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LOCAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MAY 7, 2013

Serial No. 113–19

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/ or http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

80–798PDF WASHINGTON : 2013

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
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CONTENTS

Page

WITNESSES

Mr. Don Knabe, supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 7
Mr. Bradley Myles, executive director and chief executive officer, Polaris Project 16
Shawn MacDonald, Ph.D., director of programs and research, Verité 25

LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING

Mr. Don Knabe: Prepared statement 9
Mr. Bradley Myles: Prepared statement 18
Shawn MacDonald, Ph.D.: Prepared statement 27

APPENDIX

Hearing notice 64
Hearing minutes 65
The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, a Representative in Congress from the Commonwealth of Virginia: Prepared statement 67

LOCAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:08 a.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edward Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. This focus of this committee hearing is on local and private sector initiatives to combat international human trafficking in persons. If we think about it, one of the big questions of civilization is how we treat those who are most defenseless in our midst, and the responsibility that we all have in a society in order to try to come to the aid of those who are most exploited. And in terms of trafficking in persons, this is one of the most grievous offenses against human dignity. It impacts almost every country on this planet. It disproportionately victimizes girls, children.

Experts estimate that, in terms of all forms of trafficking, there are 20 million people worldwide subjected to forced labor, a broad designation that covers everything from debt bondage to the forced conscription of child soldiers, to the commercial exploitation of millions of women and children trapped in lives of sexual servitude. But even these jarring statistics can obscure the despair at the heart of these crimes. The harm of trafficking may be more clearly seen in the eyes of an abused 12-year-old girl who is being robbed of her freedom, robbed of her youth and of her hope.

My chief of staff, Amy Porter, has worked with young girls in India and in Cambodia, girls rescued from brothels and other deplorable situations whose ages ranged from 16 years of age down to 3.

As we will hear today, these are not just faraway problems affecting the developing world. More than 17,000 people are trafficked into the United States every year, and there is an estimate of 100,000 American citizen children who are victims within the United States of trafficking.

And just this week, the media has reported a Federal investigation into the alleged trafficking of two Filipino victims by a Saudi diplomat here in the DC area.

This committee has played a role in putting human trafficking onto the radar screen for governments everywhere. In the past 13 years, international peer pressure and the potential threat of U.S.

sanctions have pushed many nations to try to avoid the stain of a "tier III" designation in the State Department's annual report, and more than 130 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws. But, of course, passing a law is not the same thing as enforcing that law. And not only does much work remain to be done to prosecute traffickers and protect victims everywhere, but a lot of work remains to be done on this committee.

Much of the focus on trafficking has been brought by our Subcommittee Chairman Smith over the years. He is the author of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the TVPA. And he held an excellent hearing 2 weeks ago on the State Department's country tier rankings. I fully expect the committee to return to those issues again in June, when the administration releases its annual TIP Report.

But the struggle that I and Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith have had over the last few years is with the State Department and their lack of willingness, their lack of honesty in naming names and in putting on the tier III list these countries that are involved.

And in many cases, as in the case of Cambodia, this corruption goes right up to the top. And it is far past time, far past time for this government to be bringing all the pressure we need to bring to bear on regimes around the world that turn a blind eye or, as is the case of Cambodia, law enforcement agencies that are actually culpable in these abuses.

The focus today is on some of the promising local and private sector initiatives that are connecting and empowering communities around the world in the fight against human trafficking.

As is the case in so many endeavors, local communities, individual citizens, private businesses are often the engine of real change. And in that regard, I am pleased to welcome as one of our witnesses Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, whose is here with his wife, Julie. Their commitment has aided victims and raised awareness among our shared constituents and throughout the State of California.

The committee looks forward to learning more today about how these innovative partnerships are developing new tools to defeat traffickers, to rescue their victims, to fight the spread of modern-day slavery around the globe.

And I now recognize my good friend the ranking member for his remarks before turning briefly to the chairman and ranking member of our Human Rights Subcommittee for 2-minute opening statements. Mr. Engel?

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing. I know that California has been particularly progressive on measures to stop human trafficking.

Supervisor Knabe, Mr. Myles, and Dr. MacDonald, welcome to the Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to hearing your testimony on creating successful local and private sector initiatives in the fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 21 million victims of trafficking worldwide, including 5½ million children. The Department of Justice and the FBI reported over 1,200 human trafficking investigations in 2011 in the United

States. In reality, it is likely that there are many more victims of trafficking since it is a widely unreported crime.

Unfortunately, trafficking is a thriving industry found in all regions of the world. It generates more than $30 billion in profits every year from the sale of human beings and the estimated proceeds from the activities or goods produced by its victims.

Human trafficking is a crime that requires the coordinated action of governments to stop and prosecute, but the private sector also has a key role to play by engaging with NGOs and governments to combat trafficking. Members of the private sector admit a difficult truth, that human trafficking in their supply chains, factories, farms, plantations, and restaurants is a serious problem. Only by working hand in hand with private sector partners can we put an end to modern-day slavery.

Since 2001, I have been deeply involved in a closely related issue: Ending child labor in the global cocoa industry. After learning of horrendous abuses involving children being sold into slavery in the cocoa fields of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, Senator Harkin and I formulated the Harkin-Engel protocol to put an end to these despicable practices. This approach was the first of its kind. Over the past 12 years, we have worked with the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and the global chocolate industry to formalize engagements with the private sector.

The private sector is supportive of these efforts with $10 million matched by $10 million in U.S. Government funds. The protocol supports active civic engagement of local communities to fight exploitation. We must do even more to promote greater certification and verification efforts across a wide range of industries to ensure that the products we consume at home are not tainted by trafficked labor.

Working in human trafficking is a bipartisan cause. I am pleased that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was reauthorized in February of this year along with the Violence Against Women Act, which included some important trafficking provisions. I also want to recognize President Obama's Executive Order strengthening protections against trafficking in Federal contracts, which he issued last year.

The original Trafficking Victims Protection Act, championed by our colleague Chris Smith, established a plan to eliminate the scourge of human trafficking. It included the three P's: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution. And, under the leadership of Secretary Hillary Clinton, a fourth P was established, partnerships with governments and organizations, the subjects of today's hearings.

I have been impressed by Supervisor Knabe's efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in the Los Angeles area, Polaris' partnership with Google to create a global anti-trafficking hotline and Verité's work on ensuring that companies adhere to international labor standards down their supply chain.

I am interested in hearing more from today's witnesses on how to bring more businesses to the table to fight human trafficking and learn how the U.S. can lead by example for the rest of the world.

One last point. I would like to commend the work of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,

or J/TIP. Their annual reports in human trafficking worldwide is key in making sure both Congress and the public understand the extent of the problem and the progress being made toward its elimination. I look forward to this year's report.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you again for your leadership and for holding this important hearing. And I look forward to the testimony.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

We now go to Mr. Smith of New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to thank you for your leadership and for holding this extraordinarily important hearing on best practices by the local and private sectors. And I want to make the point that it is a fact that innovation and best practices that are developed in the United States are being exported to fight human trafficking abroad.

The three P's of Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution have become the standards by which we evaluate every country's anti-trafficking efforts and the hammer with which we have chipped away at slavery around the world for more than a decade.

Predictably, the traffickers have evolved and adapted along the way, but so have we, with the invaluable help of local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and private enterprise thinking carefully and creatively about what they can offer to this important fight.

NGOs like Airline Ambassadors and Innocents at Risk pioneered training for flight attendants and other airline personnel to ensure that flight crews would know how to recognize potential victims of human trafficking and who to call for help.

The Department of Homeland Security has subsequently developed this idea into a full-fledged training known as Blue Lightning for use by commercial airlines. Even more, what began as an NGO training for airline personnel has now developed into training for train conductors, bus station attendants, and other transportation professionals, as well as the hotel industry, who may have the opportunity to identify and help rescue trafficking victims.

In my capacity as special representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, I have had the privilege of sharing the fine work of Airline Ambassadors and the broader transportation implications with 57 participating states of the OSCE.

In like manner, it is my deepest hope, and I raise it at every bilateral meeting that I have, that African countries, Asian countries, and all nations will embrace situational awareness strategies that empower the training to report suspicious activity to stop this egregious exploitation.

The Airline Ambassadors initiative has already resulted in the rescue of more than 100 trafficking victims and will soon rescue thousands more. Collaboratively, we are narrowing the space in which traffickers can operate. Every best practice and innovation we can share with the world helps to tip the scale a little more in the direction of freedom for the enslaved and then prison for the slave masters.

You pointed out the importance of honesty, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned. And that is why I had the hearing just a couple of

weeks ago that now that those countries that are on tier II watch lists that have horrific trafficking records vis-à-vis the minimum standards.

Now, unfortunately, with the new reauthorization, there is a tipping of the balance toward the regional bureaus and a power shift away from the TIP office; there is always a fight inside the State Department. I am deeply concerned about those like China; Vietnam, and I know you have been a tenacious champion in fighting for human rights in Vietnam, and other countries will not go down to tier III, where they belong because the regional bureaus will have a disproportionate say as to what happens.

We plan on holding hearings when the TIP Report comes out. We have given them forewarning with the hearing we have just had of these deep concerns. Just be honest, as you pointed out so well, Mr. Chairman. Call it the way it really is and not have that TIP Report in some way reflect a fiction.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Smith. We do put them on notice.

Karen Bass from Los Angeles, California, do you have an opening statement you would like to make?

Ms. BASS. I do. I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for holding this meeting, and ranking member.

I was fortunate enough to assist with the passage of Supply Chain Act during my time in the California Assembly. So I am pleased to see the committee take up the issue at this time.

I would also like to thank our witnesses for your testimony and recognize you for the inspiring work that you do every day to combat the exploitation of individuals domestically and internally. Supervisor Knabe and Child Welfare Director Philip Browning, I also want to personally commend you for launching the L.A. County Anti-Child Sex Trafficking Campaign and for your continued advocacy on behalf of foster youth. There is also the issue of sexual exploitation of women, men, and often children.

This issue is particularly important to me because of the impact on my hometown of Los Angeles and the prevalence of foster youth being trafficked for this purpose. In 2012, the L.A. County reported that an astonishing 59 percent of youth identified as victims of sex trafficking were part of the foster care system. Forced to bounce in and out of homes without basic physical or emotional needs fulfilled, these youth are often exploited by pimps and are conditioned to believe that their value is based on how much income they can generate. It is absolutely unacceptable to allow the continued victimization and abuse of a population that we have vowed to care for and protect.

That is why I, along with my colleague Tom Marino, have reintroduced the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act. This bill will provide child welfare employees with appropriate tools to identify, document, educate, and counsel child trafficking victims and at-risk youth and require these agencies to report the numbers of trafficking victims in foster care and their plans to combat trafficking to the Federal Government.

But congressional action is not enough. We must undertake a whole of society approach to ensure the safety and dignity of traf-

ficking victims. There are many private organizations that are currently addressing this issue in many creative ways. Humanity United, a foundation devoted to advancing human freedom across the globe, has supported anti-trafficking initiatives by the Federal Government and the California Attorney General's Office. The University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication in Journalism has been working closely with the FBI and other Federal agencies to study technology's role in both facilitating and fighting human trafficking. Many hotel chains are now training their employees to identify signs of sex trafficking. We really appreciate that.

I look forward to hearing what other strategies are in place to address this problem in gaining a better understanding of where the gaps exist in our efforts to end human trafficking locally as well as internationally.

Thank you. I yield back my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Congresswoman Bass.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, who is the first of our witnesses with us today, has been a tireless crusader in Los Angeles County ever since he became aware of the heinous child sex trafficking problems in our own backyard. And those challenges represent the victimization of girls as young as 12. He has pushed for multidisciplinary outreach and rehabilitation services for sexually trafficked females in the juvenile justice system. As you heard, he spearheaded several different initiatives.

But a year ago in conjunction with law enforcement and transit officials and private sector media companies, he led an anti-sex trafficking campaign to raise public awareness and engagement by placing bilingual signs and billboards in high-traffic public places in the community, such as on the buses, on transit. And that program has been further extended this fall.

He has also been a strong public advocate for the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act, an act which is now law in the State of California, that strengthens penalties against traffickers and extends victims' protections.

We also have with us Mr. Bradley Myles, chief executive officer of the Polaris Project, a leading organization in the fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Mr. Myles helped launch the National Human Trafficking Hotline to identify and assist survivors of trafficking. Previously he worked to build the Human Trafficking Task Force here in Washington, DC.

We also have with us Dr. Shawn MacDonald. Dr. MacDonald is the director of programs and research at Verité, a group that works with private companies to make their supply chains free of human trafficking victims. Prior to his current position, he worked as the director of accreditation at the Fair Labor Association.

And, without objection, the witnesses' full prepared statements will be made part of the record. Members may have 5 days to submit statements, questions, and extraneous material for the record. And we would ask that everybody summarize their opening statements within 5 minutes. We will begin with Supervisor Knabe.

Mr. KNABE. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. DON KNABE, SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. KNABE. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for your leadership in helping to raise awareness of this horrific issue of child sex trafficking around the globe.

I appreciate the opportunity to be with you today. And, Mr. Chairman, as you said, given our time frame, I am going to summarize the written statement which I have submitted to the committee.

As some of you may know, Los Angeles County is the largest county in the Nation, with over 10 million residents. And in my district alone, I represent over 2 million people. I have been honored to serve the county for nearly 20 years. But never in my time in office have I heard an issue as shocking and disturbing as what is happening to young girls right here in the streets of America.

About 18 months ago, staff from our Probation Department came to me to discuss what they were seeing as an escalating problem in our juvenile justice system: Young girls being arrested for prostitution. While society often has characterized it as a choice, the average age of entry we discovered into prostitution is 12 to 13.

Shortly after our initial meeting, at a fundraising event for survivor programs, one of our probation officers was texted that a 10-year-old, a 10-year-old, had just been taken into custody for prostitution at 6 o'clock p.m. on a Tuesday night. No 10-year-old little girl is choosing that life.

Today I would like to just briefly discuss some of our efforts to combat child sex trafficking and the intersection of international and local efforts to safeguard our most vulnerable young people.

Los Angeles County, unfortunately, is recognized as one of the hubs for sex trafficking in the Nation. With our two major ports, airport, proximity to the border, we are particularly vulnerable, though we are not alone. Big cities, small towns across this Nation are waking up to the horror that young girls are being trafficked across city limits, state lines, and country borders.

Despite the varying locations, however, the story of these girls is much the same. Children who fall victim to predatory adults are often in the streets because of abuse or neglect at home. The trafficker, the scum bag pimp, as they are often called, in the United States promises love, family, a job, and security.

In Los Angeles, our infamous gangs, many of which have international connections, are now engaging in child sex trafficking because it is much safer for them to sell a girl than guns or drugs. And, frankly, it is more profitable. Once put to work in the streets, these young girls can be given a quota of $500 or more a night, which could lead to 8 or 10 or more sexual acts, which she must meet or, unfortunately, risk brutal violence.

Indeed, these threats are very legitimate. One survivor told us of an incident in which several girls were taken to the desert and forced to watch as one was burned to death for attempting to run away.

As we see patterns in child sex trafficking across geography, we also must develop models for protection and prevention by working together across all levels of government and with NGOs both here as well as internationally.

For us in Los Angeles County, it started with building awareness. As a member of the board, we also sit on the MTA board. Last year, we posted a campaign in English and Spanish about sexually trafficked youth on all 3,000 Metrobuses, railcars, trains, and at stations, and also on our Metrolink system, which crosses county borders, into places where we believe young people are most vulnerable.

I was pleased that the private sector voluntarily joined us in our efforts. Clear Channel and Lamar Advertising donated over 100 billboards and 50 digital displays to show advertisements across Los Angeles County.

We have created a video called "Manipulated" to tell the story of child sex trafficking, which has had over 40,000 hits and been viewed in 171 countries.

Raising awareness, however, is just not about the public. Through a grant through this gracious committee here, we have trained over 1,600 people, like judges, attorneys, county staff who regularly come in contact with victims but may not realize it.

Through another Federal grant, we have established a Collaborative Court to focus specifically on the victims of child sex trafficking. Through this court, which is dedicated to the victims only, we are able to provide the girls with wrap-around victim-centered response teams to help them with their physical as well as their mental health issues as well as housing, education, and training services.

Last summer, Los Angeles County hosted the first national Empowerment Conference for the victims, at-risk girls, to help them overcome their challenges; heal their wounds; and, most importantly, look toward the future. In fact, five of these young women, survivors, will be here in DC this week to advocate on behalf of all victims of human trafficking. And, of course, helping the victims is critical, but we also must find ways to prevent this atrocity altogether.

