



Freedom Network USA

Senate HELP Committee Members
VIA EMAIL

September 28, 2017

Re: Wage and Hour Division Administrator Nominee Cheryl Stanton Confirmation
Hearing Questions from Anti-Trafficking Freedom Network USA

Dear Senators:

The Freedom Network USA (“FNUSA”), founded in 2001 following the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (“TVPA”), is comprised of 40 non-governmental organizations and 12 individuals that serve and/or advocate for justice and services to human trafficking victim-survivors. Our members are in 19 states and 33 cities and members work with an extensive network of non-member organizations in all 50 states. FNUSA integrates a human-rights based approach in all of our work with trafficking victim-survivors and our members work to ensure all survivors receive the full range of services they need to recover and thrive. Accordingly, FNUSA is uniquely qualified to speak to the real life challenges trafficked persons experience in the United States.

The 3Ps of prevention, protection, and prosecution form the cornerstones of the TVPA implementation and enforcement. The President elect’s nominee for the Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division Administrator, Cheryl Stanton, would have key responsibilities for the implementation of this multi-front approach to tackling the scourge of human trafficking and thwarting would-be traffickers who hope to profit from trafficking in the United States. Toward this end, we respectfully request that the attached questions be posed to Ms. Stanton during her confirmation hearings:

1. Are you committed to the vigorous implementation of the TVPA including the prevention of human trafficking and holistic protection of victims-survivors?
2. The TVPA defines human trafficking to include both trafficking for labor and for commercial sex. Freedom Network USA members have identified and served US Citizen and foreign national survivors of both labor and sex trafficking, youths and adults. However, in the July 2017 TIP Report, the United States reports that the U.S. Department of Justice opened, during the covered fiscal year, 1,800 human trafficking cases and prosecuted successfully 241 cases nationwide, only 13 of which were predominantly labor trafficking cases. International statistical data indicates that approximately 68% of all human trafficking cases are labor trafficking. What will you do, as Wage and Hour Administrator, to increase the identification of labor trafficking in the US?

3. As demonstrated by the 2016 Ohio case in which children were forced to work on egg farms in Ohio (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-defendants-sentenced-role-forced-labor-scheme-exploited-guatemalan-minors-ohio-egg-farms>), we know that minors are especially vulnerable to trafficking. As Wage and Hour Administrator, what will you do to ensure the protection of America's youth, especially on rural, agricultural areas?
4. Guest worker programs in the United States are deeply flawed and exploitative. Guest workers are routinely subject to wage theft, recruitment fraud, and even human trafficking. The Wage and Hour Division is responsible for ensuring employers comply with the regulations that govern the programs and with federal employment law. What will you do to ensure that the Wage and Hour Division is vigorously enforcing the programs' regulations and protecting migrant and U.S. workers from abuse?

Thank you for your consideration of these questions. Please contact Jean Bruggeman at jean@freedomnetworkusa.org with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,



Jean Bruggeman
Executive Director
Freedom Network USA