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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Rm 5111
Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write to share with you a letter I sent today to President Obama urging that either he or you make a major policy address in the next 30 days publicly calling out Web sites like Backpage.com, which time and again feature prominently in court cases involving the horrific sexual exploitation of American children. This issue is as timely as it has ever been given a recent *Washington Post* article which revealed that Northern Virginia gangs have concluded that trafficking young girls is actually more profitable than traditional criminal enterprises like drugs or weapons sales—in part because prostituted minors can be bought and sold multiple times. Not surprisingly the gangs use the Web to advertise services.

As you know, this is an issue about which I have long been deeply troubled. I had a productive meeting with several Department of Justice employees today regarding the most effective means by which to tackle this insidious criminal activity.

I recognize there are no easy answers, but as I stated in my letter to the president, I believe it is critical that we embrace a holistic approach, which includes public education, demand reduction and, importantly as it relates to Backpage.com, public shame.

Best wishes.

Sincerely

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

Hope you and the President will give a major speech