We are beginning to build partnerships with local school districts. We have a program called My Life, My Choice to select middle schools where we know exploitation is the highest.

It has been 18 months since we started our journey in Los Angeles County. I am proud of what our county staff has accomplished and pleased that we have had support from our Federal partners here as well as the private sector.

The voices of these abused children often remain silent. In the past, young girls arrested for prostitution were judged by society exactly as their pimps predicted.

The pimp life, outrageously, has been celebrated. Through education, survivor, and prevention programs and legislation, we are going to reverse this injustice. Young girls, those that we are responsible to protect, as you all know, no matter where they are from or where they have been trafficked, they are true victims, but that we are here to support to help them realize that their lives are valuable and that they are worthy of the dreams they once imagined. We must do everything we can to get these girls off that track and on a path to a better life ahead and together say no more, not in our streets, not to our young girls.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Knabe follows:]

Testimony by Mr. Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

May 7, 2013

Hearing: "Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking"

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for your leadership in raising awareness of the horrific issue of child sex trafficking around the globe. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Don Knabe and I serve as Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Fourth District. Los Angeles County is the largest county in the nation, with over 10 million residents. In my district alone, I represent over two million people.

I have been honored to serve Los Angeles County for nearly 20 years. While the County serves as the ultimate safety net for those most in need, never in my time in office have I heard an issue as shocking and disturbing as what is happening to young girls right here in our streets in America.

About 18 months ago, staff from our Probation Department came to me to discuss what they were seeing as an escalating problem in our juvenile justice system – young girls being arrested for prostitution. While society often characterizes it as a choice, the average age of entry into prostitution is 12 to 13.

Shortly after our initial meeting, at a fundraising event for survivor programs, one of our Probation officers was notified that a 10 year-old had just been taken into custody for prostitution at 6pm on a Tuesday evening. No 10 year-old little girl is choosing that life!

In the year and a half since we began proactively addressing the sexual exploitation of children, we have gained significant insight into this issue, while recognizing we have a long journey ahead to protect these girls and prevent this heinous crime.

Today, I would like to talk to you about our efforts to combat child sex trafficking and the intersection of international and local efforts to safeguard our most vulnerable young people.

Los Angeles County is recognized as one of the hubs for sex trafficking in the nation. With our two major ports, airport and proximity to the border, we are particularly vulnerable, though we are not alone. Big cities and small towns across this nation are waking up to the horror that young girls are being trafficked across city limits, state lines and country borders.

Despite the varying locations, however, the story of these girls is much the same. Children who fall victim to predatory adults who sexually exploit them for commercial gain are often in the streets because of abuse or neglect at home. The trafficker, or pimp as they are often called in the U.S., promises love, family, a job, security.

In Los Angeles, our infamous gangs, many of which have international connections, are increasingly engaged in child sex trafficking because it is safer for them to sell a girl than drugs or guns, and frankly, it can be more profitable. Once put to work in the streets, a girl can be given a quota of $500 or more a night, which could lead to eight to ten or more sexual acts a night, which she must meet or risk brutal violence.

A young girl has suffered in her own home and then moves to a life on the streets where she is further victimized. A road out seems impossible. The pimp coerces her emotionally or physically, either by convincing her that what she has done will make her a societal outcast, or by threatening her or her family with violence. Indeed, these threats are very legitimate. One survivor told us of an incident in which several girls were taken to the desert and forced to watch as one was burned to death for attempting to run away.

As we see patterns in child sex trafficking across geography, we must also develop models for protection and prevention, by working together across levels of government and with NGOs, both here and internationally.

For us in Los Angeles County, it started with building awareness. I would argue that there is some public knowledge of human trafficking, but to most people, it is happening "over there" in some distant foreign country, not here in our communities. I admit that I, too, was guilty of that assumption. So we began our efforts with a focus on several levels of outreach.

As a County Board Supervisor, I also sit on our Metropolitan Transit Authority Board. Last year, we launched a campaign to post information, in English and Spanish, about sexually-trafficked youth on all 3,000 Metro buses, on rail cars, trains, and at stations, and on all Metrolink trains (which cross county borders) to shine a light on this travesty in those places where we believe young people are most vulnerable (a copy is included with this testimony).

I was pleased that the private sector voluntarily joined us in our efforts. Clear Channel and Lamar Advertising donated over 100 billboards and 50 digital displays to show the advertisement across Los Angeles County (a copy is included with this testimony).

We also created a video called *Manipulated*, to tell the story of child sex trafficking through the eyes of a survivor and an undercover officer. It has had over 40,000 hits and has been viewed in 171 countries (a copy is included with this testimony).

Raising awareness, however, is not just about the public. Through a federal grant, we have trained over 1600 people, including judges, attorneys, community partners, county staff and other stakeholders who regularly come in contact with victims. Similarly, we would like to help medical professionals in emergency rooms and rape crisis centers see the warning signs.

Through another federal grant, we established a Collaborative Court to focus specifically on the victims of child sex trafficking. As it is a misdemeanor charge, the children arrested for prostitution are often released, with their pimp waiting outside the courthouse doors. Through the Court, we are able to provide the young girls with a victim-centered response team to help them with their physical and mental health issues, and to support them with housing, education and training services.

Last summer, Los Angeles County hosted the first national Empowerment Conference, "Inspiring Hope through Survivor Leadership," for the victims and at-risk girls to help them overcome their challenges, heal their wounds and look towards the future. In fact, five of those young women are here in Washington, D.C. this week to advocate on behalf of all victims of human trafficking.

Of course, helping the victims is critical, but we must also find ways to prevent this atrocity altogether. We are beginning to build partnerships with local school districts to bring a preventive curriculum we are using in our probation halls, *My Life, My Choice,* to select middle schools where we know exploitation is highest.

As the largest county in the nation, I believe it is our duty to share our knowledge, experiences and programs with other jurisdictions. Earlier this year, we hosted the National Association of Counties' Smart Justice Symposium. Our County Probation Department and Juvenile Court officials joined with Homeland Security and the FBI to share information with large and small counties across the United States.

While survivor and prevention programs are fundamental, legislative action is necessary to punish the true criminals and defend the victims. Last year, the voters of California overwhelming passed the CASE Act, the toughest human trafficking law in the country. It will strengthen penalties and increase prison terms for human traffickers and protect sexually exploited children. Two pieces of legislation have also been introduced to add pimping, pandering and human trafficking to the list of crimes associated with gang activity, and to help us better assist children in these circumstances who are in our foster care system.

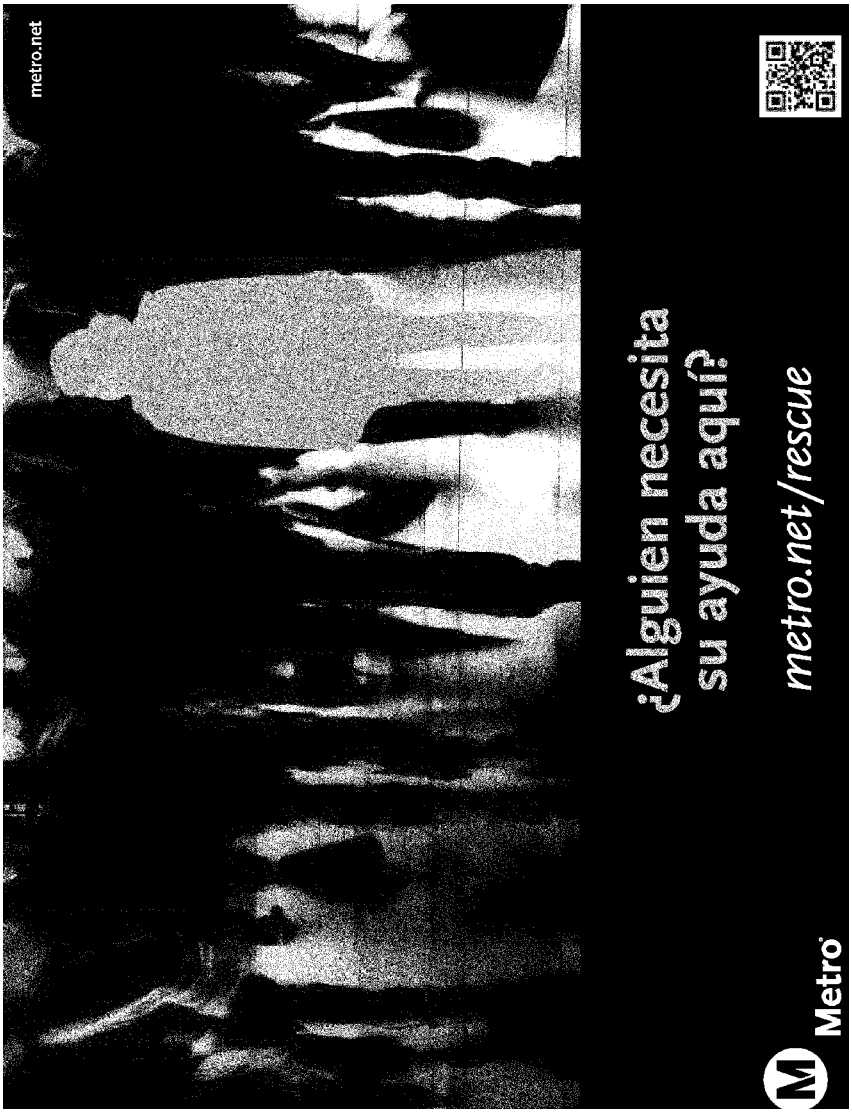
It's been 18 months since we started on this journey in Los Angeles County. I am proud of what our County staff has accomplished and pleased that we have had support from our federal partners and the private sector.

The voices of abused children often remain silent. In the past, young girls arrested for prostitution were judged by society, exactly as their pimps predicted. The pimp life, outrageously, has been celebrated. Through education, survivor and prevention programs, and legislation, we will reverse this injustice. Young girls, those we are responsible to protect, will know that, no matter where they are from or how they have been trafficked, they are the true victims. But that we are here for support, to help them realize their lives are valuable and that they are worthy of the dreams they once imagined.

We must do everything we can to get these girls off the track and on a path to a better life ahead and together say, "No more; not in our streets; not to our young girls."

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today.

metro.net
Sexually trafficked children
are hiding in plain sight.
metro.net/rescue
Metro


metro.net
¿Alguien necesita
su ayuda aquí?
metro.net/rescue
Metro

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Knabe.
Mr. Myles? Mr. Myles, just hit that button there.
Mr. MYLES. There we go.
Chairman ROYCE. There you go.
Mr. MYLES. I will start again.

STATEMENT OF MR. BRADLEY MYLES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, POLARIS PROJECT

Mr. MYLES. Thank you for convening this hearing today and inviting me to speak. My name is Bradley Myles. I am the CEO of Polaris Project. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating human trafficking and modern slavery.

In my testimony today, I would like to focus on one area of a comprehensive approach to fighting trafficking, which is anti-trafficking hotlines and the powerful role that hotlines can play as part of an effective anti-trafficking response. And let's first start with a point about victim identification.

You all mentioned the statistic of 21 million. Well, that same year the Trafficking in Persons report estimated that only around 41,000 trafficking victims were identified globally. So based on those 2 estimates, 21 million and 41,000, our collective victim identification rates are not yet even at 1 percent of the total people in modern slavery.

And one of the most common problems is that victims don't know where to go for help. They don't know that there are numbers that they can call for help.

So Polaris Project has piloted local anti-trafficking hotlines in multiple U.S. cities. And for the past 5 years, we have operated the country's 24/7 central human trafficking hotline, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. The number is 1–888–373–7888. This hotline is funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We have also recently launched a national texting service, which is BeFree, 233733, in partnership with THORN, Twilio, Salesforce.com, in an effort to reach more victims.

Here are some of the highlights of the work that we have seen on the U.S. national hotline. First, we have fielded over 75,000 calls. They are coming in at a rate of about 80 a day. Thus far, we have learned about 9,000 survivors of trafficking, and we have received calls directly from 3,500 survivors of trafficking. So the survivors are calling the hotline directly. We reported over 3,200 cases of trafficking to law enforcement authorities.

So this brings me to a point about hotlines and the importance of data. Not only can hotlines play a role in victim identification and connecting survivors to services, hotlines can also play a role as robust sources of data to understand the crime of trafficking. By adding a data analysis component, hotlines can identify the newest trends in patterns and then communicate those to relevant actors in the field to learn about how to fight this crime.

So, moving forward, I would like to share with you two initiatives that we are working on, both related to anti-trafficking hotlines globally. The first is in 2012, Polaris Project launched our new global programming with funding, in part, from the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Per-

sons. And through this recent TIP office grant, what we are going to do is we are going to map and identify every human trafficking hotline globally around the world. We are going to connect with those hotlines to learn more about them, and we are going to offer training and technical assistance to support the creation and expansion of other human trafficking hotlines in target countries.

In the early months of this program, we have already identified 70 anti-trafficking hotlines around the world that we are beginning to be in touch with. And some of the initial lessons that we have learned are that hotlines around the world are essentially hidden gems. They are under-resourced. They are under-publicized. They are uncoordinated. And they are not fully maximizing their potential to identify more victims to connect them with services and to understand how to fight this crime. So this brings me to the second initiative.

In April 2013, we joined with Liberty Asia and La Strada International to form a new network of anti-trafficking hotlines across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. This initiative, entitled the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, recently received a global impact award from Google and engineering support from Google Ideas, Palantir Technologies, and Salesforce.com. And through this network, we are developing a more coordinated global response for victims of this transnational crime. And one of our goals is hotline coverage for every part of the world.

So let me end with these final thoughts. We need to modernize the concept of a hotline. For us, next generation hotlines need to communicate, not just through the phone but through texting, through email, through online, through social media. Hotline can also build better cloud-based call data tracking systems, and they could build better data analysis systems. These are some of the new standards that we could aim for.

So imagine what our global anti-trafficking effort could feel like if there were a well-publicized, well-resourced hotline operating in every country or every region of the world. And through the GHTHN network that we are building these hotlines, we are sharing data. They were leveraging new technologies. They are partnering with the private sector and coordinating more with each other.

And, combined with the spread of mobile devices around the world, this new global safety net will make it easier for the millions of people in slavery to reach out to the hotline and access help. To make all of this come to life, hotlines rely on public awareness. And it all starts with public awareness; with training; as Congressman Smith said, situational awareness strategies; transport systems; hotels, as Congresswoman Bass mentioned. And if we could take the situational awareness strategies, channel them into a well network infrastructure of hotlines, channel those calls into referral relationships to law enforcement and social service providers, and add to that data analysis to understand the crime, that is a powerful recipe for fighting trafficking in any country. So these are some of the initiatives that Polaris is working on that we believe will make a major impact in the global fight against trafficking.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you today. I will look forward to taking your questions. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Myles follows:]

TESTIMONY

of

BRADLEY W. MYLES

Executive Director and CEO, Polaris Project

Before

Committee on Foreign Affairs

United States House of Representatives

"Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking"

Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 10:00am EST

Chairman Royce, Ranking Member Engel, and Committee Members,

Thank you for convening this hearing on Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking and for inviting a diverse group of stakeholders from the anti-trafficking field to share our work with you.

My name is Bradley Myles, and I am the Executive Director and CEO of Polaris Project, a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC and dedicated to combatting human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Polaris Project was founded in 2002, and we are named after the North Star, "Polaris," that guided slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. In our first 10 years of operations, Polaris Project's direct victim services programs have served more than 500 survivors of human trafficking; our policy advocacy program has been involved in the passage of multiple federal bills and nearly 100 state bills on human trafficking; our training and technical assistance programs have offered training to nearly 100,000 stakeholders and community members; and through our operation of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline, we have fielded over 75,000 calls, and played a role in identifying nearly 9,000 survivors of trafficking to date. We focus on all forms and all types of human trafficking including men and women, adults and children, sex trafficking and labor trafficking, and immigrant and U.S. citizen victims.

In my testimony today, I plan to focus primarily on one area of Polaris Project's comprehensive approach: anti-trafficking hotlines and the powerful role that hotlines play as a critical part of an effective anti-trafficking response in any country. I will share lessons learned from our work that began with operating local community-based hotlines in communities such as Washington, DC, and Newark, NJ, which then led to our work operating our country's central human trafficking hotline over the past five years. Beginning in 2012, our ten year anniversary, we launched our future global vision for expanding the scope of our work in the area of hotlines because we believe that investing in hotlines can play a transformative role in the future of the global anti-trafficking movement.

The Persistent Challenge of Victim Identification

Despite years of tangible progress in the global fight against human trafficking, many challenges remain that are ripe for intervention, innovation, and progress. Victim identification is one major challenge that warrants increased and urgent attention. Put simply, trafficking victims are not being identified and connected with services at fast enough rates, in the United States and in countries throughout the world. In 2012, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that there are nearly 21 million people held in forms of forced labor and modern slavery worldwide. That same year, the June 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report estimated that only 41,210 trafficking victims were identified in 2011. Based on these two estimates, we can conclude that as an anti-trafficking field, our collective victim identification rates are not yet even at 1 percent of the total people held in modern slavery. As one of the most pressing human rights issues facing our world today, we cannot accept the status quo of these low victim identification rates.

One of the common problems most often faced by a trafficking victim in trying to escape their situation is that they don't know whom to call or where to get help. Our experience has shown that well-run and well-publicized anti-trafficking hotlines can reach survivors and play a major role in increasing victim identification.

Piloting Local Trafficking Hotlines

Polaris Project first piloted operating anti-trafficking hotlines through our local victim services teams in Washington, DC and New Jersey. From 2003 through 2006, we operated local cell phone hotlines for trafficking survivors to call. These hotlines were operated by individual staff members and volunteers who were willing to be on-call 24/7 to answer hotline calls as they came in. As community partners and law enforcement began to distribute our local hotline numbers to survivors and other at-risk populations, we saw first-hand how promoting the number led to a spike in the numbers of trafficking victims that called us seeking services. We began to see how marketing the number led to new victims being found. I'll never forget the night that we received a call from two underage girls who were being forced by a pimp into the commercial sex trade in Washington, DC. The girls were from the Midwest, and a pimp had lured them to DC through a mix of manipulation, lies, and false promises. We first met these two girls through a phone call. They had only been in DC for a few days. A local DC police officer had seen the girls the day before, had a gut instinct that something was wrong, and gave them Polaris' local hotline number to call. That next day, when their pimp was asleep in the hotel room, the girls hid in the bathroom with the water running and whispered into the phone as they called the number for help. Without that phone call, we would have never known where these two girls were, or what they were going through, or who their trafficker was. Yet, the hotline number became a lifeline, and it was the bridge that connected them to us. Thanks to that hotline call, we were able to mobilize a response with law enforcement that night to get those two girls away from that pimp and connect them to our services. They're both now back in their home state and doing well.

But there were dozens of other cases like this one, and time and time again, the calls and tips came in through the local hotline. As patterns and trends began to emerge, and case after case occurred, we learned lots of early lessons from our pilot efforts with local hotlines. These include:

- 1) Hotlines ideally need to be 24/7 because you can't predict what hours of the day calls will come in.
- 2) We need to get hotline numbers into the hands of survivors and potential victims as much as possible so they know there's a number to call to get help. This will require new types of innovative marketing to reach hidden, transient, and marginalized populations.
- 3) We need to saturate the community with an awareness of what human trafficking is, how to spot it, and what number to call if you suspect you've encountered it.
- 4) Hotlines for survivors to call or text are lifelines to get people out of slavery and connect them to help. With universally available communications technologies and the massive spread of mobile devices all over the world, people are now "one phone call or text away from help" more than any other time in history. Simply put, well-run hotlines make a difference.

Operating the U.S. National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Hotline

The insights we gained from our work with local hotlines sparked our interest to take on the challenge of operating hotlines nationally. In 2007, we were honored to be chosen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to operate the country's central hotline on human trafficking, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888. We began answering the national hotline on December 7, 2007, and we have been operating 24/7 without interruption since that day.

In operating the NHTRC, we aimed to apply the lessons we learned from our local hotlines and scale them nationally. Hundreds of different initiatives have been undertaken to promote the 1-888-373-7888 number to trafficking victims and other at-risk populations in the U.S., and as of today, I'm proud to report that over 3,500 trafficking survivors have called the national hotline directly to get help. One of the most successful hotline distribution initiatives we have seen is the Know Your Rights pamphlet produced by the U.S. Department of State. This has led to nearly 3,400 calls into the national hotline where the caller specifically indicated that they learned about the number through the pamphlet.

Hotlines also do not need to be boxed into the typical image of people answering a phone. We need to make sure that hotlines are offering as many types of communications channels as possible to maximize the number of survivor we reach. In the past five years, we've added new modes of communication such as email, online webforms, and social media.

In March 2013, we also just launched into a new partnership to add SMS texting to the national hotline as well. Thanks to the combined efforts of Polaris Project, THORN, Salesforce.com, and Twilio, we recently launched BeFree (233733), so that people can now connect to the NHTRC hotline through text functionality. This new texting initiative has received over 130 text conversations in its first few weeks of operation.

More than five years after beginning work on the NHTRC hotline in 2007, we're continuing to work towards a series of important outcomes, such as asking – are more victims being identified? Are more survivors getting connected with services? Are more survivors learning that there's a number they can call to get help? As of March 2013, the national hotline had learned of nearly 9,000 survivors of trafficking and has reported 3,235 cases of human trafficking to law enforcement. We've also been able to partner with thousands of other non-profits, community-based organizations, service providers, and law enforcement to work through the national hotline as a conduit to increase levels of coordination and cohesion in the field.

We learn new lessons from our work on the national hotline every day, and they enrich our initial understanding of hotlines from our earlier local hotlines work. Some of the key lessons include:

- 5) Hotlines concretely increase victim identification rates on a national scale.

- 6) Hotlines provide opportunities for millions more community members to participate in the anti-trafficking field because they can help with the effort to promote the hotline number or they can be the "eyes and ears" and look out for opportunities to call.
- 7) Hotlines cannot be run like an island. Quite the contrary, hotlines need to have a deep and wide network of referral relationships and partnerships that leverage the strengths of local actors in the field.

Hotlines and the Importance of Data

In addition to the role of hotlines in victim identification and connecting survivors with services, it is important to also understand that hotlines are robust sources of valuable data about human trafficking and the behaviors of traffickers. In the U.S., we have received nearly 7,000 tips on the national hotline with either high or moderate levels of indicators of human trafficking. Each one of these tips contains highly relevant information about understanding the behavior of traffickers and how they exploit their victims. Hotlines therefore are in a unique position to gain strategic insights about effective interventions because hotlines often receive thousands of calls with information about where trafficking is happening and to whom. By adding in a data analysis component, hotlines can identify the newest trends and patterns and then communicate those to the most relevant actors in the field who can use this information to fight the crime.

Dating back to 2007, Polaris Project built our call tracking system for the national hotline using Salesforce.com. Each time a call, email, webform, or text comes in, we create a new unique "case" record in Salesforce. After years of operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline, we now have a database of over 75,000 records. As our data tracking systems matured over the years, we also began to build customized reports and dashboards to help us understand the data at our fingertips at a deeper level. We are also extremely grateful to have recently partnered with Palantir Technologies to further expand our data analysis effort for the U.S. hotline.

New Initiatives to Support Anti-Trafficking Hotlines Globally

In recent years, as we continued to operate the U.S. national anti-trafficking hotline, we've had opportunities to interface with hotlines in other countries. We've received hotlines calls from 104 countries into the NHTRC, and we've also worked on dozens of transnational cases that led us to develop deeper relationships with actors outside the United States. Our experiences learning about anti-trafficking hotlines in other countries led to new ideas for strategies on how to improve the ecosystem of hotlines globally. The more we connected with other counterparts, the more we realized that hotlines are ripe for coordination and hold significant potential to bring about dramatic change and improvement in the global fight against trafficking.

The lessons we learned so far from interfacing with hotlines in other countries include:

- 8) Right now, anti-trafficking hotlines in countries all over the world are essentially 'hidden gems', under-resourced, under-publicized, and not fully maximizing their potential impact as lifesavers for victims of trafficking.

- 9) Hotlines are also not coordinating with each other across borders. Instead, they are often operating in isolation, and they frequently have low visibility and limited penetration in the public's eye.
- 10) Hotlines around the world are often operating with nonexistent or outdated technologies, including hard-copy call tracking systems.

In 2012, in conjunction with our 10 year anniversary celebration, Polaris Project launched our new global programming with generous funding from the U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, as well as essential in-kind support from Palantir Technologies and Salesforce.com.

Through a forward-looking TIP Office grant, Polaris Project's Global Hotlines Program aims to: 1) Map and identify all existing anti-trafficking hotlines worldwide; 2) Connect with as many individual hotlines as possible to foster mutual peer-to-peer learning and share best practices; and, 3) Offer training and technical assistance to support the creation and expansion of anti-trafficking hotlines in target countries. In the early months of this program, we have already identified and begun to contact over 70 anti-trafficking hotlines around the world, and we have engaged at a deeper level with hotlines in Malaysia, Greece, Turkey, Mongolia, Mexico, Moldova, Bulgaria, and the Ukraine. Efforts on these three fronts will be ongoing through at least 2015.

The Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network (GHTHN)

In April 2013, we took an additional step that builds on our five years of work operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline for the United States and our recent State Department funded work mapping, connecting with, and supporting individual anti-trafficking hotlines around the world. We recently joined with Liberty Asia and La Strada International to found a new network of anti-trafficking hotlines across the U.S., Europe and Asia that makes the fight against human trafficking a more collective and data-driven effort. By sharing information between hotlines on a more global scale, we can work towards a global response network that can activate faster, more coordinated, and more effective responses.

This initiative, entitled the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, recently received a Global Impact Award from Google and engineering support from Google Ideas, Palantir Technologies, and Salesforce.com. Google's Global Impact Awards support entrepreneurial nonprofits using technology to change the world. Through the GHTHN, we'll work to share best practices amongst experts and craft new anti-trafficking strategies informed by our data and focused on eradication, prevention, and protection. We'll also build a broader safety net for survivors of modern-day slavery and develop a more coordinated global response for victims of this transnational crime.

Those of us that fight human trafficking need to be smarter and more sophisticated than the other side. Our initial efforts to map hotlines have taught us that there are dozens of hotlines around the world that are working in isolation to connect survivors to resources. By working together and sharing data and information, we can use technology to uncover strategic insights about how

and where trafficking is occurring, offer even better resources to vulnerable communities, support safe migration, and ultimately, reach more survivors. Working together will also build community and trust amongst hotline operators and will help to organize the broader ecosystem.

Raising the Bar

As a field, we cannot accept the status quo of identifying less than 1 percent of victims of human trafficking worldwide each year. We must increase victim identification rates, and one way we can do it is through the nexus between the rapid spread of mobile devices around the world and the existence of well-networked and well-publicized anti-trafficking hotlines for people to call.

At their fullest potential, all "next generation" anti-trafficking hotlines should increasingly communicate through multiple channels, including phone, email, online forms, social media, and texting. These anti-trafficking hotlines need to have extensive referral relationships with the existing infrastructure of services and law enforcement in their local, regional, or national area. With modest upgrades in universally available technology, hotlines can also build better cloud-based call tracking and data analysis systems. This is the new standard that we can aim for with as many hotlines as possible around the world. Through this network, we can also work towards the goal of anti-trafficking hotline coverage for every part of the world.

Furthermore, by engaging in data sharing and mutual learning, the GHTHN will also enable those in the field to map trafficking networks and understand how they operate -- and how they can be permanently disrupted.

Imagine what our global anti-trafficking effort could feel like if there were a powerful, effective, multi-modal, well-publicized and well-resourced "next generation" anti-trafficking hotline in every country or region of the world, and those hotlines were integrated, sharing data, leveraging new technologies, and coordinating more with each other and with myriad local law enforcement and service respondents. This global safety net will not only make it easier for the millions of people held in slavery to reach out to a hotline and access help, but it will also ensure that the first responders in the field are more prepared for that call when it comes in. Shared data and a powerful global data analysis initiative involving hotline call data will be critical to understanding the global footprint of human trafficking and driving new strategic interventions aimed at reducing and eradicating the crime.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak before you all today and share about our work.

Chairman ROYCE. Dr. MacDonald, go ahead.

STATEMENT OF SHAWN MACDONALD, PH.D., DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH, VERITÉ

Mr. MACDONALD. Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel and other distinguished members of the committee, thank you very much for inviting me to testify today. My name is Shawn MacDonald. I am director of programs and research at Verité, which is an American NGO that works globally to help companies improve supply chain labor conditions. The assessment, training, and consulting work that we do benefit workers and companies alike.

For more than 15 years, we have been documenting the mechanisms of labor trafficking. And, more importantly, we have been crafting solutions that are scalable and adoptable by any company.

We believe that companies must base their anti-trafficking efforts squarely on responsible recruitment practices, particularly accountability for how their supplier factories and farms hire workers. Almost all products we buy, clothes, computers, furniture, food, involve a supply chain that employs migrant workers. And, to be clear, when we are talking about labor trafficking, we are mostly talking about debt bondage of migrant workers.

Workers go to great lengths to secure a job and in the process often become indebted to labor brokers, so indebted that it can take years for them to be free of debt and intimidation. The actions of these middle men, the traps and tricks they use, the fees they charge, the ways they coerce and intimidate workers, these are the mechanisms of labor trafficking. And unless a company gains control of the outsourcing of recruitment to such people, they are part of the problem and not part of the solution.

No worker should have to pay with their liberty simply to secure a job building a hotel in Dubai or harvesting palm oil in Asia or picking berries in New England.

So I am glad to have the opportunity to let you know about the ways we have been working with real companies to create blueprints to assure fairness in how workers enter their supply chains. These are business-focused market-savvy approaches to complement public policies.

First I want to tell you about Verité's Fair Hiring Toolkit, which provides companies with implementation guidelines, program templates, management procedures, and the like. It is the pathway for any company that wants to ensure trafficking victims are not making their products.

I want to tell you about one company Verité worked with to do just that whose actions are already part of the public record. So I am not breaking business confidentiality. You all know Apple and its record for innovation, but you may not know that Apple is also a pioneer in reengineering its supply chain labor recruitment systems so workers are not trafficked. Some of their supplier factories were outsourcing recruitment to brokers. They charge workers sometimes thousands of dollars for that job.

We worked with Apple to create an approach that requires their supplier factories to reimburse fees to workers who paid for their job. Now the supplier factory has a very real incentive to either hire directly or to outsource recruitment only to a reputable labor

recruiter. This approach is working. Brokers and factories have reimbursed over $13 million to those cheated workers. Factories are changing practices to avoid that cost. No company is perfect, but we think others should pay close attention to Apple's approach.

That example leads me to another Verité initiative. Last year we launched a Framework for Ethical Recruitment that is targeted to the global labor broker industry itself. Our framework shows exactly how a recruitment firm can meet legal and ethical standards and provides a practical way to validate which firms meet the standard and which do not.

Our framework can also help Federal contractors meet President Obama's executive order announced last September, which requires Federal contractors to have anti-trafficking safeguards in place.

As recruitment firms become independently verified to our standards, they are more likely to be hired by Federal contractors and companies, like Apple suppliers, who have a tangible business prerogative to choose carefully whom they are hiring to find their labor. It will also help companies comply with California's Transparency in Supply Chains Act that Representative Bass alluded to, which requires companies to disclose their anti-trafficking policies. And it helps companies protect themselves in the face of tougher state laws that we are seeing being implemented across the country that are holding employers much more accountable for labor trafficking.

And, finally, we find many American companies are connected to trafficking deeper in their supply chains from the commodity level on up: The cotton that becomes our clothes, the metals that are mined for our electronics.

As you know from Representative Engel, many years working with the cocoa sector to tackle child and forced labor, this is not easy. The chain is possible when companies, NGOs, and government work together to incentivize better business practice.

In conclusion, we are working to harness American business creativity, American business enterprise to rework supply chain relationships so that nobody is ensnared in debt bondage. The attention from this committee sends a powerful message to the private sector to move from rhetoric to concrete action on this front.

Mr. Chairman, we stand ready to work with you and the entire committee to help the private sector innovate to end human trafficking. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[The prepared statement of Mr. MacDonald follows:]

Testimony by Shawn MacDonald, PhD

Director of Programs and Research at Verité

Hearing: Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs

May 7, 2013

Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel and other distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Shawn MacDonald and I am Director of Programs and Research at Verité, a nongovernmental organization based in the United States that works globally to help companies and other stakeholders fully understand labor issues, overcome obstacles, and build sustainable solutions into their supply chains. The assessment, research, training, consulting, and advocacy work we do benefits companies and workers alike.

