

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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March 13, 2017

The Honorable Ann Wagner
435 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wagner:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing to you regarding amending the Communications Act of 1934, to permit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of federal and state criminal and civil law relating to the sexual exploitation of children or the sex trafficking of children.

There is no question today that unfettered access to the internet has put our children at risk to various types of sexual predators. No doubt the moral fabric of our nation has been polluted with the sale of underage children on the most hidden parts of the internet called the "Dark-Net." On these dangerous websites one can purchase sexual services from children trapped in the human sex trafficking trade.

This bill would allow state law enforcement to go after websites like Backpage.com (an adult classified site that advertises about 80% of America's sex trafficking victims) and to let sex trafficking victims exercise their private right of action against the websites that knowingly advertise them. States must be able to enforce sex trafficking laws in their jurisdictions, yet the courts have interpreted section 230 to circumvent that right and give broad immunity to online criminal enterprises.

The Senate Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing in January after a year-long investigation of the website, concluding that Backpage.com facilitates online sex trafficking. The investigation uncovered the truth about Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which acts as a freedom law that provides a safe haven for website publishers to advertise for underage sex.

FLEOA appreciates your time and effort regarding our support for amending the Communications Act of 1934 to permit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of federal and state criminal and civil law relating to the

sexual exploitation of children or the sex trafficking of children. We look forward to standing with this important bipartisan legislation.

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs