

# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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July 27, 2017

Senator John Cornyn  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

As the President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), I am writing to you to endorse your amending the Communications Act of 1934 and the Communications Decency Act of 1996. FLEOA is the nation's largest non-partisan, non-profit, professional association representing more than 26,000 federal law enforcement officers and agents from 65 agencies. Your legislation amending the Communications Decency Act of 1996 will permit enforcement actions against websites that facilitate sex trafficking and 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. At the conclusion of an 18-month investigation in January 2017, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations issued a report finding that the website Backpage.com facilitated the criminal sex trafficking of vulnerable women and young girls.

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 by providing a safe haven for website publishers to advertise for underage sex. The bill will also allow victims to seek justice against websites that knowingly or recklessly facilitated their victimization.

FLEOA appreciates your time, effort, and support for amending the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to permit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services. The sexual exploitation of children and the sex trafficking of children is an abhorrent form of slavery that must be prevented. We look forward to standing with you on this important bipartisan legislation.

*Nathan R. Catura*

Nathan R. Catura

National President  
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association