



April 26, 2017

Free the Slaves strongly supports passage of the End Banking for Human Trafficking Act of 2017, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Warren and Rubio that would help combat human trafficking by enhancing the critical role of the financial industry in addressing this heinous crime.

Free the Slaves liberates people from slavery around the world and changes the conditions that allow modern slavery to persist. Founded in 2000, we are widely regarded as pioneers and leaders in the modern abolitionist movement. We believe that innovative new approaches must be developed in this effort, and we welcome this bill as a much needed new avenue to achieve the goals of the anti-slavery movement.

Human Trafficking generates \$150 billion a year in profits for traffickers each year, and researchers estimate 21 million people are enslaved worldwide. By ensuring that the U.S. government partners with financial institutions to restrict traffickers' access to the banking system, and by making it easier for law enforcement to access financial information already gathered on these criminal networks, this legislation would disrupt their operations and help reduce the conditions that allow them to flourish.

We look forward to working with all those committed to the challenge of fighting modern slavery, to move us toward the eradication of human trafficking. This bill would strongly advance that cause, and we urge our allies in this fight to join us in supporting it.

Sincerely,

Terry FitzPatrick
Free the Slaves Director of Communications and Advocacy