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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing to you regarding efforts the Department of State has made to improve and enhance its efforts to combat global human trafficking. I appreciate your leadership on this issue, and your strong record of championing the rights of women and girls, the most common victims. Although the Department of State and other agencies have undertaken considerable action to combat human trafficking, it remains a significant problem and, an abundant and profitable form of international criminal activity.

In the 2006 report *Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Antitrafficking Efforts Abroad* and the 2007 report *Monitoring and Evaluation of International Projects Are Limited, but Experts Suggest Improvements*, the GAO made specific recommendations to the Department of State on how to improve the effectiveness of U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking. As a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, I take the allocation of taxpayer dollars very seriously. It is essential we leverage our limited resources by identifying and supporting the most effective strategies and mechanisms available to combat this problem. Improvements in the accuracy, collection, and utilization of data are a critical component of this effort and will help determine the true scope and extent of the problem, serve as a foundation for a comprehensive national strategy, and better inform policy.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you provide an updated status and assessment of the steps that the Department of State has taken to implement GAO's recommendations in the 2006 and 2007 reports. I am particularly interested in the:

- Integrated database on human trafficking housed within the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center;
- Joint effort with the Department of Justice to develop a catalog of current U.S. trafficking statistics and datasets;
- Efforts to improve the mechanisms available to accurately monitor and evaluate antitrafficking programming and determine best practices; and
- Efforts to increase the availability of baseline statistical data on the nature and severity of trafficking at the project level.

I appreciate your attention and I look forward to working with you to improve the United States' comprehensive efforts to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mark Pryor,  
United States Senator