

Through my work, I have met thousands of survivors who, despite escaping their traffickers, remain punished by records that should never define their futures. This bill will allow them to rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

As a longtime advocate, I have seen how policy change can transform lives. The GRACIE Act will help protect children from trafficking, while the Trafficking Survivor Relief Act will provide justice for survivors. I urge Congress to take action now—so no more children fall through the cracks, and no more survivors remain burdened by a past that was never their choice.

Sincerely,

Ashlie Bryant
CEO, 3Strands Global Foundation

APPENDIX C

Impact Statement

Greetings and thank you for your consideration of the National Human Trafficking Database Act.

The National Human Trafficking Database Act was inspired by and modeled after our work at Engage Together, so it may be helpful to understand that history and its impact. Since 2014, Engage Together has worked with hundreds of communities and thousands of anti-trafficking efforts across all 50 states to strengthen community response to end and prevent human trafficking. What we know is this: While the problem of human trafficking is certainly global, the solutions are often local. Prevention, intervention, and care all happen locally; and developing effective, localized solutions begins with data.

The Engage Together project provides a comprehensive picture of a state's current response to and risk for human trafficking. This risk and response analysis provides a roadmap for change - for all stakeholders. Then based on that data-driven roadmap, Engage Together partners closely with community leaders (including task forces, universities, nonprofits, and more) to strengthen community-based response. This process of identifying current strengths, gaps, and needs at both local community and broader regional levels leads to many impact-full and transformational outcomes, including: expanded employment and educational opportunities for survivors, stronger collaborations of law enforcement and service providers, better screening resources for earlier identification and intervention, needed reforms implemented in state laws and local systems, states receiving federal funding to support their anti-trafficking efforts, enhanced prevention strategies, increased support for local programs, and so much more.

While data is only the beginning, it is the critical foundation on which all efforts must be built to succeed. It was the latest iteration of Engage Together's project in Tennessee, accomplished in close collaboration with our partners at the Belmont Data & AI Collaborative, in support of and alongside the TN Bureau of Investigation's Human Trafficking Task Force and Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance, that caught the attention of Senators Blackburn and Klobuchar and inspired the bill before you today. It is a bill that will strengthen our nation's work to end and prevent human trafficking and care well for all those impacted by it. We look forward to the impact that will flow from this bill should it pass, and we stand ready to serve when it does.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh S. Chapman, JD
Founder/CEO, Engage Together®