



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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6 December 2007

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Specter,

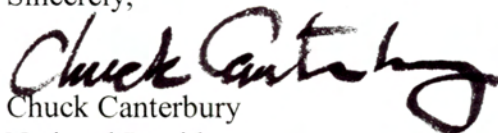
I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our concerns regarding H.R. 3887, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act."

The FOP strongly supports the chief aim of the legislation, which is to assist Federal, State, and local authorities in combating modern day slavery and the trafficking in human beings. However, we believe that the bill was amended in such a way as to involve directly the Federal government in the investigation and prosecution of simple prostitution cases which are unrelated to human trafficking. State and local jurisdictions already have a variety of statutes on the books designed to fight criminal conduct which may take place within or as a consequence of a human trafficking operation. More than thirty States have now implemented a model statute drafted by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2004 to help them address issues related to sex and labor trafficking in State and local jurisdictions. This is, of course, in addition to those provisions in Federal law which apply specifically to those engaged in human trafficking and derivative offenses.

Given that State laws address crimes like pimping, pandering, and solicitation, it is not clear, or even advisable, that the Federal government become active on these local issues in the absence of evidence that the offenses were committed as part of or in furtherance of a human trafficking operation. To do so is a waste of resources at all levels of government.

Please understand that the FOP strongly supports the reauthorization of our nation's anti-human trafficking effort. However, our concerns about the reach and scope of the new offenses are genuine, and we ask that they be thoroughly considered when the Committee considers the legislation. If I can be of any further help on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,



Chuck Canterbury
National President

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