For more than fifteen years we have been documenting the mechanisms of labor trafficking in the global supply chains of many types of businesses and, more importantly, we have been crafting solutions that are scalable and adoptable by any company.

We believe that if you are a brand, investor -- or anti-slavery or human rights organization, for that matter -- your approach to promoting sustainable supply chains is not complete unless it includes a focus on the path that workers take to get a job in the global economy. Migrant workers all around the world make the products we buy and harvest the food we eat. These migrants leave home for jobs that can help them achieve a better life, or simply allow them to feed their family. Almost all of our products - clothes, shoes, computers, toys, furniture and food - involve a supply chain that employs migrant workers. Migrants provide the flexible workforce that keeps our just-in-time global economy humming.

Workers will go to great lengths to secure promising jobs, no matter where they are located. Often workers become indebted to middlemen - labor brokers and moneylenders - whose practices can be exploitative and illegal and it becomes difficult or impossible for the worker to become free of debt and intimidation. The actions of these middle men – the traps and tricks they use, the fees they charge, the ways they coerce and intimidate workers to ensure loans and fees are paid to them – these are the mechanisms of labor trafficking. Much too much of the global labor recruitment system has been turned upside down so that the poorest pay just to get a job and often keep paying. Those of us in this hearing room would never pay to secure a job. We are working to ensure that no worker has to pay fees and face other costs and indignities simply for the ability to secure a job building a hotel in Dubai, harvesting palm oil in Indonesia, feeding American troops on bases worldwide, manufacturing a laptop in Taiwan, cleaning a house in Washington, or picking berries in New England.

Yet I am glad to have the opportunity to be here today to let you know that solutions do indeed exist and that we have been working with real companies and other stakeholders to create the blueprints for how companies of all stripes can re-assert control and accountability for how workers enter their supply chain. I want to describe a couple of our initiatives that provide open-source tools for companies to avoid or extricate their companies from association with labor trafficking. These are business-focused and market-savvy approaches that complement public policy but do not rely entirely on unrealistic hopes for more or better regulatory oversight by under-resourced governments the world over.

First, I want to tell you about Verité's Fair Hiring Toolkit (www.verite.org/helpwanted), which provides multinational companies, as well as factory and farm managers in their supply chains, with dozens of policy frameworks, practical implementation guidelines, recommended forms and templates, stakeholder engagement instructions, public policy advice, incentive structures, management procedures, quality and control checklists, and the like – all designed to guarantee a non-exploitive labor recruitment and hiring system. Verité's Fair Hiring Toolkit provides the A to Z for anybody wanting to put in place a practical system to ensure that trafficking victims are not making their products or harvesting their food. I want to tell you about one company Verité worked with to do just that. Their experience shows that this set of tools works and can work for many other companies. By the way, when I mention a company we've partnered with by name, I want you to know that those efforts are already a matter of public record.

You all know Apple and its iconic products and probably some of the challenges it faces, along with its peers, in its supply chain around wages and health and safety. What you may not know is that Apple is at the leading edge not just in touchscreen interface but in re-engineering the labor recruitment dynamic so that workers are not bearing the lion's share of the cost of labor migration, recruitment and hiring. We worked with Apple to document the ways in which factories supplying components for or assembling Apple products were too often relying on illegal and unethical approaches to recruit foreign contract workers, including by charging the poor migrants to get a job...often tens of thousands of dollars. We worked with Apple to create a policy that required suppliers to have transparency and accountability for how they recruited and hired workers, with a key provision that harnessed the power of the market. Apple didn't simply request that their supplier do this, they instituted a policy that required the supplier to repay fees to workers if it was found that a supplier factory outsourced recruitment to a labor broker that charged the worker more than a month's wages to secure that job. Now the supplier factory has a very real incentive to either hire directly or to outsource recruitment only to a reputable labor broker who is not over-charging workers or otherwise indebting them. This approach is working: Apple's policy has led to brokers and factories repaying over $13.1 million to contract workers since 2008, including $6.4 million in 2012. We see this as the ultimate solution in that

real changes were instituted and the workers regained the money taken from them. At a structural level, it means that dollars, real dollars, are at stake in Apple's supply chain: meaning this supply chain policy doesn't just rely on lots of talk about following codes of conduct and cajoling suppliers to behave differently. It restructures the incentives and disincentives for how recruitment and hiring is done and encourages factories to outsource recruitment only to reputable brokers. Or they can choose not to work for Apple. No company is perfect, but we think other companies need to pay close attention to how Apple is aggressively taking on the challenge of human trafficking in their supply chain.

That story leads me to another Verité's initiative, another major open-source set of resources for companies to fight labor trafficking. Last year, we launched a Framework for Ethical Cross-Border Labor Recruitment (http://www.verite.org/sites/default/files/ethical_framework_paper_20120209_PRINTED.pdf) that is targeted not just to multi-nationals and supplier factories and farms but also to the global recruitment, labor broker industry itself. Our framework was designed in partnership with a reputable recruitment firm called Manpower and builds on the legitimate recruitment industry's code and international standards from the International Labor Organization and others. It shows exactly how a recruitment firm can meet legal and ethical standards and provides a practical approach to independently validating which firms meet the standard and which do not. As we further develop and test this approach with leading companies like Wal-Mart and others who endorse its approach, we anticipate market forces taking over to drive out unethical actors and reward legitimate ones. As recruitment firms become independently verified to our standards, they are more likely to be hired by businesses, like those in Apple or Wal-Mart's supply chain, who have a tangible business prerogative to choose carefully whom they hire to find their migrant workers. And it's not just the policies of leading companies that are helping to create a market for good labor brokers, it is President Obama's Executive Order announced last September that requires federal contractors to create due diligence plans to prove workers do not pay fees or face other exploitation to obtain jobs with those contractors. It is the impetus created by California's pioneering Transparency in Supply Chains Act that is requiring thousands of companies to publically disclose what policies and practices they have to prevent trafficking. It is tougher laws in various American states that hold employers more accountable for labor trafficking. It complements new guidance on labor recruitment that is emerging from the European Union. We hope for new, transformative, social and market demand for ethical recruitment practices driven by employers, investors, workers, NGOs, labor unions, consumer groups and all other engaged stakeholders.

Finally, I want to touch on other work we are doing with companies and others to root out labor trafficking and other forms of modern day slavery more deeply in supply chains. Everyday we are exposed to more ways in which companies and products we know here in America are tied through complex outsourcing and procurement policies and extended supply chains to labor trafficking and other severe labor abuses at the commodity level. The cotton that eventually becomes our clothes, the palm oil that ends up in nearly 70% of products in our supermarkets, the metals mined for electronics. Verité produces research that helps companies understand their exposure to trafficking at all levels of their supply chains (http://www.verite.org/commodities). We help companies use emerging technologies and approaches to tracking and tracing commodities and product supply chains so that

new policies can be designed to gain visibility and promote accountability for suppliers not just at the top tier of the supply chain but down to the commodity level. As you know from Representative Engel's many years working with the cocoa sector to root out child and forced labor in that supply chain, this is not easy but it is possible when companies, NGOs, and governments work together to better understand root causes and fashion policies that incentivize better behavior and shun business partners who are entangled in trafficking.

Many other terrific approaches to public private partnerships are being discussed by the other witnesses and will certainly emerge in our discussion today. The private sector has created new associations like the Business Coalition Against Trafficking and End Human Trafficking Now to learn from each other and promote best practices and I encourage you to learn more about them. The US Department of Labor recently released an online toolkit to help companies prevent forced and child labor in supply chains and we are proud to see our work among those recommendations.

At Verité, we believe that strong protection against labor abuses like trafficking is essential to business success; indeed long term success for business is predicated on solving these structural issues like poorly regulated, unethical recruitment practices that are increasingly exposed as part of their supply chains and damaging their valuable reputations. Leadership and on-going attention from committees such as this one send a powerful message to the private sector. We want to see that famous American business creativity and enterprising spirit harnessed to innovate and re-imagine supply chain relationships so that nobody is ensnared in debt bondage simply in order to participate in our global economy.

Mr. Chairman, we in civil society stand ready to work with you and the entire committee to encourage scalable solutions to the scourge of human trafficking. Thank you for all the work this committee does and for the opportunity to testify today.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. MacDonald, thank you.

One of the issues that was discussed here is this full spectrum approach. For example, in L.A. County, the focus on what you do in order to create the public awareness so that you actually identify the victim and then getting law enforcement, getting the physician community involved in identifying and reporting, getting the training for law enforcement in terms of how to deal with those victims and then providing the resources to the victims that are in custody. And the last element, I guess, is the punishment that is directed toward those who are engaged in organizing this trafficking.

In terms of that lesson, I would just ask each of you, how might we share those lessons with others, other communities, but also others overseas that have a similar interest but maybe not the lesson plan or the capability? How can that information be shared and empowered so that others in other countries begin to take action as well?

Mr. KNABE. Well, to begin with, I think, you know, as the largest county in America, I believe it is our duty to be very involved in this particular program, particularly, as I mentioned in my testimony, about the ports and the airport and the borders.

Earlier this year, we started with the National Association of Counties by hosting a Smart Justice Symposium. We can do a little bit at a time. And we had not only the county folks and our probation and Children and Family Services, but we had juvenile court officials. We had Federal Homeland Security representatives, as well as the FBI. It was a very successful program and a little bit—because people started to realize, even from some of the smaller counties around America, that they had these similar situations in their own backyard, but they were not able to identify it until we put it out there.

So, I mean, there are building blocks that we can do as a county. Obviously having Federal partnerships would really embellish or enhance our opportunities to get the word out.

Mr. MYLES. I think what I would as well is that I think that in the anti-trafficking field, there are these very concrete nuggets of hope where things are successful and efforts are making impact. And we have documented that.

And so what the field needs to do a better job of is pointing people toward these successful models and promising approaches, documenting those, and then leveraging the existing networks that have already been built through things like the National Association of Counties or different international coalitions that exist, business coalitions that exist. The channels for communication exist.

What we need to do is we need to direct these documented successful strategies into those well-networked channels to begin spreading that information around the world through thought leadership. And I think we are beginning to do that with something like the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network. We are going to share these hotline strategies with different hotlines around the world, but that same model can be applied to business coalitions, to coalitions within government. And using the existing channels, we don't need to rebuild coalitions. We just need to slot the information into the existing infrastructure and let it spread.

Chairman ROYCE. Shawn?

Mr. MACDONALD. I would add that what we are finding with the private sector is that there is a great hunger for concrete examples of how companies are changing their policies and practices within their supply chain. And we are working to get that information out to other companies through trainings and webinars and things like that that enable them to learn from each other. And what is really exciting is that because so many companies, particularly the large American companies, large retailers, like the Wal-Marts, the Targets of the world, are taking these issues very seriously and are beginning to promulgate new standards and practices that are filtering out not just through their suppliers here in the United States but also globally.

And businesses are finding ways to compete with one another. That is why in my remarks, I was alluding to market mechanisms that we hope will enable companies to compete on how well they are handling these programs.

Chairman ROYCE. So information from one company here might be useful to businesses in other countries because of the way that they might key off of decisions made here, but then you also have the ability to get these international media companies involved and raise awareness, which is one of the things done in L.A. County.

How else could you use international media to reach your goals there, Shawn? Well, I will ask Mr. Myles, too.

Mr. MACDONALD. We are finding the international media is very interested in this. You see major outlets, like CNN and The Guardian Media Group out of the U.K. focusing very clearly on what companies can do.

Supervisor?

Mr. KNABE. I mean, I think while the international media is extremely important to help us facilitate the knowledge base, what is happening right here in our own backyard, I think, like many of us think, that it always happens in Third World countries when it is right here in the United States of America, whether it is a small rural area or major metropolitan area. And that knowledge and getting the word out, just looking at our domestic media is extremely important.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Don.

Mr. MYLES. I think we need to saturate communities with awareness of what human trafficking is, how to spot it, and what to do when you think you have found it. And the international media, through the CNN Freedom Project, its new project launched by The Guardian, some of the reporting done by the BBC, can play a role in that saturation, but from my perspective, I want us to be careful not to put out media stories that don't have an action item associated with it.

And if the person's action item is, "I read that. Good to know. Not quite sure how to take action from here," that media story hasn't done its full role.

Chairman ROYCE. Exactly.

Mr. MYLES. I think the full role is to put the action item at the end. So if you look at what Supervisor Knabe did in L.A., there is an action item at the end of those billboards. If you look at some of the media that has been reported in the U.S., they are reporting

the national hotline of the BeFree texting at the end. International media can then channel to these hotlines around the world so there can be that action taken.

Chairman ROYCE. And the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act would be an action item in California that was pushed that would certainly have a deterrent effect in terms of the new penalties on those involved in trafficking.

We go now to Mr. Engel from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. MacDonald, let me ask you. You and Verité have focused on standard setting and corporate social responsibility from your testimony in combating human trafficking. How does Verité identify corporate partners to work to combat human trafficking?

Mr. MACDONALD. I think it is through a combination of mechanisms. Very often companies will come to us because they are aware of the efforts we have made to publicize our approach to these. And so very often they will ask us for assistance.

But we will also spend a lot of time reaching out to business associations, speaking at conferences, working closely with multistakeholder initiatives that demonstrate which companies are interested in moving forward on this because the vast majority of companies are not doing anything on this issue, unfortunately, but you do see some pioneering companies that want to take a first step. We will reach out to them. They will reach out to us. We will help them craft approaches and encourage them to share those lessons with others.

And it is that wide range of experiences that we use to create these open sources pools that we put out there for the public around the world to learn from to build better business practices.

Mr. ENGEL. How does Verité design effective oversight programs for industries that may be reluctant to have outside groups examine their labor practices?

Mr. MACDONALD. Well, much of our work is done under business confidentiality rules. So we will do assessment for companies. We will design an approach for them. We will train their suppliers, that kind of thing. We will work with the workers who are affected by these policies. And over time, they will become more confident about sharing their lessons with others. And then, as I said, we try to share the broad lessons learned with other groups.

But I think it is important to note that there is really a revolution in technology around this where it is not just a few companies that sometimes get ensnared in the media spotlight, but tweets and videos that workers around the world, even in very poor countries, are making about their conditions are getting information out there. So companies are increasingly being held accountable for their policies, as I mentioned, deeper in the supply chain.

So it isn't the command and control situation anymore. It is very much a free-for-all of information and then more and more expectation that companies do something.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you.

Through my work on the Engel Protocol, I have learned that the private-public partnerships are very important. I am wondering if anyone on the panel would tell me your experiences with forging these public-private partnerships in combating human trafficking.

What obstacles did you encounter? How did you overcome them? And, based on your experiences, what key contributions can the private sector and the nonprofit sector offer to anti-trafficking campaigns that government entities cannot? Anyone? Mr. Supervisor?

Mr. KNABE. Mr. Engel, as I mentioned in my testimony, we had a very good partnership with the private sector, with Clear Channel and Lamar Advertising coming forward on their own. It would be very difficult for us to find the ability to buy 100 billboards throughout the county and 50 digital boards. The cost to that, it is just very, very significant. It has absolutely changed the playing field in Los Angeles County by raising awareness, that in conjunction with our Metro and Metrolink programs. Again, people are seeing that. And those are the kinds of programs. And they have had a very adamant effect on all our programs there in Los Angeles County. And it is a great partnership.

So we have not had any obstacles. We continue to reach out to see if we can get more, but, in particular, that was an incredible find for us and an incredible partnership.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you.

Mr. Myles?

Mr. MYLES. I would add to that I think Clear Channel has done amazing work through the partnership in L.A. County but also in other states around the country. They are publicizing different hotline numbers and billboards. So they are backing up that work and spreading it nationally.

We have really seen over the past few years the way that partnerships with the private sector have rapidly increased the success of the anti-trafficking field. I think it has notably increased over the past 2 years how much the private sector has been involved in the field. Google has been helping us publicize the national hotline through revised search terms. Salesforce.com has been giving cloud-based computing solutions to nonprofits and to hotlines around the world. Palantir Technologies has donated their software data analysis system to Polaris to help us better understand the human trafficking data that we are seeing in the national hotline.

We are also seeing companies like Sabre, the travel company, beginning to put this information out to travel agents around the world because they are in a position to identify it. Facebook is looking at how can they do a better job looking at prevention on the issue and also putting the hotline number out there, just dozens and dozens of private sector partnerships beginning to happen in the field. And it is really showing how the field can innovate and make sure that we are out innovating the traffickers in bringing the strengths together between nonprofits, government, and private sector.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you.

Dr. MacDonald?

