

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2014

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:

We are writing to ask you to take immediate action to combat human trafficking putting an end to Backpage.com's facilitation of the buying and selling of people, including young children. We cannot continue to allow websites like Backpage.com to profit from the unlawful exploitation of minors. We ask that you pursue and prosecute these grotesque actions and where laws are unclear or insufficient, provide recommendations to Congress.

Every year, tens of thousands of children are victims of sex trafficking in the United States. Not coincidentally, Backpage.com makes millions of dollars in profit annually from the fees charged for online advertisements, including essentially unchecked advertising of children for sex services.

In a July 23, 2013 letter to Members of Congress, the National Association of Attorneys General described a case where a man used Backpage.com to advertise sex services from a 13-year-old girl. He tattooed his name on her eyelids to mark her as his property. We must do more to stop this website and websites like it from acting as a medium for these activities. Waiting until more women, men, and children are victimized is unacceptable.

The U.S. Department of Justice must get serious about putting an end to Backpage.com's facilitation of the trafficking of children. Their profit from the forced exploitation of young children is disgusting and demands your immediate action. We ask for a response by March 31, 2014 detailing how your Department will take legal action against the website or give Congress concrete recommendations for legislation needed to give your Department the tools to do so.

As members of Congress committed to ending this horrific practice, we stand ready to make any necessary changes in the law to ensure that our children are protected.

Sincerely,

  
Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress

  
Frank Wolf  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce  
Member of Congress



Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress



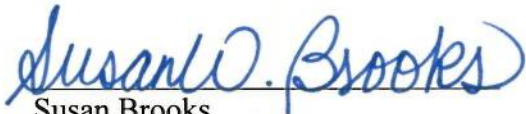
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks  
Member of Congress



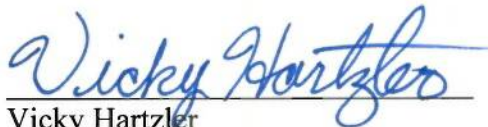
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



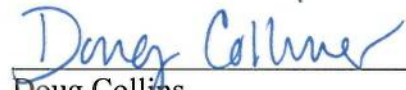
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland, II  
Member of Congress



Doug Collins  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
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Doris O. Matsui

Doris O. Matsui  
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Tom Graves

Tom Graves  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith

H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

Erik Paulsen

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress

Kay Granger

Kay Granger  
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar

Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress

Candice S. Miller

Candice S. Miller  
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Michele Bachmann

Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance

Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert

Dave Reichert  
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Ted S. Yoho

Ted S. Yoho  
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

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J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress

  
Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress


  
Robert Pittenger  
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Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Heck, D.O.  
Member of Congress

  
Sean P. Duffy  
Member of Congress

  
Ted Poe  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress

  
George Holding  
Member of Congress