

Information for Writing Your Senators to Support Anti-human Trafficking Bills Expressing Similar Values to Five Bills Recently Passed by the House of Representatives

As part of our 2014 Quadrennial Assembly worship in Atlanta on Thursday, June 26th a large number of women crowded around five “take-action stations”. So many women crowded around the tables to write letters to their Senators informing them that we Disciples Women are placing a strong priority on ending human trafficking and its causes, that we ran out of stationary and envelopes!

As requested by those unable to write letters to their Senators at that time, here is the information needed for you to continue our letter writing campaign. Please make an effort not only to write letters to your own Senators but pass this information along and encourage your friends and family to do so as well.

Please ask your Senators you are encouraged to ask them to support passing anti-trafficking legislation in the Senate expressing similar values to the following five anti-human trafficking bills already passed by the House of Representatives (May 20th, 2014):

- 1. Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act (H.R. # 4225)** This bill makes it a federal crime to knowingly advertise for the commercial sex exploitation of minors and trafficking victims.
- 2. Justice For Victims of Trafficking Act (H.R. # 3530)** This bill aims at rescue domestic victims, track down their exploiters and provide additional tools to prosecutors.
- 3. Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act (H.R. #3610)** This bill encourages states to adopt safe harbor laws that treat trafficked minors as victims and provide access to protective services and counseling, rather than entering them in the legal system and being incarcerated.
- 4. Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act (H.R. #4058)** This bill requires states to take steps to identify, prevent and address sex trafficking of youth in foster care.
- 5. International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking (H.R. #4573)** This bill ensures that a destination country is aware when an American sex offender who has previously abused a child is traveling to that country and encourages reciprocal notification to protect American children from abuse by foreign sex offenders.

To locate the contact information for your Senators go to:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Please feel free to adapt the following script for your letter writing or phone calls made to your legislative leaders:

Dear Senator _____, I am writing to you as a resident of _____ (state) and the town of _____ (town). I also am a member (or leader) of a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For many years, our Disciples Women and other groups have placed a strong priority on ending human trafficking, and its causes. Due to those commitments, I strongly urge you to support anti-trafficking legislation in the Senate.

In May, 2014, the House passed bills that include SAVE Act, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act, and the International Megan’s Law to prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking (or, you can just write the numbers of the bills passed (HR 4225, HR 3530, HR 3610, HR 4058, HR 4573).

The passage of such bills are important to me because... (share a story about someone, or a set of values which supports your point of view.) I pray for your important work and look forward to hearing that you will work to support these types of protections for these very vulnerable children and youth in our midst.

In faith, _____ (your name)

** Your legislative leaders are always interested in hearing from their own constituents. It may seem intimidating to call or write (more than once about an issue), but our governmental systems depends on your being active in educating your legislators about concerns important to you. Even if you only get through to one of their legislative aids, you will find that you can build rapport and trust, and create an effective pattern of communication which will eventually cause your legislative leaders to take an interest in your concerns.

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