Mr. MACDONALD. I would just add that what we are seeing is that NGOs and companies are becoming much more comfortable working with one another. The NGOs provide real legitimacy to the efforts of companies and help them push beyond their comfort zone and help them to become more comfortable with greater transparency around these efforts and also help them cooperate with their competitors within the business sector.

And I think this experimentation that is happening between the private sector and NGOs is undergirded by new policy approaches that we have spoken of here today, not just the overall architecture from the TVPA but also the California Transparency Supply Chain Act, the executive order that we mentioned for Federal contractors. So that provides really strong impetus to public policy for businesses to step up to the plate with NGOs helping them. And we are seeing them in other countries, too, because this great surge of interest and outrage over human trafficking means as well as the TIP Report, for all of its flaws, really put focus on government agencies overseas to change the way that they are partnering with the private sector, the way that they are regulating labor brokers and things like that.

So there is a fervent plethora of activity happening that we think is really exciting.

Mr. KNABE. Just the fact it is just not a comfortable subject. And I think the awareness from the private sector that they are gaining something from that in their ability to work through the system without being punished or something like that and their willingness to come forward because this is just not a comfortable subject for everyone to deal with. And, again, thank you and all of you for your leadership in this issue.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me ask Mr. MacDonald, if I could, first and foremost. Last July I held a hearing on worker rights in China. And we heard from a man named Li Qiang, who is the executive director of China Labor Watch, who was an activist inside of China. And for more than a decade has headed up this organization.

He spoke about some reports they had just done on Apple and on other companies. He had two major problems that seemed to be Achilles' heels when it comes to the exploitation of that labor force and, of course, makes it harder to determine supply chains and whether or not products were being made by gulag labor or by exploited labor.

He pointed out that dispatched workers are a huge issue, including with Apple; third party agreements that kind of evade a type of scrutiny that would lead to an accountability on the part of Apple. And then he spent a great deal of time talking about the auditors and said in 2010, one company that was doing auditing had dismissed two-thirds, about 300 of their auditors because they had been bribed. And there seems to be a great incentive to bribe auditors to give a good mark to a company. And then they come to their shareholders and say, "Look, we are doing great" when it is nothing but a fraud. And I wonder if you might speak to that because that seems to be an area of some neglect.

Secondly, if I could ask Mr. Myles, with regards to the hotline, what is the interface and the response time with law enforcement? For example, I am a bus driver. I see something going on on my bus that looks very, very suspicious. I call the hotline. What happens? Do the police come to the offloading?

You know, is there that kind of—you know, with the airlines, we know the flight attendants tell the pilot. Pilots call to the airport,

the destination. And as they offload, if there is a suspicious activity going on, ICE or some law enforcement would be there to greet and to separate and to determine whether or not a trafficking situation has been in progress. Response time for law enforcement when hotel employees and others call, what has been your experience with regards to that?

And then to Mr. Knabe, thank you for your leadership and for your being here today, coming out to testify. You mentioned in your testimony that child prostitution is a misdemeanor in L.A. and that pimps are often waiting outside the courthouse door to drag the child back into slavery. And I am wondering what law enforcement is doing to mitigate that.

You know, it seems to me that we need to declare war on these pimps and, I mean, put them away and put them away for life. But if they are waiting outside the courtroom, it would seem to me that it is not a heavy lift to determine what is going on there and to seek to go after those pimps.

What are your thoughts on that?

Mr. KNABE. Well, first of all, as I mentioned in the testimony, the collaborative courtroom has been an incredible success story. Instead of just treating these young girls coming in, getting slapped in the wrist, you know, "You are a prostitute. Go back out in the street," the pimp waiting in the parking lot, the collaborative courtroom brings everyone together. It brings law enforcement. It brings mental health issues, health services as well as housing issues.

One of the biggest issues is being able to isolate these young girls into a safe housing situation because if they don't go back out there—and most of them are tattooed and marked in different ways. The pimp is on the look to make their life miserable or kill them.

So we have to bring some even to get into the juvenile justice system. We are doing some foster care training kinds of situations to be able to protect these young ladies from the violence that they are confronted with.

But this is a small scale. We have a dedicated courtroom, this collaborative courtroom. The only cases they hear are these young cases. And so we are able to protect them. But there is so much more. I mean, we could do more if we had obviously additional funding to expand the program.

But those wrap-around services for these young ladies, I can't tell you how important they are because they have no self-esteem. They have none. And these scum bag pimps are just saying, "We love you. You are the most beautiful girl I have ever seen. I promise you a job, retire," you know, whatever it may be. And there they go. And it is not their choice.

And so when we are able to bring them in, treat them like a victim, not a guilty party.

Mr. MYLES. I would say to the issue of response time, it is a great question. It is something that we focus on every single day. And I think there are some nuances to it.

First, it depends on the type of call. So what is that person calling about? Is it a crisis? Is it a tip? Maybe they are calling about general information. Maybe they are calling about something that

they would like to talk about a few months down the road. So it depends on how urgent is that call.

The second thing is we try to be caller-centered in running the hotline because we want to build trust with the callers. We don't want people to feel like when they call the hotline, they are going to get put in the situation that they didn't want to get put into. So what does that caller want? And does that caller want to be in touch with law enforcement? What are they seeking?

Third, the question is, what is the level of detail people are calling in? If someone is on a bus and calls in, says, "I am looking at something suspicious," but whatever else, we might not have anything specific to act upon, but if they call in and say, "Here is a name. Here is a number. Here is a license plate," we have actionable information.

Fourth, it depends on the local infrastructure that exists there. We are in touch with all of the human trafficking task forces, the ACT teams, FBI offices, ICE offices, local police departments. If the infrastructure is there, we can leverage it, but if the infrastructure isn't there and they are calling in in a remote area or they are calling in in a place where the response time might not be there for any other crime, then that is something that we have to deal with.

What I would say is when we do need a kick in the gear with a specific crisis call, we have seen cases with response time in minutes, getting into the hands of law enforcement and people responding, but sometimes people need to realize that that is what 911 is for also. If they are really dealing with something that needs an urgent crisis, we are recommending people go directly to 911.

There are other hotlines out there. Law enforcement operations sometimes operate hotlines in L.A. There is the Department of Homeland Security tip line. So people can call other law enforcement sources if they want to go directly to law enforcement, but if they are calling a nonprofit hotline, for all the benefits of calling a nonprofit, trust blue collars, those types of things, we can still build that response time as quickly as we need to in the places where that capacity is there.

Chairman ROYCE. We are going to——

Mr. MACDONALD. Mr. Smith, I am really glad to—oh, I am sorry.

Chairman ROYCE. We are going to go to Karen Bass of Los Angeles. Congresswoman?

Mr. MACDONALD. Okay. I will answer your question later.

Chairman ROYCE. Go ahead. Go ahead. You had something.

Mr. MACDONALD. I was just going to very quickly. I was glad that Congressman Smith mentioned this issue of poor labor-monitoring situations because far too many companies rely only on very superficial audits to get a sense of what is happening in their supply chain. That is simply not enough. And we are certainly seeing that with the fires in Pakistan, the building collapse in Bangladesh, just a terrible tragedy.

What we are asking for, what we are asking you and everybody else is to really ask tough questions of these companies. An audit is just a simple first step in finding out what is happening. It has nothing to do with actually putting in practices and place and building in incentives, like the ones that I mentioned that really

make the supplier factories and farms step up, pay attention, and be held accountable for what they are doing.

So what we are really concerned about is that with more transparency around this with the California law, for example, with the executive order, the companies will get away, so to speak, with simply saying, "Of course, we monitor our supply chain" but leave it at that.

Chairman ROYCE. Congresswoman Bass?

Ms. BASS. Again, I want to really commend the panel for the work that you have been doing and for your testimony today. And I wanted to follow up with what my colleague Chris Smith was asking about what happens afterwards.

Supervisor Knabe, you talked about the collaborative courtroom. And I wanted to understand what gaps there might be in L.A. And I know that this is a challenging population also. Sometimes they are not necessarily willing. They want to be rescued, but then, you know, they go back and forth.

And so my question concerning gaps is after we have been through the courtroom process, what kind of support do we have in L.A. County to assist the girls once they are, you know, through the court process? Do we have community-based organizations?

Mr. KNABE. We have community-based organizations we are working with. Our own Department of Children and Family Services is working with them.

The unfortunate thing, probably the most difficult situation that we confront and probably the biggest gap is housing——

Ms. BASS. Right. I see.

Mr. KNABE [continuing]. And our ability to place these young people in safe conditions. As an example, sometimes we are forced to actually bring them into our juvenile halls. Okay? But that is also a dangerous situation because they almost have to be isolated from the population because you always have to remember there are other young victims that still want to be part of the prostitution ring that will say, "Hey," so and so "is in the system. She is in here." And there will be threats on their life.

So the placement, the biggest gap, the biggest gap, is in housing, whether it is being trained, our foster care folks, or being able to site a home for six or eight girls. You know, we do have those projects available. And we are working on them with, you know, various community kinds of groups and programs, but that is the number one gap, is housing.

Ms. BASS. And, also, Mr. Smith mentioned that child prostitution was a misdemeanor in L.A. County. Is that accurate?

Mr. KNABE. It is being treated as that. One of the things with your groundbreaking legislation—and now we have two new pieces of legislation which have been introduced to—well, first of all, the CASE Act, which passed overwhelmingly last year is the toughest human trafficking law in the United States, but we have added—one of the things we are trying to do is add pimping, pandering, human trafficking to the list of crimes associated with gang activity——

Ms. BASS. Right.

Mr. KNABE [continuing]. Because that is a huge deal. And obviously that would help us better assist some of our foster kids as

well as—unfortunately, the system is not equipped to handle it right now. And so we are going to have to rely on more stringent penalties for these pimps and what they do to these young girls, you know, to create a situation where it is not as fruitful or they are put away for life.

Ms. BASS. Well, I think one of the things that needs to change is our whole orientation toward this. I convened a meeting in Los Angeles of ministers to talk about the situation, particularly in south L.A. And I think we even need to get away from using the term "prostitution" because I don't know how you can be a prostitute at ten. You know what I mean? That is child rape. And I think we need to change our whole orientation as to how we even look at the situation. And I think with that will flow more resources, hopefully.

Mr. KNABE. Well, I would agree totally. I mean, that is one of the great things about the collaborative courtroom because they are not being treated as prostitutes. They are being treated as rape victims. And, as I said to Mr. Engel, I said, look it, this is not a comfortable subject for anyone. And we are going to have to rely on faith-based communities, one of our sources for group homes. I mean, that is another option that we have that we are looking at.

So just the level because people don't want to say, "It is in my backyard" or "It is in my city" or "It is here or there." You know, they want to talk about it. And it is the same problem you run into with your food chain kinds of situations with your companies.

And so I would totally agree with changing it from "prostitution" to "rape victims" or——

Ms. BASS. And it is the community awareness. So I was encouraging the ministers to slow down their cars and look in the faces because if you look at the females that are on the street, you can see that many of them are our children.

Mr. KNABE. Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. And, I mean, one of the things with this whole billboard and the flyers that we put out there, you can't just do that. It has to be training in awareness involved with that because it is not just a billboard saying. And it was law enforcement has to recognize. Look it, these young ladies have to get much better treatment than a backpack would on a train left by itself—you know, after 9/11, we did everything—and to be able to recognize.

We had our CEO of MTA out of recognition, a successful recognition, because he was riding the trains. And so there is a public awareness that is so important and training that is so important and have people say, "Look it, I am not comfortable talking about it, but we have got to fix it. I want to be part of the solution."

Ms. BASS. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Chairman ROYCE. We go now to Judge Poe from Texas.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for being here. I appreciate your candor, especially the supervisor's candor. I like the way you say things.

Just a quick background. I was a judge in Texas for forever before I came up here. And this trafficking issue is a scourge. Unfortunately, my hometown of Houston, Texas is the center and hub of international trafficking into the United States. Women are sneaked into Mexico from the south, from the Atlantic, from the

Pacific, and then they are smuggled into the United States. Houston, by its location, is where they are brought. And they are scattered everywhere, including all the way to Los Angeles.

It is my understanding, as you have pointed out, that the issue of where to put these young women is a major problem.

There are approximately 5,000 animal shelters in the United States. I love those places. I got my Dalmatians from Dalmatian rescue. Good for them for doing what they are doing.

But, according to Mr. Myles, your organization, the Polaris Project, last year, you said or your Polaris Project said that in the whole United States, there are only 1,644 beds for trafficking children or trafficking victims.

Mr. MYLES. All victims.

Mr. POE. All of them throughout the whole country?

Mr. MYLES. Yes, sir.

Mr. POE. That is not near enough based upon the massive problem that confronts us.

Supervisor, I want to ask you about who is running these operations. You said it is organized gang activity. Are the drug cartels involved in bringing in these young kids primarily into the United States or is it an independent group of criminals doing this?

Mr. KNABE. I think you have both. I mean, you do have the independent group of criminals doing it, but, unfortunately, in our backyard with one of the largest gang populations in America, the gangs are getting into this business. This business is so much safer than dealing with drugs or guns and so much more profitable. I mean, they could take these young women and make them turn tricks five, six, seven, eight times a night. They can only sell a drug once, and they can only sell a gun once. So they are organized. And many of our gangs have not only domestic connections but international connections as well. So there may be.

And we are trying obviously to isolate that to see if there is any drug cartel involvement in the trafficking, which probably there will be, but it has not been validated yet. But it is organized I think through the gangs, but there are a lot of independent camps out there.

Mr. POE. There are three people involved at least in the human trafficking. Of course, there is the victim. I think as a culture and society, we need to focus on helping that victim, rescuing the victim from forced prostitution, human slavery. That is a word and a phrase nobody wants to talk about, human slavery, which is what this is.

And then you have got the criminal element that brings these kids into the United States. But then you have in the middle the consumer. You have got the person that is paying for this awful deed. As a society, I think we have got to focus on who those consumers are.

And if convicted, if I had my way, if these folks were convicted of human trafficking, exploiting young women in human trafficking, that is when we would use the internet. We would let the world know what these folks look like. They don't want anybody to know who they are. Of course, you put the trafficker in prison for as long as you can, but the victim is where I think the system has to start as allowing all victims. And this idea that many of these

victims are immigrants brought in the United States and the pimp says, "You turn me in. I am going to make sure you are deported. You will never testify against me," we have got to work on that problem, making sure they can come forward and testify, safely testify.

But what can we do right now? As my time is expiring, what can we do right now as a body in Congress to move victims' issues to the front on these young women? Any of you want to weigh in on that?

Mr. KNABE. Well, I mean, from my perspective, obviously, you know, adding the pimping, the pandering, the human trafficking, the list of crimes associated either with gang activity or some of the other kinds of things that make it even more difficult to get a domestic media that is cooperative in putting out to consumers faces or names out there as well in the public are things that could happen immediately without a lot of, you know, Federal debate or stage debate or county debate, are the kinds of things that we need to get the information out there.

Mr. MYLES. Two points briefly. If I could just jump in, Judge Poe? I think one is what we are seeing around the country is that states are recognizing that these kids are victims and shouldn't be treated as "child prostitutes." So you have certain states that are looking at laws that really do change the paradigm in the way that Congresswoman Bass was talking about. So these kids are seen in the victim situation as victims of abuse, not as criminals.

Only about 11 states have done that so far. Thirty-nine other states haven't. So if Congress were to say, "It is the sense of Congress that we do believe that these children should be treated as victims," that would send a signal to the states. Even like a sense of the Congress resolution would work.

And, then, secondly, to the point about the buyers, these buyers of children, police departments can police the buyers with a decoy ad. You could put a decoy ad on an online site about a fictitious child, set up an operation in a hotel room, and you are going to have 30 guys coming up trying to buy that fictitious child. And you do a massive sting.

We have seen it happen in Montgomery County. We have seen it happen in Phoenix. There is nothing stopping more police departments from doing that, including a shockwave of basically deterrence for buyers attempting to buy children. Publicize those things in a major way. If we had 10 or 20, 30 cities do that simultaneously with a decoy ad and some hotel-based reverse stings, without even a child involved, you could see a massive shockwave against the buyers. And I think it would have a major, major effect. I would say those are two things I would love to see concretely happen.

Chairman ROYCE. Will the gentleman from Texas yield to the gentleman from New Jersey?

Mr. SMITH. Just briefly.

Mr. POE. Yes. I will yield. I will yield to——

Mr. SMITH. Thank you for yielding.

