

General Eric Holder once again urging that the Department of Justice prioritize the issue of human trafficking and specifically go after Web sites like Backpage.com which serve as a conduit for the buying and selling of human beings.

In multiple letters to the Department over the last year I've implored the Attorney General to tell Congress if federal law enforcement does not have the necessary tools to take legal action against such web sites—sites which time and again feature prominently in horrific stories of abuse and exploitation of the most vulnerable among us.

These requests have gone unanswered. The exploitation persists. Attorney General Holder is failing.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.,  
Attorney General, Department of Justice,  
Washington DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Many Americans were undoubtedly heartened to learn yesterday that authorities rescued 105 children from 76 different cities across this nation who had been forced into prostitution, and arrested 150 pimps who were intimately involved in the exploitation of these minors—children ranging in age from 13 to 17. But I suspect that just as many Americans were shocked to learn of the scope and reach of human trafficking in our own back yard. For under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act any minor used in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking.

I applaud the impressive work of the FBI; its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, including the Fairfax County Police Department and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). As you know, I have long supported efforts locally and in the annual Commerce-Justice-Science

(CJS) appropriations bill to elevate this issue as a law enforcement priority. In fact in the CJS bill which recently passed the House Appropriations Committee included language instructing U.S. Attorneys to maintain their human trafficking task forces and undertake proactive investigations of persons or entities facilitating trafficking in persons through the use of classified advertising on the Internet. The bill also directs the U.S. Attorney General to submit a comprehensive report on all DOJ anti-trafficking activities, including legislative proposals that may advance any efforts, no later than 60 days after the bill is signed into law.

While the details of this campaign, Operation Cross Country, are still emerging, not unsurprisingly, Backpage.com featured prominently in the announcement of the crack-down. In fact, a CNN story this morning cited the assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division, as saying, "This seventh iteration of Operation Cross Country also was the most successful, with a 30% to 40% increase in 'identifying both victims and pimps' compared with previous operations." The story continued, "He credited the success in part to an expansion of the probe to websites such as www.backpage.com, which he called a forum 'where pimps and exploiters gather.'"

An NBC news story following the raid reported, "Search for 'Backpage.com' on the FBI's main website and up pops eight whole pages of press releases and public announcements naming the classified advertising site as a tool for sex criminals, particularly those selling children, sex and prostitution." Case after case shows that as long as web sites like Backpage.com operate with impunity, impervious to public shame, law enforcement will simply be playing catch up.

In that vein, just last week, an overwhelming majority of state and territorial attorneys general sent a letter to the chair and ranking members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The letter indicated that "Federal enforcement alone has proven insufficient to stem the growth of internet-facilitated child sex trafficking," and pleaded that, "Those on the front lines of the battle against the sexual exploitation of children—state and local law enforcement—must be granted the authority to investigate and prosecute those who facilitate these horrible crimes."

I couldn't agree more, which is why in April 2012, well over a year ago, I wrote you a letter making clear that classified Internet advertising was the latest front in the battle against sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors. Specifically I wrote, "...if DOJ is of the mind that there are insufficient laws on the books to prosecute this activity, I respectfully request a broader legal analysis and recommendations to Congress of legislative initiatives that may be undertaken to fully equip law enforcement to tackle this problem." This was the first of several letters I've written on the topic.

On June 8 2012, I wrote, "...I continue to believe that unless there is the very real prospect of criminal liability that Backpage.com will fail to change...I recognize that these are complex legal questions but surely we can agree that this is not a complex issue. Children ought not to be bought and sold online. Those who facilitate and enable this practice should have to face consequences. I welcome the best legal analysis the Department can provide in how to ensure that this happens."

And again, on March 27, 2013 I wrote you, this time including a series of recommendations provided by NCMEC that Backpage.com and similar Web sites used for trafficking could voluntarily adopt to reduce the sexual exploitation of children online. I urged you, as the nation's chief law enforcement officer, to press Backpage.com to immediately adopt these practices and said that if they fail to do so you should "...take legal action against Backpage.com."

These last two letters have gone unanswered. The legal analysis has never been provided and the exploitation of innocents continues.

Human trafficking has rightly been deemed the slavery issue of our time. It isn't simply an international tragedy, it's a national and local outrage. For years, the back of my office door featured a giant picture of William Wilberforce—the remarkable abolitionist, and man of faith, who labored tirelessly for decades to ban the slave trade in the British Empire. Wilberforce was part of a broader transatlantic abolition movement dating back to the 1700s. He served as an inspiration for the abolitionist cause on our own shores, laying the foundation for the likes of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe and even Abraham Lincoln, who 150 years ago this year issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Wilberforce, famously said, "Having heard all this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you do not know." We know that our nation's children are at risk of horrific exploitation that almost defies imagination. We know how pimps and johns use specific Web sites to profit from and prey on their vulnerability. Will you continue to look the other way?

