

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

Rep. Tom Cole
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Services
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Services
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to you today to underscore the very important anti-trafficking work done by the Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) —and to ask that you direct full funding for ILAB to continue their very important anti-trafficking grant programs and reports under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-386) and its 2005 Reauthorization (P.L. 109-164).

Under Section 105 of P.L. 109-164, ILAB specifically is responsible to do the following:

- (A) to monitor the use of forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards;
- (B) to provide information regarding trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labor to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State for inclusion in trafficking in persons report required by section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b));
- (C) to develop and make available to the public a list of goods from countries that the Bureau of International Labor Affairs has reason to believe are produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards;
- (D) to work with persons who are involved in the production of goods on the list described in subparagraph (C) to create a standard set of practices that will reduce the likelihood that such persons will produce goods using the labor described in such subparagraph; and
- (E) to consult with other departments and agencies of the United States Government to reduce forced and child labor internationally and ensure that products made by forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards are not imported into the United States.

In carrying out these tasks, ILAB has identified the unique circumstances that lead to labor exploitation for children in over 140 countries. In countries and regions where information is scarce, ILAB funds groundbreaking research to put a spotlight on exploitation that is hidden in the shadows.

Every two years, ILAB releases its “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor.” The 2016 edition contains 139 goods, 75 countries, and a total of 379 items produced by child labor, forced labor, or both. ILAB has made over 1,000 pages of research on child labor and forced labor available through an innovative mobile app, Sweat & Toil.

Congress uses this information to provide oversight of the State Department Trafficking in Persons Report. Industries use this information to rid their supply chains of goods made with human trafficking—ILAB even works with industries on the ground to help them remove children from child labor, improve school infrastructure, create community-based child labor monitoring systems and action plans, and help families generate additional income so they do not depend on child labor. A child that receives an education is a child inoculated from trafficking.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection now uses the “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor” to keep such goods from entering the United States. The availability of a high quality report for use by U.S. Customs and Border Protection is more important than ever as Congress tightened the restrictions on what goods may enter the country last year in Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307). Keeping out slave-made goods puts human traffickers out of business.

We hope you will agree that ILAB is performing essential and comprehensive anti-trafficking activities worldwide, and that you will direct full funding in FY 2019 Appropriations with report language that states, “The Committee recommendation includes \$86,125,000 for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs [ILAB], of which \$59,825,000 is available for obligation through December 31, 2019.”

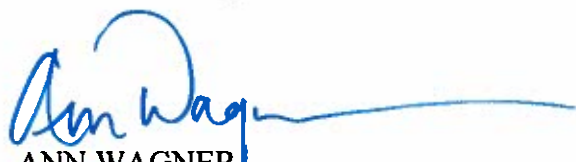
Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress



SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres

NORMA J. TORRES
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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
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