Just to underscore that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act made it very clear in its definition that anyone who has not yet attained the age of 18 and anyone who commits an act, one commercial sex act, is liable for the full sanctions, the full criminality that

is ascribed in the law. And that is up to life imprisonment. And then after that, after 18, it is force, fraud, and coercion.

So we already have a Federal law that makes it absolutely clear. We do need state laws to mirror that so there are more tools for prosecutors, but we already have it in Federal law.

Chairman ROYCE. We go now to Dr. Bera, California.

Dr. BERA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Engel. And I would also like to thank Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Bass because in our Global Health and Human Rights Subcommittee, we have been talking about this issue at the international level.

I look at this as a doctor. I mean, this is shameful. It is ridiculous that this happens today in America and throughout the world. And it is an outrage. It is an affront to our moral fibers as a country. And we have to take this seriously.

Supervisor Knabe, it is a difficult and uncomfortable conversation, but it is exactly the conversation we should be having as parents. If we want to stand up morally as an example for the rest of the world, we have to lead by example. We have to lead by having this conversation and showing how shameful this is. And it is unacceptable for us not to have this conversation in communities, states, and throughout this country. It has to happen.

Now, my home community is Sacramento County, where we have a horrible crisis on our hands as well. We are one of the top five communities for human trafficking. And I am proud that our sheriff has partnered with the FBI to do what they can, but, all three of you have already pointed out, it is not nearly enough.

And, you know, I guess my question to all three of you is, you know, these are well-intentioned organizations, you know, our law enforcement agencies, the FBI, the nonprofits in our communities, that want to do this. How do we elevate the national conversation? How do we raise the temperature in this so it is being talked about across the spectrum and it is deemed unacceptable?

Mr. KNABE. Well, from our perspective, obviously the Federal partnership is extremely important. I mean, I think when we hosted that Smart Justice Symposium of National Association of Counties, people coming from all over the country, by having the Homeland Security folks there, the FBI, I think it raised the level of attention that we weren't just doing Los Angeles County, it wasn't just in the streets of Los Angeles County, but it is throughout America. Polaris and others are bringing that attention as well, too.

But the conversation, I mean, we can start locally, and we can do the building blocks. And we can keep expanding it. But, even in your own law enforcement communities, you know, they were amazed what is going on in their own backyard because it is a whole training. It is a whole educational process to make them aware and make everyone aware just how significant this issue is and how repulsive the issue is and that we need to do more about it to isolate, to have a particular unit within a law enforcement. There are metropolitan. You know, the transportation police, everyone should be a partner in this.

But the Federal elevation to let everyone know that it is not just locally isolated to one community or another but it is a national

issue, your leadership and your partnership have been a very important part of that.

Dr. BERA. And I would put my own profession. Health care has to be part of this, health care providers.

Mr. KNABE. Bring in doctors.

Dr. BERA. Exactly. For years, we have been training our doctors on domestic violence recognition and so forth. Doctors are seeing a lot of these victims as well. And they have an obligation.

Mr. MYLES. Yes. I think what I would add to that briefly is, in addition to the political wealth, in addition to the leadership, in addition to faith-based communities taking on this issue at the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships, I think that when certain types of research come out that show certain effects of this issue, it is going to get the attention of many people. And it is going to spike that political will.

For example, if someone were to ask any of us in this room right now and say, "How many victims of trafficking are there in the United States right now?" none of us have a good answer. We would have a few estimates, but we haven't had a full research study to look at men and women, immigrants, and U.S. citizens, sex, and labor, boys, and girls, all the types of trafficking. So we can't put a number on it.

When we put that number on it, that will be able to generate media. That will generate police attention. That will generate political leadership.

And then, secondly, from the health perspective of health research, when you start looking at things like CDC research on adverse child experiences, the ACEs, and if you say these kids are so vulnerable because they have gone through these different types of traumas as children, pimps are targeting the vulnerable kids, and when we make the public health argument, that will also create the political will.

Dr. BERA. So that is an actionable item. Let's raise the level of this crisis. Let's put a number on there. That is an actionable item that raises awareness and talks about how this is happening in every community in every state across this country.

Mr. MACDONALD. Can I just add it is very difficult to talk about this subject, but what is more difficult is for people to talk about labor trafficking. You will note just in the conversation now that also in the media and generally, there is a lot more focus on sex trafficking, but if you look at the global estimates and the estimates in the U.S., even though the numbers aren't as clear as they might be, labor trafficking is a bigger problem and is something that we are all much more connected to. It is not just "Those pimps over there, those poor victims," and so on. It is something that we are all connected to.

And it is harder for people to talk about that because we are all implicated in the way most companies are implicated in their supply chain. And that is where I think we need to be able to get past some of these really loaded terms and say, "Are you involved in slavery?" but, instead, saying, "How are people hired into your company? How are the companies that are making your products hiring people? Do they have safeguards in place?" so it becomes something very concrete and practical about business operations,

not so much "Are you a trafficker or are you not? Are you one of these awful companies that has slavery or not?" because it is everywhere. It is based on the way that so much of our global labor situation is organized today.

So I really want to make that point that to keep in mind that labor trafficking is also something that we need to learn to talk about in a more routine way.

Dr. BERA. Absolutely.

Chairman ROYCE. We are going to Jeff Duncan, South Carolina.

Mr. DUNCAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thanks for this very interesting committee hearing, very informative for me, especially in light of what was revealed today in Cleveland with three young women being abducted and held hostage for a decade in a standard neighborhood that you might find in that area or in my hometown.

So, anyway, you mentioned, Mr. Myles, that the U.S. has a national hotline and the number of calls that you have gotten from 104 different countries. I guess that piqued my interest a little bit. Typically why do people from other countries call a U.S.-based hotline?

And then are there other creative ways we may be able to—well, is that a 1–800 U.S. number and how that exactly works, but then are there other creative ways that we are utilizing along those same lines? Are there numbers or Twitter or Facebook, other things, social media that we might be able to use to contact law enforcement to say, "Hey, I am captive. I am a sex slave. I want out. I need help"?

And then I want to ask you to elaborate a little bit. Okay. If a call does come in and the young girl says that, how does the U.S. get involved in rescuing that girl from that position of captivity?

Mr. MYLES. Well, those are two great questions. And I think that, even pointing out the Cleveland case, if you look what happened in that case, it was a neighbor, Charles Ramsey, who played a role in identifying those girls, right? And so I think that that signals to me the role that community members can play in identifying what is going on in their community, identifying suspicious behavior that we encounter.

The majority of calls that we get into the national hotline in the U.S. are from community members who identified something. They identified a house on their street with something suspicious. They identified somebody approached them about a trafficking situation, and they are calling in.

So what we would like to see is saturating that awareness so that community members can know what to look for and know who to call. And that is going to lead to more cases being identified.

Mr. DUNCAN. If it is an international call——

Mr. MYLES. Yes.

Mr. DUNCAN [continuing]. Because you said you received 104 different countries. So how would the U.S. get involved in that situation?

Mr. MYLES. Yes, sir. So we have received these calls from other countries. And we had the same question ourselves. So we ask, "How are these other countries calling us? We are the U.S. national hotline."

But what we realized is that sometimes there isn't a national hotline in other countries. And so a person who is very determined to get a response to their case, they will start calling different places. And so they have called the U.S. hotline. So one reason is there might not be a hotline in their country. Second reason is they might not be getting a response from the hotline in their country. There might be a hotline but no one answers it or they have gotten an answering machine.

And so somebody who believes they have identified a trafficking case, they have fire in their belly to respond. And they want to get a response. And they will start calling. We are 24/7, and they can call us.

Sometimes people call us through Skype. Sometimes people call us through certain online services. And we also have not a toll-free number but an actual 202 number that people can call internationally and contact us.

So people have reached out to us. And what that has taught us is that is what has led us to want to work on this Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network. That is what has led us to want to help to build hotline in other countries because we need to build that local capacity in other places so people can call their own local country human trafficking hotline, instead of having to route it through us.

So we are working on identifying what the response is on those other countries. We are working to identify what those hotlines are in other countries and build that response so the calls aren't coming to us all the time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Okay. Well, just shift gears a little bit. I am on the Homeland Security Committee here in Congress. And you gentlemen are familiar with DHS' Blue campaign. The question I have is, do you see it as effective? And what recommendations would you have for DHS so they could improve? That is law enforcement training. That is investigations, public outreach, and other things.

And so a) do you think it is effective? I ask all three of you that. And b) what more could DHS be doing? Because they do play a vital role, especially with cross-border issues.

Mr. KNABE. Well, from Los Angeles County's perspective, it has been very successful. And I think DHS' opportunity is to give the whole program credibility that it does exist and it is just more than the back streets of your own community.

Their involvement with the Blue program as well as others had a very big impact at our justice symposium because it made folks around the country—Department of Homeland Security is different than the local sheriff's department or local PD in the sense that it raises the global network, it raises the international significance, and it gets the level of conversation going that says, "Well, it doesn't exist in my community." It does.

I think DHS on long term on moving forward, obviously their awareness and their ability to train local law enforcement in identification and kinds of activities and the network and in conjunction with the hotline and those kinds of things and pure points of contact could be incredibly successful and helpful to all of us at the local level.

Mr. MACDONALD. I would just add that in general, with the Customs enforcement role of DHS, that there is more opportunity for creativity around the way that they identify and try to work with importers of products so they are made with child labor and forced labor. There are statutes around that but not always a lot of clear enforcement.

And I know that somehow—I don't know all of the particulars. I am sorry. But somehow there is a role for the Customs enforcement people. And I know that they have been looking at ways of doing trainings and so on in their overseas offices to better understand labor conditions for products that are being imported here, but I think that there is always a lot more that can be done around that.

Mr. DUNCAN. Right. Well, I am out of time, but are you all familiar with the coordination, collaboration, capacity report plan that the President is working on? The public comment period is still open on this, my understanding. And I hope you guys get involved.

And, with that, Mr. Chairman, I will yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. We will go now to Tulsi Gabbard. Congresswoman Gabbard?

Ms. GABBARD. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. MacDonald, you mentioned the difficulty that exists within our culture in talking about labor trafficking, in particular. And I know there was some mention of this being addressed with some larger corporate entities, like Wal-Mart, et cetera, but I am wondering if you can address how we can deal with maybe the smaller either companies in different industries, whether it is agriculture or the garment industry, who have a little easier time flying under the radar.

Just one example, in my home State of Hawaii, we saw in 2010, the largest human trafficking case in our country's history where there was a labor recruiting company that bought 400 immigrants from Thailand to work in farms in the State of Hawaii. It did not have a good outcome in that the Federal prosecutor, unfortunately, misstated the law in front of a grand jury, which ended up throwing the whole case out, but it led to a heightened state of awareness, within our own community and I think nationally, about these kinds of entities that are really using economic intimidation in providing basically slave labor.

So I wonder if you can address how we can, either through the carrot or the stick approach, deal with some of these smaller entities?

Mr. MACDONALD. Well, I think definitely at the level of public policy, there are many ways that foreign labor recruiters within our guest workers visa system can be held more accountable through more transparency, more clear oversight of what they are doing. And that is a conversation that is very active now in the immigration reform debate.

But also at the state level, more states are doing things to try to hold employers as well as labor recruiters accountable. In the State of California, there is a bill that is moving its way fairly quickly through the state legislature to have stronger accountability measures for labor recruiters.

I think the other thing that we are hoping to see, as I mentioned in my remarks, I think, before you arrived, is that the President's executive order saying all Federal contractors have to have a very specific plan in place for due diligence measures for labor recruiters who are providing the workers to Federal contractors, that is a real game changer because the Federal Government obviously buys a lot of things, has a great number of contractors. You pair that with some of the other efforts underway, and I think you will see that there is real reform happening possible within the labor recruiter sector, but a lot of attention, a lot of action needs to be taken.

We are at the beginning steps. The guidelines are in place, including the ones that I mentioned, in a real world for better public policy, but I think as that happens, market forces will come to bear. And an American farmer; an American warehouse; big retailer like a Wal-Mart, will know what kind of questions to ask in holding their suppliers accountable for how they are hiring their workers because now it is essentially an unregulated industry, both here in the U.S., very poorly regulated, and overseas even less so, where people who can just register as a company and then go about charging people $20,000 to $30,000 to get a U.S. guest worker visa for a job in one of these supply chains that I have been referring to.

So there is a lot of work to be done, but we and others have a lot of recommendations for what companies can do in their supply chains. And then we and Polaris Project and other NGOs that are part of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking and the International Labor Recruiters Working Group, another set of NGOs have a lot of recommendations for stronger accountability for labor recruiters.

Ms. GABBARD. The Federal contract accountability that you just mentioned, that is for Federal contracts that are administered both here as well as overseas?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes.

Ms. GABBARD. Great. I think that is all. Thank you.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN [presiding]. Thank you very much. I want to thank Chairman Royce, who just stepped out for a few minutes, for holding this important hearing this morning. I will recognize myself for my 5 minutes.

Human trafficking, as we know, is one of the worst, most alarming human rights issues of our day depriving millions around the world of their most basic dignity as human beings.

And, given today's interconnected global economy and the reach of many organizations throughout the world, it is imperative that we find more ways to enlist the help of businesses and local organizations to help fight this awful crime.

Many of the victims associated with human trafficking, as we know, are women and young girls who are forced to enter prostitution. Many who are attracted to our Nation are migrant workers from Mexico and Central America.

So, Dr. MacDonald, how can we improve working relations on the border to help fight labor trafficking from Latin America? And what consequences should the U.S. place on companies for blatantly ignoring trafficking problems in their business?

Also, it is not surprising that dictatorships around the globe are the largest violators of international anti-trafficking standards and do nothing to protect people from this modern-day slavery. Once again, the regimes of Iran, Cuba, Syria, and North Korea are designated as top tier III countries in the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report issued by our State Department.

In Cuba, the Castro tyranny supports and encourages the sex tourism industry by exploiting vulnerable women and children. According to a recent report by El Nuevo Herald in South Florida, foreigners travel to Cuba to take advantage of young women who are recruited to enter prostitution in order to fill the coffers of the Castro brothers.

On Central America, reports are that drug cartels and gangs are using their narcotic routes to traffic human beings across the border. These individuals may be migrant workers, drug traffickers, and even terrorists.

So, Supervisor Knabe, what actions is your local government taking to prevent trafficking in the California-Mexico border? And how can we ensure that our allies in the region prioritize this threat as we have? As we consider the global scope of human trafficking, we must be clear that it occurs within our very borders, making this a domestic challenge as well as an international one.

And this is especially true in my home district of South Florida, a region with one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the country. It is an appalling reality. And I remain committed to making sure that we have every effort at work in order to fight it because the promotion of basic human rights and human dignity must remain a cornerstone for the United States as our foreign policy initiatives.

So, Supervisor and Dr. MacDonald, if you could address the issue that I brought up in my questions?

Mr. MACDONALD. Okay. I will just quickly say that I think it is—I am glad you brought up this issue of what is happening in the border because I think it is really important that with all of the attention placed on the drug war there and the smuggling and trafficking of people across the border, that many companies that have those workers within their supply chain need to be held accountable for how those workers are getting there. And it is really important to note that the people who are trafficking the drugs, trafficking the weapons are also trafficking the people, that there is a great deal of overlap between these gangs and this organized crime.

And so if you are relying on workers who are taking those migratory routes, then, without a doubt, you are entangled in this problem. And to try to say that you are not is simply burying your head in the sand.

And so, whether those people are coming here with documents or not, very often traffickers are involved. And so companies really must focus on what steps they can take, concrete steps, rather than try to pretend that they are not entangled with the issue. And that is where——

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Okay.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you.

Supervisor?

Mr. KNABE. Well, great question. You have given me an opportunity to do a little soapbox here. I mean, at the end of the day, those of us in local government, our job is to solve the problem, to fix it with the resources that we have. That is the case in some of the cases, particularly like items like this.

We are at the beck and whim of the Federal Government and the state government to put the tools in place that covers everybody. We only as a county can do so much. As it relates to gang issues, penalties, those kinds of things, we need state legislation, enabling state legislation. We need Federal legislation to really raise the level so we can continue to do our jobs.

You know, these young girls, nobody asked them whether they are Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or Independent. They are true victims. And those of us at the local level have to deal with that. And that is why we appreciate your leadership here and others because we need that leadership and we need that assistance, both at the Federal level as well as the state level.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. We thank you, each one of you, for what you are doing.

So proud to recognize Mr. Vargas for his 5 minutes of questioning.

Mr. VARGAS. Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you again for allowing me to speak.

