

July 22, 2011

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Thank you for your correspondence regarding child trafficking in the United States. It is an honor to serve the Nineteenth Congressional District of New York. Your thoughts and concerns are important to me.

As you may know, the Department of State began monitoring human trafficking in 1994, tracking cases of men, women, and children in all forms of forced labor, including agriculture, domestic service, construction work and sweatshops, as well as commercial sexual exploitation. The *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000* was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton on October 28, 2000, to ensure that human traffickers were punished for their crimes and victims received appropriate services. Since its passage, this law has been amended several times, most recently in 2008.

Also, an amendment to the fiscal year 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act passed with my support, to ensure that no American tax dollars are used to finance human trafficking. We must make sure that our funds are never used to exploit humans. In addition, on June 16, 2011, Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) introduced H.R. 2235, the *Child Trafficking Victims Protection Act*. If enacted, this legislation would provide for enhanced protections for vulnerable unaccompanied alien children and female detainees. H.R. 2235 has been referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security, where it awaits further review. While I am not a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I look forward to reviewing the Committee's findings on H.R. 2235. As a mother of two, child safety is very important to me. If stricter laws are required to better combat child trafficking, I will readily consider them.

Thank you again for contacting me. I appreciate hearing your views. Please visit our website at www.hayworth.house.gov for more information, and feel free to contact our office should you have concerns in the future.

Sincerely,
«SigBlock»
Nan Hayworth, M.D.
Member of Congress

NH/AG/EOB

