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March 25, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the hearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 2, 2011 entitled "Helping Law Enforcement Find Missing Children". Per your request dated March 21, 2011, I am responding to the question from Senator Richard Blumenthal for inclusion in the formal Committee record.

Senator Blumenthal asked "[W]hat specific information do [the witnesses] feel the IRS should provide to law enforcement, and under what circumstances?" As you know, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) is congressionally authorized to operate the nation's clearinghouse on missing and exploited children. NCMEC is not a law enforcement agency. As such, we defer to law enforcement experienced in conducting investigations involving missing and exploited children regarding the specific IRS information that would help them resolve these cases.

In general, however, NCMEC believes that the IRS should provide to law enforcement any information that could help determine the geographic location of the abductor or the child. However, this should not necessarily include information about salary earned or taxes paid. To further address the Senator's question, NCMEC feels that the IRS should provide this information to law enforcement investigating a case involving a missing or sexually exploited child. As I stated in my testimony at the hearing, law enforcement should be able to obtain information that could help them recover these children as expeditiously as possible. The goal is to find these children and bring them home.

Please contact me or my staff if you have any questions or if NCMEC can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ernie Allen".

Ernie Allen
President and CEO