I want to thank all of you for being here also. This is a horrible crime that happens right here in the United States, as you have all said today. I represent the border area in California, represent San Diego County. It is a horrible crime there.

I have to say I have been working with the Federal prosecutors because we do have some problems in the Federal law, laws that we can change. And, in fact, I have sponsored a bill, H.R. 1690, which does this. Right now a prosecutor has to prove that a sex trafficker knew the child was a child. It is very difficult to do to prove that the trafficker knew that the child was a child. So what this bill says is that you don't have to prove, the government doesn't have to prove, that this pimp knew that the child was a child. The government has to prove that the child is a child. So the government just proves that this person is a pimp. He was sex trafficking this child. The prosecutors say that that will go a long way in being able to put people away.

We are working with the prosecutors in San Diego and a very courageous young woman that escaped from these pimps. And her pimp ultimately got 30 years because she did have the courage and she did have the wherewithal to stand up in court, which is very difficult for a child to do but to be able to put this guy away for 30 years. And that is what we will be able to do if we can change the law.

So I would hope that maybe we could get behind that bill, H.R. 1690. I think it is a very good bill. And I agree we glorify oftentimes the pimp. And we revictimize the victim and in this case a child. So we need to change Federal law right here in the United States to be able to go after these people.

Supervisor Knabe, you have been a hero to many of us. Would you like to comment on that particular law or hopefully change——

Mr. KNABE. I think this week, you are going to have five young heroines here who will have the willingness to stand up. And they are five victims that have survived that are coming into town. You know, whatever tools are necessary when you go back to the question about what we can do, we can only do so much. But given the tools, like an H.R. 1690 or others, that would really help us at the local level work with our Federal prosecutors. You know, how we are able to raise this whole issue as it relates to the penalties, the better off we are that we are going to be able to—once we ID the folks, get them to court, do all the things that we need to do, that we have the laws that are on the books that everybody will recognize and can put these people away, whether it is 30 years, whether it is 60 years, whether it is 90 years.

But at the end of the day, you know, we need to wrap our arms around these young ladies to give them the courage. And that is the whole purpose behind the collaborative courtroom.

Mr. VARGAS. Thank you. Again I would like to note that it is very difficult, however, for a child to stand up in court because, you know, the opposing is tough, you are before all of these people. You know, we need to change this law. I mean, we absolutely need to change this Federal law to say, "No. You know, if you are a sex trafficker, if you are sex trafficking these children, the government has to prove that you are doing that, but it ought to be strict liability if it is a child. You are going to go away for a long period of time" because otherwise they have to, unfortunately, give them a light sentence because the child doesn't want to or can't go and testify. So I am hopeful that we can get behind the law and change it right here.

Would you like to comment on this? I know that we are reaching out to your group. Would you like to comment?

Mr. MYLES. I think you are pointing out an important issue. I know of one Federal case where they were trying to prove that the pimp knew that the child was a child. And there happened to be this bizarre occurrence where, actually, the father of the child had been hunting his child down for months trying to recover her. He finally learned she was in a hotel room. And he kicked in the hotel room door. And he saw the pimp in the room with his child, who was a minor. And he said, "You" so and so, "she is not yet 18. I am her father." And that father was able to testify in the courtroom to say, "I informed him that the child—that he knew that the child was a child because he heard me say that she was my daughter." How many times does that actually happen in a case, right, where you could actually find the father who hunts that down?

So I think you are right. I think that you are zeroing in on an important area of the law where to prove that the trafficker knew that the child was a child in a random occurrence where the father bursts into the hotel room and has to say it, but lightning has to strike for that to happen. So I think that we can't rely on that to get this many pimps at scale to create the turn effect at scale that we need to.

Mr. VARGAS. Well, many of them are runaways to begin with.

Mr. MYLES. That is right. And other times what the prosecutor has to do, he has to search the record to show that the pimp used his own credit card because the child didn't have the credit card,

a whole bunch of things to prove that the person—it is very difficult. I hope we can get behind this bill.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Vargas.

Mr. Kinzinger?

Mr. KINZINGER. Thank you, Madam Chair, appreciate it. And thank you, all, for coming in, such an important issue.

You know, I always knew this was an issue, but I really had my eyes opened. There is a documentary out there; it is actually called "Nefarious." And I don't know if you have seen it. If you haven't, I would commend that to anybody who is either watching this on television or is in the audience. An outstanding documentary by basically a missionary I think that was—his eye was opened to what was going on.

Specifically, they hid all over the world, but an area that is really disturbing to me is what I saw in Thailand. And I know we have been talking about Thailand a little bit, but you see, you know, as he documents Americans going to utilize the services, if you can say it so crassly, of a 10-year-old girl sold into sex slavery as her Dad sits back in his village and smokes and drinks all day long, you know, earning the profits of his daughter, and really doesn't care, doesn't see her as somebody he loves, more sees her as an opportunity, so that he can smoke and drink all day long. I watched this documentary and this video and it really opened my eyes and was jaw-dropping.

One of the things that really has since kind of I guess driven me in this issue is the idea that nobody I think when you talk about the average American out there, they don't think of this as a very serious issue. And I know we are doing everything we can to bring it on the forefront. This hearing today is part of that. But when you mention the issue to kind of "Johnny on the street," in many cases they are interested in what you have to say, but they are unaware of the situation.

So I am actually a co-chair of the Thai Caucus, and in that role, obviously, as Thailand, a strategic ally of the United States from a foreign affairs perspective, but it gives us an opportunity to really engage the government.

One of the things I saw in this video—and I don't know if this is still the case, but that was interesting was the Thai Government would actually sponsor billboards that say, "Welcome to Thailand, where our greatest asset is our women." And, you know, you see things like that and it kind of makes you wonder, and you start to begin to understand why this is so prevalent there.

So I will ask you a couple of questions. First off—and I will get to the second question, too. First off is, what can we do to better engage Thailand from maybe a Thai Caucus perspective, bringing that to the public attention?

And, secondly, I represent a district in Illinois, and it is in between Chicago and St. Louis. And, actually, as you look at domestic human trafficking, you see that Chicago and St. Louis is a huge corridor for this. If you look at the numbers of it, Chicago had over 250 I think cases of this, and there is many in St. Louis.

What can we do from a domestic perspective? The other scary thing is you see cities like Bloomington, Illinois; Normal, Illinois; Rockford; where these issues are actually popping up. What can we

do to better bring this to the American people's attention? Whether it is a 911 kind of call center, I don't know, or whatever, to bring it so when people see that these are occurring they are more aware of it. You know, they are not at a club or something, and they are more aware of what is going on and we can report it.

So two questions. I pose those to all three of you, and I will start with you, Mr. Supervisor.

Mr. KNABE. Well, as I said, it is all building blocks for us. I mean, we can do what we can do at the county level to elevate this issue, and we are doing what we can. But at the end of the day, we are going to need to get it where you would like to see it and where I think we all would like to see it.

It is going to take a national campaign of some sort. That is going to take a major collaboration of who knows who yet, but we are trying to put that together because we can only do so much.

Like I say, in our county, and we are doing a lot in a matter of months, but at the end of the day it is going to take a national campaign to elevate this conversation because it goes—as the others have said, in addition to this human trafficking, the workforce, you know, with the ports and, you know, all of the other kinds of issues that we have to deal with, it will take a national campaign of some kind.

Mr. KINZINGER. Well, it is like the issue of the war on drugs. Everybody became very aware of it through a national campaign like the issue of AIDS in Africa, and it is an opportunity for the Federal Government to work on that level, but mostly also for NGOs and nonprofits to come and make people aware.

Mr. Myles?

Mr. MYLES. Yes, sir. I am glad you saw the movie Nefarious. There has been a whole explosion of movies out on this issue—Nefarious, Not My Life, Very Young Girls, Trade of Innocence, Taken. You know, all of these movies are coming out, and what is happening is one by one people are becoming more aware as they see those movies.

But it is still happening a bit like popcorn. It is kind of all over the place. It is not a centralized national campaign the way you are describing, the way the supervisor is describing, and so we are moving the needle, but we are not moving the needle enough on the national awareness piece.

And I think we need to be engaging faith communities way more on the national awareness piece. I think Federal legislation and Federal leadership can move that needle. But right now the documentaries and whatnot, they are increasing it, but we are not really getting to where we need to.

To the piece on Thailand, you know, I was in Thailand 2 or 3 months ago, and I experienced a number of the things that you described of just the horror at the sex tourism and the men buying children there and seeing it.

I think one—I asked some questions about hotlines there. I said, you know, "What are the hotlines here?" They said, "Well, there is a hotline operated by the Thai Government, but it is not in all of these different languages."

So I think maybe asking the question about hotlines through the Thai Caucus there is some great work being done to build better

hotlines there, so put some focus on that, so there are some victim identification mechanisms happening. I think that is one piece.

I think the second piece is demand, and this is what Judge Poe talked about, the consumer piece. When anywhere in the world, or in the United States, when an economy becomes dependent on the sex trade and the objectification of women and girls, then there becomes an entrenched, monetized interest to keep that going.

So whether or not it is present in a U.S. community or in Thailand, that challenge is going to be, and that is going to revolve around demand.

Mr. KINZINGER. Thank you.

Mr. MYLES. Whether or not that is Protect Act cases, whether or not that is cases of sex tourism, or whether or not that is actually looking at the Thai law to crack down on more consumers, that is going to begin to reverse that tide. But until then, we have got a huge problem on our hands because there is entrenched interest to keep that going.

Mr. KINZINGER. Great input. Dr. MacDonald, I have got to cut you off because we are out of time. Sorry about that.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much.

So proud to recognize my Florida colleague, Ms. Frankel.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you, Madam Chair. I also thank the chairman and panel for bringing this issue, which I think most Americans don't realize the depth of this. "Horrible" isn't a big enough word to describe what is going on in the exploitation of folks.

I have a number of questions. My first question has to do with the exploitation in the labor market, and you talked about debt bondage, and so forth. And in that regard, number one, could good immigration reform help, in your opinion, this exploitation of the human laborers?

Number two, could stronger labor laws when we enact trade treaties, could that also go toward minimizing this human trafficking?

Mr. MACDONALD. I will take a crack at that. I think with the free trade agreements and the labor agreements that are negotiated along with that, it is really important that the full spectrum of labor abuses be considered, including the out-migration and in-migration of workers.

Very often the way that labor issues are looked at when we are investigating a particular country where there is a debate about whether there should be a trade agreement, the full extent of the labor dynamic is not always properly considered. So what is that country doing, not just for enforcing law in its own country, but protecting its workers who are moving overseas and protecting the workers who are coming into their country. So I think that is one point.

With immigration reform, I am just going to focus on particularly this issue of foreign labor recruiters. I think one thing that we have found in our own research, and I think it is confirmed by a lot of other research, is that workers who are confined to one particular job because of the way that their visa is organized face a lot more vulnerability because they cannot move.

So portability of employment is really important, as well as, as I have discussed before, the issue of accountability for the actions

of the labor recruiters whom the farms are hiring or the businesses are hiring to help them process these visas to find the workers. So there are a lot of good proposals out there in the world lobbying around immigration to focus on more accountability for labor recruiters.

So I think those are really important points—more transparency and accountability for labor brokers and issues of portability of jobs for workers, whatever their visa status is.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you. Madam Chair, I wanted to give a shout out to Brandi Macaluso from my hometown, who was just recognized by Attorney General Bondi for her work in trafficking.

In regard to the prostitution, trafficking, and so forth, question. I mean, it is outrageous to hear these stories, and there is a story playing out today. It is domestic, not international, in Cleveland. I think the country is going to be, you know, outraged by it.

My question is, though, do you believe that law enforcement is really paying attention? Do we have the—because we have been talking about awareness and hotlines, and so forth. But let us talk about enforcement and getting the bad guys or whoever is, you know, behind the trafficking.

In your opinion, is law enforcement at every level putting in the resources and the attention to this problem that it should have?

Mr. KNABE. From my perspective, no. I think the issue of law enforcement is no different than the average person out there in the streets that thinks this is Third World kinds of activities and not here in our own backyard. I think the element of training for our law enforcement personnel, dedicated strike teams as it relates to this, and, most importantly, the legislative backup that when they do get the bad guy that the laws are tough enough to put them away for awhile.

I think early on, and continuing beyond, right now when they get the bad guy, the bad guy is in and out, you know, kind of a thing. Again, going back to what Congresswoman Bass said, I think we need to change the name from prostitution to something else because they are truly the victim.

But law enforcement—I know in our own case when we started out with these billboards and the flyers on the trains and buses and Metro and everything else, it was a whole coordinated effort that had to take place because our transportation police were not aware of this. They know how to look for the bag that is unattended, okay, but the identity of a young girl that may be—you know, so it is a whole training and awareness effort that they are not aware of. I don't think that they have the resources yet, but they need to develop strike teams.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much, Ms. Frankel.

Mr. Chabot of Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Mr. Myles, let me begin with you, if I could. You described in detail the successes of a U.S. national human trafficking resources center hotline. As chair of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I can tell you that we have heard a lot of cases about trafficking in Asia.

The subcommittee staff recently traveled to Cambodia and Vietnam, and I had been there a while back as well and heard the same things about the depth of the problem of human trafficking there. Unfortunately, it doesn't sound like it is a whole lot better now than it was some years ago when I was there, according to the subcommittee staff.

You indicated in your testimony that the only country in Asia I believe that you are currently working in is Malaysia. Does Polaris have any plans to expand its work in Asia to include other countries such as Cambodia and Vietnam? You know, the entire region's traffic cases are interrelated. For example, the Vietnamese women are very highly trafficked in Cambodia. They are considered to be the poor of the poor and highly discriminated against, and Cambodians are trafficked in places like Thailand and Malaysia.

Hotlines are certainly a good first step. Are there any efforts to kind of tackle this problem from multiple sides?

Mr. MYLES. Yes, sir. I think it is a great question. So one of our partners on this global human trafficking hotline network that we are working on through the Google Impact Award is a group in Asia called Liberty Asia. They are working on building a regional hotline that would apply to the six countries in the Greater Mekong subregion.

So through that partnership, that is one of the ways that we are working in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and other countries there. The one country that we have directly engaged with is Malaysia. But there is some temporal contextuality there to that answer, which is we are starting off on this project to try to identify and contact hotlines in every country around the world, and provide them training and technical assistance.

We do intend to work with countries methodically, country by country, and not just handpick a few. So not only through our work with Liberty Asia will we access more countries, but through our own work through the State Department funding we will be directly interfacing with Cambodia, with Vietnam, with the countries that you talked about. So we just haven't gotten there yet.

Mr. CHABOT. Okay.

Mr. MYLES. So just give us a few months, and we will get there.

Mr. CHABOT. Okay. Thank you very much.

Supervisor Knabe, if I could turn to you next. Our Embassy in Vietnam indicated that many of the labor trafficking cases are tied to criminal organizations in California. In situations where the trafficked women are from other countries, how do you handle those cases?

Specifically, what happens to those individuals who have been trafficked to the United States via forged paperwork and against their will? When you step in to rescue them in those cases, is there anything in place to work with their respective countries to ensure that if they are sent back that there is some sort of safety net in place to help prevent them from falling victim to other trafficking circles?

Mr. KNABE. The thing that I am most aware of is that there is something in place when they come this way or come to California, with our cooperation with the FBI, the Department of Homeland

Security, and ICE, and we have dedicated folks that have that relationship with them.

So if we, as a unit or as a county, are able to rescue some young girls coming across that are human trafficked from other countries, we have the situation in place to handle that. I do not know, and I can't speak to the fact that when they go back what happens. I am not sure that there is that safety net. I think that is what everyone is worried about.

There is a whole ethnic issue here. As an example, the largest Cambodian population outside of Cambodia resides in my district, in Long Beach, California. So you have issues there that you can deal with because they are trying to educate because you have an adult population that doesn't look at this as horrific as the younger population does.

They have groups that can reach back into Cambodia, as an example, to try to create that safety net. So we are trying to use every activity we can, but I can't speak to the fact of whether or not there is an exact safety net. I only know through some of the Asian community members that I deal with. They are trying to create that in their home areas, but I don't know for a fact whether—we have it in place to rescue them and to return them, but I am not sure at the other end.

Mr. CHABOT. Okay. Mr. Myles, did you want to comment?

Mr. MYLES. Yes. I would just comment briefly. I think you are highlighting a really important area where innovation is needed in the human trafficking field, which is right now countries aren't engaging on a bilateral basis.

So, let us say, a huge bus of South Korean women is found here in the United States. Is there a strong bilateral relationship between governments, between law enforcement, between nonprofits, to work that case from both Korea and here in the United States? Not as much.

So we can imagine hundreds of those happening, U.S. to Cambodia, U.S. to Korea, U.S. to Vietnam, U.S. to Mexico. And building those bilateral relationships after the case is found, so both countries are working the case together, I think is something that the field needs to be doing a lot more of in future years.

In the first 10 years in the field, they haven't been doing that as much because we have been getting the infrastructures in place. Now that the infrastructure is in place, we can begin to partner them country by country in exactly the way you are describing.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chair. My time has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Lowenthal?

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question for Supervisor Knabe. First, I would like to commend you and Los Angeles County for your great work in both educating us, but really providing kind of a model for the rest of the counties and for the Nation in terms of what, at the local level, we can do.

I followed your presentation earlier; I had to leave, but in terms of raising awareness, of involving the private sector, in terms of bringing in Federal grants and beginning to build relationships with school districts, and working with victims.

So my question is—and I see how this is a process that is taking years, that counties are not just going to jump in and solve this. This takes a lot of work and a lot of coordination. I am just kind of interested in if you can share with us how that work with schools is doing.

Since this is—you know, we are talking about children's mental health right now, and I am wearing a ribbon for Children's Mental Health Awareness Month, if you could tell us, with your experiences, how—and as you began with people who are subjected to prostitution at ages 10 or 11, what kind of recovery is going on? How does mental health work?

I just think that is such an important task, but I would like to understand more how effective it is being.

Mr. KNABE. Well, it is effective. I think it is on two fronts, Congressman Lowenthal. I mean, one is going back to the collaborative court where we are bringing the wrap-around services.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Right.

Mr. KNABE. You can't operate in silence anymore. The mental health piece is an absolutely critical piece to all of this. You always have to remember that the victim is usually a runaway or a subject of domestic violence, so they really have no self-esteem——

Mr. LOWENTHAL. That is right.

Mr. KNABE [continuing]. The most significant part of the mental health issue. Then, the housing, as I said, is the biggest thing that is missing to be able to protect them, because they may have a tattoo on their forehead or on their shoulder to identify their pimp. So these wrap-around services, you know, dealing with the victim.

As it relates to the other part, there has to be a public conversation, you know, our school districts, getting the word out through them about trafficking issues. Again, it is a very uncomfortable subject, but I would venture, you know, that there are kids out there that can identify other kids that may be in that potential situation. There has got to be a level of comfort.

So we can only do so much, but we try to do it through the mental health programs, through outreach campaigns, and through the school districts. We are having some limited success, but, again, school districts aren't really comfortable about talking about it either, and that is what we have to be able to raise the level of attention, so that it is a comfortable subject.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you.

Mr. MACDONALD. Can I just add one quick thing to that in terms of services? As many of these victims are further entrapped through drug addiction, where the pimps and other traffickers are getting them addicted to drugs as a way to further control them, and so services around addiction is a really important component.

Mr. KNABE. We do have that. The health services and public health folks are also part of this collaborative courtroom.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I think it is important that we talk about those kinds of issues also here.

Mr. MYLES. The point that I would just jump in briefly, there are some really exciting efforts happening around the country related to schools. Georgia has been training its schools, kids in schools.

There are a number of nonprofits that are particularly focused on reaching out to high school age kids. One program here in DC is

called Fair Girls. They are trying to educate kids in the DC public schools. They are also doing it in Baltimore. There is a group called Love146 that is educating schools in Connecticut, a group called the A21 Campaign in Georgia, the Frederick Douglas Family Foundation is educating kids through New York City public schools.

It is beginning to happen a bit more, and it is happening in a spotty fashion around the country. But we need to get to a point, maybe 2 or 3 years from now, where this is getting introduced as a topic in all high school age public schools. It is talked about like bullying, and it is not the difficult subject that people are having a hard time talking about.

People need to recognize that pimps are targeting vulnerable kids, and so it is an important outreach strategy to make sure that kids can prepare themselves and talk about in schools. So I think that these initial efforts that we have seen around the country, including in California, are going to spread. And what your instinct is is how do we talk about this more in schools? We are going to see that spread and become more of a national standard. So we are getting there, but we are in the early nascent stages of what you are describing.

Mr. KNABE. Congressman Lowenthal, I would just say, you know, we have that preventive curriculum that we use in our probation halls called My Life My Choice. We are trying to elevate and move that to middle schools where these exploitation efforts could be the highest as possible trafficking kinds of issues.

So we do have this program, My Life My Choice, that we are using in probation. We are trying to take it to the middle schools as well. But, again, we need the cooperation of the school districts.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you. I think sharing that information with us is vitally important, and I yield back my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Lowenthal.

And Mr. Connolly of Virginia is recognized.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Madam Chairman. Last, but maybe not least.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The best for last.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you so much. More chocolate for you.

Mr. Knabe, first of all, I just want to thank you. I spent 14 years on the Board of Supervisors in Fairfax County, and I always like saluting my fellow local government servants because it is where the action is. And, God knoweth, you guys get so much more done than some other levels of government.

I am particularly glad that you are so committed to this. You know, I say to all three of our panelists, we had a series of hearings on human trafficking in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the last Congress from which we passed a bill, actually, as part of the Defense Authorization Bill.

Dr. MacDonald, you referred to the Executive Order, but our bill actually codifies that and does a few other things. I want to get into that in a second.

But it is so important that at the local level we have leaders like Supervisor Knabe and others, and I hope the National Association of County Supervisors is very seized with this mission because that is a nationwide network that can make a difference because we

know that human trafficking doesn't just occur in big urban areas such as Los Angeles.

It can occur even more successfully, unfortunately, in rather remote areas in the country where it is not detected, where the police forces are much weaker, the ability to gather intelligence and the like. So your commitment and building a network up to fight it from the local level I just think is so critical.

Dr. MacDonald, are you familiar with the legislation that got passed? Because what we highlighted was, frankly, U.S. Government contractors and subcontractors, especially at DoD and the Department of State, and we were shocked at the testimony. I mean, shocked. It was rampant.

This is compromising human autonomy, and there can be nothing more antithetical to American values than that. What we found, frankly, was the practice was turning a blind eye because we have got to get, you know, that building constructed or that facility put up. If some foreign subcontractor feels that is what they need, that is what they need.

Your comment on that?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes. I am quite familiar with it. I am glad that you all took that effort to really make it happen. What is really important now is that in the Federal regulatory writing process, with the Executive Order and also in relation to your legislation, that clear guidance for these contractors or subcontractors is creating, and that there is real enforcement from within the Federal bureaucracy, those who are in charge of contracts, because, as you know, clear policy is in place there around no fees, no contract substitution, all sorts of issues about repatriation of workers, and so on.

So the things are spelled out there about what they need to have in their due diligence plan. But whether or not the Federal bureaucracy is going to take the step, have the resources, train its contracting officials to actually identify what is an acceptable plan in place for Federal contractors, and whether there are systems in place for those Federal contractors to use things like the ethical framework that I mentioned that we created to provide a blueprint for labor recruiters to show that they followed these rules, that is where the rubber hits the road, will there be true enforcement of that? Because people are really identifying the steps that need to be taken.

There are good recruiters, there are too many bad recruiters, and there has to be a way to recognize the good from the bad and make sure that there is accountability within these Federal contracts for that, because if it is happening on our U.S. military bases and with our Embassies and others, you can imagine what is happening in the private sector, the world over.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Exactly.

Mr. MACDONALD. Routine practice.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Let me just say, at least starting with our contractors, our view was in our legislation there will be zero tolerance, and you will not turn a blind eye. And if these are subcontractors working for you, you will enforce these standards, and you will debar.

When we asked how many were prosecuted, we heard testimony about thousands and thousands and thousands of human beings who had had their autonomy ripped from them. And when we said, "Well, how many have been prosecuted? How many contractors or subcontractors have been prosecuted?" It was a handful. How many have been debarred? And I believe I am correct; it was zero. Unacceptable.

So we clearly need groups such as yours and yours, Mr. Myles, to be being the watchdogs to make sure that that enforcement is real, and that there is transparency because there are lots of us here who are more than willing to partner with you to make sure that—we first start by holding ourselves accountable.

Mr. KNABE. Congressman, if I could just interject, you know, it is amazing at the transportation level on transportation projects across this country that there are all of these debarment kinds of situations in place. And they are prosecuted, you know, and to deal with an issue like human trafficking——

Mr. CONNOLLY. Exactly.

Mr. KNABE [continuing]. They should absolutely have the same things in place. If you look at the template of most of the transportation legislation that comes out of the Federal Government, and the structure that is set up for debarment, it could just transfer over as it relates to human trafficking and the whole supply chain.

Mr. MYLES. And the only point I would make briefly is just to all of those contractors, as these regulations come out, make sure that the workers are given hotlines and complaint mechanisms to call. And so imagine the workers working for some of those defense contractors. Did they know a hotline to call when they were in that situation? Probably not. Or the workers that are working on some other contract or subcontract, do they know a hotline to call? Probably not.

What you can do through the regulatory process is mandate certain complaint mechanisms that those companies, if you contract with the Federal Government, part of the requirement of contracting with the Federal Government is you need to tell your workers about a complaint mechanism, and here is a hotline to call. When those workers know those hotlines to call, they will call in a whistleblower-type fashion. So that is one component of this, just to make sure the worker's voice is heard, too.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, my time is up. I do want to be very clear, however, when we are talking about the contractors and subcontractors, we are talking about some bad apples. The overwhelming majority, obviously, of contractors and subcontractors would never turn a blind eye to this kind of a phenomenon.

But, unfortunately, the further away we get from our own shores in contracting for remote facilities, you have to rely on sometimes other companies that may not be as committed passionately to this, and that is where our enforcement mechanisms really come into play.

I thank the chair.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Connolly.

We, again, say to Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Myles, Supervisor Don Knabe, thank you very much for your testimony here today.

You know, today the eyes of our country are riveted by the welcome rescue of three young women abducted and detained for over a decade in a Cleveland home. As we rejoice at their rescue, this hearing today, this testimony today, underscores the sad reality that millions of other girls around this world and, indeed, right here in our own communities and our own counties, many are being robbed of their youth as silent victims of forced sexual exploitation.

You have all highlighted important local and private anti-trafficking initiatives that we can help get behind. But I think our pledge on this committee is that we will remain diligent in keeping the State Department honest in pressing foreign nations to join us in fighting this modern-day slavery.

I thank you, again, and we stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:19 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Material Submitted for the Hearing Record

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman

May 7, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov):

DATE: Tuesday, May 7, 2013

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking

WITNESSES: Mr. Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Bradley Myles
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Polaris Project

Shawn MacDonald, Ph.D.
Director of Programs and Research
Verité

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE HEARING

Day *Tuesday* **Date** *05/07/13* **Room** *2172*

Starting Time *10:08 a.m.* **Ending Time** *12:18 p.m.*

Recesses *0* (____to ____) (____to ____) (____to ____) (____to ____) (____to ____) (____to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Ed Royce, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☑
Executive (closed) Session ☐
Televised ☑
Electronically Recorded (taped) ☑
Stenographic Record ☑

TITLE OF HEARING:

Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

See Attached Sheet

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes ☑ **No** ☐
(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

SFR - Connolly

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____
or
TIME ADJOURNED *12:18 p.m.*

Jean Marter, Director of Committee Operations

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking"

May 7, 2013

Present	*Member*
X	Edward R. Royce, CA
X	Christopher H. Smith, NJ
X	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL
X	Dana Rohrabacher, CA
X	Steve Chabot, OH
	Joe Wilson, SC
	Michael T. McCaul, TX
X	Ted Poe, TX
	Matt Salmon, AZ
X	Tom Marino, PA
X	Jeff Duncan, SC
X	Adam Kinzinger, IL
X	Mo Brooks, AL
X	Tom Cotton, AR
X	Paul Cook, CA
X	George Holding, NC
X	Randy K. Weber, Sr., TX
	Scott Perry, PA
	Steve Stockman, TX
	Ron DeSantis, FL
	Trey Radel, FL
X	Doug Collins, GA
X	Mark Meadows, NC
X	Ted S. Yoho, FL
	Luke Messer, IN

Present	*Member*
X	Eliot L. Engel, NY
	Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, AS
X	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
X	Albio Sires, NJ
X	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
	Brian Higgins, NY
X	Karen Bass, CA
	William Keating, MA
X	David Cicilline, RI
	Alan Grayson, FL
X	Juan Vargas, CA
	Bradley S. Schneider, IL
X	Joseph P. Kennedy III, MA
X	Ami Bera, CA
X	Alan S. Lowenthal, CA
	Grace Meng, NY
X	Lois Frankel, FL
X	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
X	Joaquin Castro, TX

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)

HCFA Full Committee Hearing: Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking
Tuesday, 5/7/2013
10am

Thank you, Chairman Royce, for holding this hearing on initiatives to combat human trafficking. Late last week, several news outlets reported on a federal investigation in McLean, Virginia, where two Philippine nationals may have been held in domestic servitude. The house in which they were found is located on "a quiet, wooded lane of stately homes that ends in a cul-de-sac," according to one news story—a reminder that human trafficking is not relegated to a specific type of country or neighborhood.[1]

Trafficking violates the most fundamental right we have as human beings—personal autonomy. According to the most recent Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report from the State Department, "The United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children – both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals – subjected to forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and sex trafficking."[2]

Northern Virginia and the Washington Capital Region are home to numerous organizations dedicated to eliminating the heinous practice of human trafficking. Besides the recent McLean story, there was a June 2010 article in a Richmond-based magazine describing the prevalence of human trafficking activity in Richmond. The article detailed a 2006 FBI case that involved Korean women "being used in brothels from Rhode Island to Virginia."[3] Similarly, there were reports in *The Washington Post* in 2006 about massage parlors being used as fronts for prostitution rings in Northern Virginia. Policymakers often discuss this issue at a national level, but these incidents and others in communities across the country highlight that prevention, enforcement, and victim support ought to be a partnership at all levels of government.

The other committee on which I serve has also been active in fighting against human trafficking. As Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee that oversees federal procurement policy, I joined then-Chairman Lankford in holding a series of oversight hearings investigating the abuse of foreign nationals employed by government contractors. Our hearings revealed certain bad actors with contracts under the Department of Defense, State, and other federal agencies, were engaging in serious human rights abuses, including seizing workers' passports to trap them at a work site, lying about compensation, engaging in sexual abuse, and keeping workers in a state of indentured servitude.

I was pleased to work with Chairman Lankford to introduce and pass the bipartisan End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act, which seeks to end the abhorrent and unacceptable

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[1] Clarence Williams, "Federal authorities investigate McLean home after allegations of human trafficking," *The Washington Post*, May 2 2013, http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-05-02/local/38981874_1_homeland-security-two-women-dhs.
[2] "2012 Trafficking in Persons Report" *United States State Department*, 359.
[3] Peter Galuszka *The New Slavery* Style Magazine (June 2010).

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)

practice of human trafficking by certain U.S. contractors operating overseas. Specifically, this law enhances and expands on President Obama's Executive Order on Human Trafficking by:

- Requiring every contract to have a clause allowing contract termination in the event of human trafficking and appropriate penalties for contractors who engage in trafficking.
- Listing indices of trafficking, such as revocation of passports and high recruiting fees, which require agency investigations and corrective action.
- Requiring large overseas contracts to have compliance plans to prevent trafficking.
- Requiring agency investigation of trafficking complaints or evidence of trafficking.
- Expanding fraud in foreign labor contracting penalties to work performed outside of the US on federal contracts.

By enacting the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act, Congress made significant progress in ensuring our Nation's federal contracting laws are strong enough to enforce our deepest held values.

The myriad causes of human trafficking cannot be addressed overnight. The commoditization of men, women, and children for profit is a vexing challenge, but one that we must solve. Oftentimes, victims of trafficking have few financial resources. Sometimes they are misled with promises of a job in a restaurant and then sexually exploited. Other times, they are perpetual indentured servants. Moreover, as victim advocates point out, the tendency to treat trafficking victims as criminals does not help the situation. Neither does the fact that in many countries, local law enforcement authorities are working with traffickers. Another challenge is that those who are trafficked often fade into obscurity, becoming anonymous slaves with little chance to escape. This is why it is so difficult to pinpoint exact trafficking numbers.

For more than ten years, the United States has actively fought human trafficking through provisions laid out in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act but we are only beginning to combat this problem. I look forward to today's testimony to hear how we can all work together to eliminate human trafficking.

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