Best wishes.

Think of all the women and children that could be helped. You could make a difference if you act.

## IN RECOGNITION OF BAYAUD ENTERPRISES

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayaud Enterprises, a non-profit organization dedicated to instilling hope, opportunity, and choice into Colorado's disabled community by providing unparalleled job training and placement services.

Founded in 1969, Bayaud Enterprises has been an invaluable resource to the community. This year alone, they have placed over 600 Colorado citizens into competitive positions. Bayaud uses an integrated approach to help find suitable employment for individuals with disabilities who have struggled to find work on their own. They conduct a comprehensive vocational evaluation to assess an individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities, and then, if needed, provide additional workplace training.

Bayaud continues their commitment to our citizens in need by providing job placement and coaching to our community's disabled population. I applaud Bayaud's commitment to working with Colorado's business community and our government agencies to locate suitable employment for those that previously were unable to do this on their own.

Bayaud's services lessen the impact on Colorado community's social systems and provide positive economic results. Most importantly, employment leads to a sense of accomplishment and the satisfaction that one is contributing to their community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that individuals with disabilities and the economy alike have benefited greatly from the excellent work Bayaud Enterprises has done over the last 44 years.

## CONGRATULATING BERWYN SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT 100 FOR ITS EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and personally congratulate Stan Fields, District 100 Superintendent, Jim Swicionis, School Board President, as well as the administrators, teachers and students of Berwyn South School District 100 for their amazing commitment to and success in implementing healthy school environments for their students through the promotion of nutrition and physical activity.

I applaud Berwyn South School District 100 for taking bold and robust steps to change the way students approach exercise and nutrition. A clear testament to its extraordinary work is the fact that each of its eight schools in District 100—six elementary schools and two middle schools—received awards from the Healthier U.S. School Challenge operated by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Healthier U.S. School Challenge is a voluntary certification initiative by the federal government that recognizes schools that provide

innovative healthy nutrition options and physical activity opportunities for their students. In 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama incorporated the Healthier U.S. School Challenge awards into her Let's Move campaign, awarding monetary prizes for four levels of performance: Bronze; Silver; Gold; and Gold Award of Distinction, the highest level. Berwyn South School District 100 won six Gold Awards of Distinction and two Silver Awards. Impressively, only 12 Gold Awards of Distinction were awarded in the state of Illinois, and Berwyn South School District 100 won half of them. These well-deserved honors reflect the tremendous dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff of these schools and of the District and its School Board to improving and sustaining the health and nutrition of the students and the community.

To receive awards from the Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge, schools must demonstrate improvements to the nutrition and physical activity of their students across multiple domains, including breakfast foods, lunch foods, nutrition education, physical education, and physical activity. I wish to highlight some of the changes that schools in Berwyn South 100 adopted to improve the health of their students. Perhaps the greatest achievements are the dramatic improvements to the nutritional quality of the school breakfast and lunch menus. Beginning in November 2010, the District 100 Superintendent, School Board, administrators, principals, and food vendor—Aramark—partnered to ensure that each meal served exceeds the nutrition guidelines for sugar and fat content set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To complete this task, school stakeholders met with contracted meal providers to eliminate high sugar options and replace them with whole grains, fresh fruit, and vegetables. In addition, the District instituted a “Breakfast in the Classroom” program as a part of a district-wide policy in elementary classrooms during school hours, reducing school tardiness while increasing student focus. Schools further improved the nutrition of foods during holiday celebrations. For example, classes are encouraged to forgo candy during Halloween celebrations and focus on physical activities that celebrate the holiday and fellowship among classmates. Some schools also created various Parent Universities during the evenings that provide family-based experiences, such as Zumba and yoga, designed to educate and motivate the community to engage in physical activity. Beyond simply implementing these changes, the District 100 Initiative partners monitored the changes to evaluate the success and implementation of the initiative.

I am deeply impressed by the committed partnership among an array of school stakeholders in the Berwyn South District 100 that resulted in such positive systemic change in the nutrition and physical activity of the schools. I commend the following schools and their principals for receiving the Healthier U.S. School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction: Freedom Middle School, Principal James Calabrese; Heritage Middle School, Principal Laura LaSalle; Hiawatha Elementary School, Principal Marilyn McManus; Komensky Elementary School, Principal Jeremy Majeski; Pershing Elementary School, Principal Marilyn McManus; and Piper Elementary School, Prin-

cipal John Fontanetta. I also praise the following schools for receiving the Healthier U.S. School Challenge Silver Award: Emerson Elementary School, Principal Beatriz Lopez; and Irving Elementary School, Principal Mary Havis. I laud Superintendent Fields and School Board President Swicionis for encouraging and supporting these schools in their efforts to improve the physical well-being of their students.

