

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write with concern over the delayed release of the Congressionally mandated annual Trafficking in Persons Report from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) and to request detailed information related to the Department's reorganization and reductions in force (RIFs) that have affected J/TIP.

Since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, which established J/TIP, the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report to Congress has provided the world's most comprehensive assessment of this abhorrent practice as well as efforts by governments and stakeholders around the globe to combat it. The Trafficking in Persons Report is a key tool used by law enforcement, foreign governments, and nonprofit organizations in the fight against human trafficking, and it ensures that U.S. foreign assistance does not benefit governments that are not making sufficient efforts to prosecute human traffickers, protect human trafficking victims, and prevent human trafficking crimes. The report also documents the illegal recruitment and use of child soldiers as required by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008. As you are aware, the annual report was due to Congress on June 30th; however, as we start the month of September, the Department has yet to release the 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report.¹ As Members of Congress with particular interest in combatting human exploitation and trafficking, we request an updated timeline on the release of the 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report as well as an explanation for its delay.

Additionally, in order to fully meet the requirements outlined by Congress in the TVPA, J/TIP must have adequate staff and resources. As part of the State Department reorganization, J/TIP was demoted into a component of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.² We also understand staffing in J/TIP has been reduced by over 70% due to RIFs and other personnel policy changes. Despite the Department's assurances to Congress in the Congressional notification that J/TIP's functions would be refocused around the statutorily mandated reporting

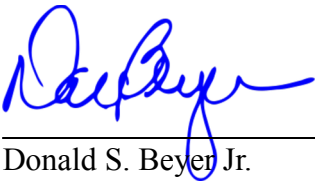
¹ <https://www.state.gov/reports-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons>

² <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/07/human-trafficking-state-department-jeffrey-epstein/>

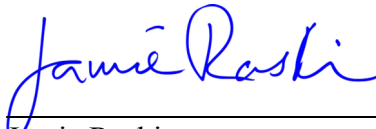
requirements, we understand that RIF determinations were solely based on an individual's time in service rather than their expertise or function in the office. As a result, the majority of positions responsible for researching and drafting the Trafficking in Persons Report were abolished on July 11. This included every anti-trafficking expert responsible for China, North Korea, and Russia, all of which are state sponsors of human trafficking and adversaries of U.S. foreign policy. The Department also abolished the positions of anti-trafficking experts working to dismantle transnational human trafficking networks through targeted financial sanctions, including the scam centers in Southeast Asia that are responsible for stealing an estimated \$5 billion from American citizens just last year.³ As you are aware, due to the nature of the RIFs, these positions now cannot be backfilled. Please explain how the Department plans to carry out the critical, statutorily mandated functions of J/TIP after these RIFs including possible reconsideration of terminating subject matter experts. Please also provide information about the current status of staffing in J/TIP, including those that have accepted the deferred resignation program, how many staff are solely responsible to fulfill TVPA duties, and how the staffing and resources capabilities compares to previous years.

The scourge of human trafficking transcends borders and represents a serious threat to U.S. national security. It not only directly harms American citizens but also creates unfair business practices that harm American business interests. For 25 years, the J/TIP office has served as the interagency lead on trafficking in persons and has been crucial to the international effort to monitor and combat this abhorrent practice. The J/TIP office's reach is global and has contributed to investigations and victim services for both sex trafficking and labor trafficking crimes. We urge you to release the 2025 report with an explanation on the delay, and ensure that the J/TIP office is robustly staffed and resourced in order to fulfill its statutory obligations outlined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and its subsequent authorizations.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.uscc.gov/research/chinas-exploitation-scam-centers-southeast-asia>



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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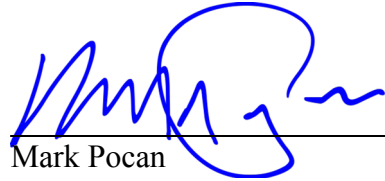
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



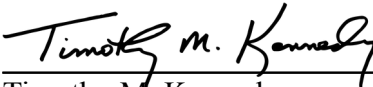
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
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Mark Pocan
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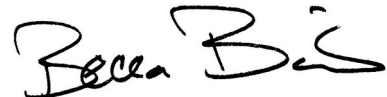
Timothy M. Kennedy
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Yassamin Ansari
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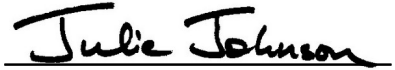
Norma J. Torres
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Zoe Lofgren
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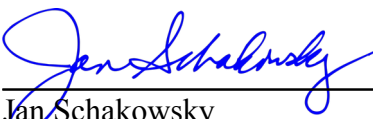
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Eric Swalwell
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