

To Your Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

To Your Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

Every year an estimated 100,000 to 300,000 children are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) in the United States¹. Despite the average age of a girl forced or coerced into prostitution being 12² these children are still treated as criminals and rejected by society.

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), “The sex industry has rapidly expanded over the past several decades. It involves sexual exploitation of persons, predominantly women and girls, involving activities related to prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and other commercial sexual services.”³

My desire is to see tougher penalties for the exploiters (i.e. pimps, johns, and traffickers) while extending compassion to the victims of these horrible crimes. I do not support legalizing prostitution; however, the women and girls trapped in the endless cycle of sexual abuse and exploitation should be treated better than their abusers.

Secondly, experts have suggested a national database of human trafficking would substantially increase the effectiveness of local and national law enforcement agencies to combat the growing epidemic of trafficking in people. I ask that you would support any such measure.

Finally, state laws must address the issue of CSEC. Federal laws, such as TVPA, can only be prosecuted by District Attorneys and many DA’s are overloaded as it stands. More targeted state laws would allow more attorneys to tackle these difficult cases.

Sincerely,

1. Estes & Weiner; 2001
2. Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, U.S. Dept. of Justice
3. TVPA 2000; sec102, b2