Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

November 20, 2014

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Center, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Attorney General Holder and Secretary Johnson,

We were pleased to see the October 22, 2014 announcement from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that its Blue Campaign has established new partnerships with the City of Phoenix and the Arizona Human Trafficking Council of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. As the statement noted, large public events can unfortunately provide camouflage for criminal activity such as human trafficking to flourish. Because Arizona is playing host to Super Bowl XLIX in February of 2015, we write to encourage your Departments to work not only with each other, but with state, county, and local law enforcement entities to further develop a robust strategy to undermine these illicit and inhumane practices.

Specifically, we ask that the following suggestions be taken into consideration:

1. DHS should work closely with the Department of Justice (DOJ) not only to coordinate law enforcement strategies, but prosecutorial guidelines regarding both human traffickers and their clientele. The U.S. Attorney for Arizona and the Arizona Attorney General should also be consulted.
2. DHS and DOJ should work closely not only with the City of Phoenix and the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, but also with other entities—including County Attorney Offices and other local law enforcement—to develop a strategy that includes input from all levels of government and relevant private sector and non-profit organizations.
3. All entities within this broad coalition should also focus efforts on apprehending and prosecuting the clientele engaging in these heinous crimes from an end-user perspective.
4. Media campaigns—including, but not limited to, public service announcements, posters, and handouts—should be coordinated with all entities involved in an effort to avoid duplication of effort and muddling the message(s).
    a. Media campaigns should not only focus on identifying and reporting victims of human trafficking, but also identifying and reporting the clientele who engage in this criminal activity.
5. Intelligence, best practices, crime tips, and other related information should flow freely amongst all entities involved before, during, and after the Super Bowl.
6. All entities involved should create post-event reports of their findings, best practices, etc. and hold a large-scale debrief after the Super Bowl to share such information for the benefit of all those who wish to undermine human trafficking.

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7. One of the report-producing entities present at the debriefing should be tasked with collecting each report and consolidating the information into two comprehensive reports.
    a. The first comprehensive report should be tailored for law enforcement entities, relevant non-governmental organizations, the Administration, and Congress.
    b. The second comprehensive report should be tailored to the general public to help raise awareness, identify victims of human trafficking, and how to report and reduce these crimes.

Again, we truly appreciate the coordination efforts made thus far between the federal government and state and local stakeholders. This letter is in no way meant to criticize the process to-date; it is merely meant to convey further ideas and suggestions to improve and expand upon these partnerships, and to help all interested parties learn from the experience. We all share the ultimate goal of undermining and preventing human trafficking. We simply believe that more cooperation and coordination will yield the best results.

Thank you for your consideration. If we can provide any assistance in these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our respective offices.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress
Arizona's Fourth District

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress
Arizona's Seventh District

Trent Franks
Member of Congress
Arizona's Eighth District

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress
Arizona's Third District

David Schweikert
Member of Congress
Arizona's Sixth District

Ron Barber
Member of Congress
Arizona's Second District

Matt Salmon
Member of Congress
Arizona's Fifth District

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress
Arizona's Ninth District

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress
Arizona's First District

Cc:

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona

The Honorable John Leonardo
United States Attorney, District of Arizona

The Honorable Tom Horne
Attorney General of Arizona

The Honorable Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney