



June 23, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham:

The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking (USIAHT), a national nonprofit, faith-based organization working to end human trafficking in the United States, supports introduction of the “Lawful Access to Encrypted Data Act” to end warrant-proof encryption in devices, platforms, and systems, which allows sex traffickers and buyers to use encryption to shield their illegal activities from authorities.

Sex trafficking is modern-day slavery, happening everywhere in the United States. The victims can be U.S. citizens or any nationality, age, socioeconomic status, or gender. Sex trafficking is a highly profitable crime that exploits adults through force, fraud, or coercion, or that engages a child in any form of commercial sexual exploitation.

There are hundreds of thousands, and potentially over a million, victims trapped in the world of sex trafficking in the United States. Law enforcement across the nation continue their fight to combat human traffickers both in the streets and online. However, advances in encryption technology, service providers, and device manufacturers hiding behind a misinterpretation of the Fourth Amendment have provided a haven for traffickers and buyers from lawful investigation and prosecution.

Passage of the “Lawful Access to Encrypted Data Act” would provide law enforcement with the necessary resources to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, while also protecting the individual citizen’s reasonable expectation of privacy.

This legislation mandates that service providers and device manufacturers assist, through probable cause warrants approved by a neutral magistrate to recover encrypted information stored on a device, operating system, remote computing service, or wire or electronic communication service,

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law enforcement in striking the proper balance between individual liberties and legitimate law enforcement functions.

We thank you for your leadership in introducing the “Lawful Access to Encrypted Data Act” and will actively encourage members of the U.S. Senate to advance this legislation to provide the necessary tools for law enforcement to effectively combat the systematic buying and selling of America’s most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin P. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "M".

Kevin Malone, Chairman of the Board
U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking
Member, President’s Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council to End Human Trafficking