

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2010

The Honorable John Conyers
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Committee on the Judiciary
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and
Homeland Security
B-370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louie Gohmert
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and
Homeland Security
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers, Ranking Member Smith, Chairman Scott, and Ranking Member Gohmert:

We, the undersigned, write in support of your decision to hold a hearing in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security on September 15, 2010 on domestic minor sex trafficking. We are particularly pleased that you will be examining how websites, such as Craigslist, are contributing to the problem.

Human trafficking has become our modern-day slavery and is considered the third-largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. We are deeply concerned with this epidemic and the attached ad featured in the May 19th San Francisco Chronicle has reinforced our steadfast determination to help the young, innocent victims of these crimes.

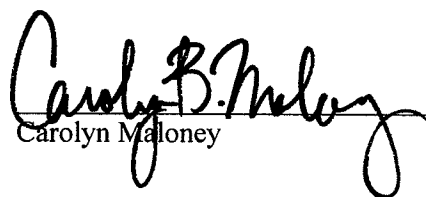
National experts estimate that at least 100,000 children are trafficked each year in the United States and the average age of victims is just 12-14 years old. Evidence shows that the Internet has become the tool of choice for these predators. On the 'adult services' website of Craigslist, one must pay only \$10 to post a sexually explicit ad that is immediately available to thousands. A recent study conducted in Georgia revealed that the Internet is now responsible for more than 75 percent of adolescent prostitution. Even more disturbing, that same study revealed that nearly 50 percent of ad respondents wanted to follow through with the transaction, even after being warned about the girl's age three or more times.

We believe that this issue deserves immediate action, and commend you for scheduling a hearing that will examine how pervasive this problem has become and the steps that we can take to improve the lives of the innocent victims affected.

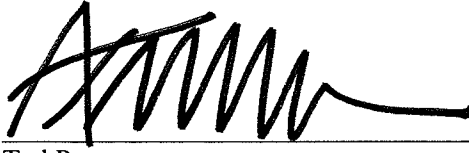
Sincerely,



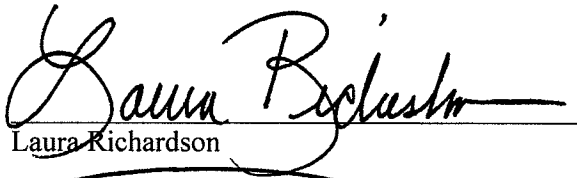
Jackie Speier



Carolyn Maloney



Ted Poe



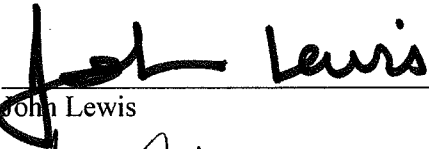
Laura Richardson



Steve Cohen



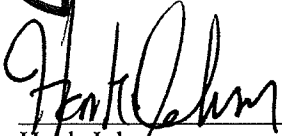
David Wu



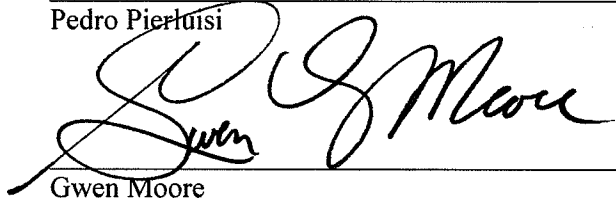
John Lewis



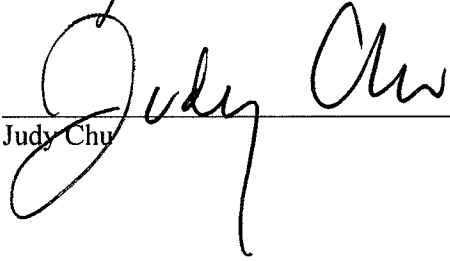
Pedro Pierluisi



Hank Johnson



Gwen Moore



Judy Chu