



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Daniel T. Blue, JR**  
*Senate Democratic Leader  
North Carolina  
President, NCSL*

**Raúl E. Burciaga**  
*Director  
Legislative Council Service  
New Mexico  
Staff Chair, NCSL*

**William T. Pound**  
*Executive Director*

**RE: S. 1312 “Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017”**

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein:

On behalf of our nation’s state legislatures, we write to express strong support of S. 1312, the “Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017,” and urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote on and pass this very important legislation. The bill extends the authorization for grant programs established by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and further provides resources to better identify and apprehend traffickers as well as all aspects of victims’ services and restitution.

Throughout the legislative process, we have appreciated the opportunity to collaborate on important provisions contained within this legislation. Our organization recognizes that human trafficking has a pervasive and negative state and local impact across the United States. In response to this growing problem, during the 2016 legislative session, 19 states enacted 36 laws that address human trafficking. In 2014, 41 states considered 289 anti-trafficking bills and resolutions and in 2015, 41 states considered legislation addressing an aspect of human trafficking. Cities and counties have also battled human trafficking through local measures and would appreciate an overarching and comprehensive federal response.

Again, we want to work with you to advance this important legislation and strongly urge you to pass S. 1312 quickly. We believe that this bill respects existing state authority in this area and will support state and local efforts to eradicate the terrible practice of human trafficking. If you need further assistance or have any questions, please contact NCSL staff Susan Parnas Frederick, at [susan.frederick@ncsl.org](mailto:susan.frederick@ncsl.org) or 202-624-5400.

Respectfully,

William T. Pound  
Executive Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures