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RE: H.R. 2200, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We write to call your urgent attention to a matter of vital importance to the U.S. business community. In July of last year, the House passed H.R. 2200, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 (TVPRA). This legislation, introduced by Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey and Congresswoman Karen Bass of California, reauthorizes and builds upon the United States' groundbreaking legislation, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. The Senate has also passed the necessary reauthorization bills, and the legislation is now in conference between the two houses of Congress.

The revised law would provide a new focus on prevention, which we consider the next frontier in our effort to bring an end to this exploitation. It supports training and education efforts so that employees of the travel and hospitality industries can better recognize children and adults who may be trafficked. It also provides for reintegration programs for the victims of trafficking. Furthermore, it expands existing legislative requirements that U.S. Government procurement does not in any way further human trafficking.

Many of us in the commercial world have taken affirmative steps to combat trafficking where we uncover it. We cooperate and coordinate with law enforcement, we support and partner with advocacy organizations such as ECPAT-USA, and we fight for appropriate standards within our trade associations. But without the underlying law, these efforts are nowhere near as effective as they should be.

We are concerned that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act reauthorization effort appears to have reached an impasse in the conference between the House and Senate. And yet, the package of bills that comprise the reauthorization really have no remaining controversies within the advocacy community. The absence of Congressional authorization interferes with the appropriate planning and budgeting for the on-the-ground efforts critical to this fight. We ask that

you take every appropriate step to see the reauthorization through conference process and help bring a bill to the President's desk as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA)
American Airlines
Association of Corporate Travel Executive (ACTE)
Cadence Travel
Carlson Wagonlit Travel
CI Azumano
CorpTrav Management Group
EmpireCLS Worldwide Chauffeured Services
Global Business Travel Association (GBTA)
HRS Global Hotel Solutions
IGLTA Foundation
International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA)
International Tour Management Institute (ITMI)
Koncept Events
Lannan Legal PLLC
Maritz Travel Company
Milligan Events
Preferred Hotels & Resorts
Real Hospitality Group
Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE)
Uber Technologies Inc.
Vision Hospitality Group