In closing, I recognize Berwyn South School District 100 for its excellence in promoting nutrition and physical activity, and I praise its Superintendent, School Board President, School Board, administrators, teachers, staff, and parents for their commitment to improving the health of our students and communities.

THANKING MR. ALESSANDRO “ALEX” CUSATI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire U.S. House of Representatives, today I pay tribute to Alessandro “Alex” Cusati, the Chief Engineer at the U.S. House of Representatives. Alex was born in Eboli, Italy and first came to the United States as a young man in the Italian Air Force. After his exchange program, he worked for a CBS affiliate in Alabama where he met his wife Tallulah. Alex and Tallulah have two children, Jerry and Genoveffa, and a grandson, Stephen Benny.

Alex has been a dedicated House employee for 36 years and has had an impact not only on the employees working on the Hill, but also on the public at large. Starting as an Engineer in the House Recording Studio, he rose to the position of Chief Engineer in 1995. He was instrumental in running the House’s first TV broadcasts in 1979 and bore the daunting task of maintaining and upgrading the data, audio, and video capabilities of all offices within the U.S. House of Representatives. Alex has been responsible for coordinating and overseeing the transition from analog to digital data usage and the implementation of High Definition TV.

Alex was also responsible for the Recording Studio Media Center, which allows remote broadcasts from committee hearings. Additionally, he oversaw the design and opening of the House Floor Broadcasting Control Room in the Capitol Visitor Center. His personnel file, teeming with letters of gratitude for his efforts from Committee Chairmen, House Officers, and staff from foreign dignitaries, is a prime indication of his commitment to the House and his tireless work ethic. He is commended by his colleagues for his institutional knowledge, positive attitude, and uncanny ability to resolve any unpredictable issue.

Alex Cusati will be missed throughout this institution. He is a shining example of the committed men and women who quietly and without fanfare, serve the American people in unique and invaluable ways. Their commitment and unwavering work ethic make it possible for us to conduct the vital work of this

nation. Please join me in commending his outstanding service and wishing him continued success as he takes on new challenges in his retired life.

HONORING ERNEST “JUGGIE” HEEN, JR.

### HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 2013*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ernest “Juggie” Heen, Jr., an iconic son of Hawai‘i. “Uncle Juggie,” as he was known by everyone who loved him, often shared his gift for story-telling, his sense of humor, keen intellect, and love of Native Hawaiian customs and traditions. He was an accomplished musician who performed Hawaiian songs that are rarely heard today.

Born on August 31, 1930, to one of Hawai‘i’s most prominent political families, Uncle Juggie was the seventh of nine children. Uncle Juggie learned of Hawai‘i’s unique multi-cultural traditions and political dynamics at a young age. It was with his friends, many of whom were children of plantation workers, that he began the lifelong embrace of people from all heritages and his passion for service.

Uncle Juggie would often tag along with his father who became increasingly immersed in Hawai‘i’s political scene. One particular event where his father brought food to striking dock workers in the 1940s made a lasting impression on Juggie as a child. From that moment, he committed himself to organized labor in Hawai‘i. In the 1960s, Uncle Juggie later went on to serve three terms in the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

Uncle Juggie was a mentor to many, especially those engaged in the political process. In 2012, Uncle Juggie was honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement award from the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. He was also honored by the Honolulu City Council, the Hawai‘i State Office of Veterans Services, and the Department of Defense during the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War.

His older brother, Judge Walter Heen, described Uncle Juggie as “a true character” and one who “had the keen ability to perceive underlying issues that people were glossing over and was able to express the essence of those issues very clearly and succinctly.” Always an advocate, in his final years he became a strong and visible proponent for Hawai‘i’s Death with Dignity movement—giving the terminally ill in Hawai‘i complete autonomy over their end-of-life decisions and care.

Uncle Juggie was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1998. Although it went into remission, it returned to his liver and pancreas a few years later. After fighting courageously for more than two years with the support of the many people he mentored, Uncle Juggie passed away on June 30, 2013.

Uncle Juggie, thank you very much (mahalo nui loa) for your service to Hawai‘i and our nation. Your legacy lives on in all of us. Love to you. (Aloha oe.)