

Los Angeles Office:

4300 Long Beach Blvd., #750
Long Beach, CA 90807

Corporate Office:

801 E. Chapman #203
Fullerton, CA 92831
714.680.9000 | f. 714.680.8207

Programs and Services

Adoption Agency
Family Preservation
Program
Family Reunification
Program
Foster Family Agency
Internship Programs
Residential Treatment
Unaccompanied
Children's Program
Unaccompanied
Refuge Minor Program
Volunteer Program
Wraparound Program

Speciality Programs

Pregnant/Parenting
Teen Support
Substance Abuse
Sexual Exploitation
Recovery

Locations

Escondido
Fullerton
Long Beach
Compton
Moreno Valley
Norwalk
Pomona
Rancho Dominguez
San Bernardino
Victorville

Mailing Address

PO Box 9
Fullerton, CA 92836-0009

Chief Executive Officer

Joyce R. Capelle

Chartered in 1966

A 501(c)3 nonprofit

Tax ID 95-2492427

ACCREDITED



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The Honorable Ted Poe
United States House of Representatives
2412 Rayburn Building
Washington DC, 20515

November 26, 2013

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 225-5547
RE: SUPPORT HR 3530

Dear Representative Poe:

On behalf of Crittenton Services for Children and Families, we write in support of your H.R. 3530, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013. We currently work with youth at-risk of being trafficked, and youth who have been formally identified through existing systems as commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). Your legislation will help to protect these children by improving existing laws and introducing policy that improves system responses to victims of trafficking.

Founded in 1883, the National Crittenton Foundation (of which our agency is a proud member) works to advance the self-empowerment, health and economic stability of children and families impacted by violence and trauma. Our legacy is rooted in women and children who were exploited over a century ago into being bought and sold for sex, and today we continue that work here in Southern California as a proud partner of the government agencies working to end modern-day human trafficking. Our agency specializes in high-needs populations, including pregnant and parenting teens, dually-involved youth, and as mentioned above, minor victims of trafficking. To effectively serve these children and help them in their journey to heal, our treatment programs range from therapeutic residential services to community based programming such as differential response or foster care. We believe however, that for human trafficking to truly be ended that the demand, especially for children, must be dissuaded through strong policies that hold predator "Johns" accountable and empowers victims.

We are very supportive of the proposed expansion of eligibility for official recognition as victims of trafficking through the Department of Human Services. While we celebrated the initial policy designed specifically for non-citizens, it is critical that the administration view all victims, whether international or domestic, equally and enact policies that reflect this to improve service delivery for these individuals. It is our hope that, if enacted, this recognition and the identification process required be sympathetic to the emotional needs of the newly eligible domestic minor victims.

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services for children and families

Additionally, the victim-centered model block grant that will assist in the development and implementation of victim-centered programs as cited in your legislation has our enthusiastic support. Historically, policy addressing human trafficking has largely focused on prosecution of traffickers and did not facilitate a better process for victims. While prosecution certainly is a critical piece of the puzzle, we are encouraged by your acknowledgement of the needs of victims as they exit their history of exploitation and begin recovery. The complex trauma they suffer during exploitation leaves them with significant mental and emotional wounds, requiring the development of systems and programs that are sensitive to their needs in the prosecution process and during the delivery of treatment following their rescue.

Finally, the enhancement of penalties and prosecutorial tools are helpful to stem the tide of demand of trafficking victims. The current ambiguity in the legal system with regard to purchasers has allowed those that prey on our children and sexually abuse these victims to evade being held accountable. By clarifying existing law and increasing penalties, we are hopeful that this legislation will play a key role in deterring traffickers and "Johns" from continuing to abuse victims of sexual exploitation.

At Crittenton Services for Children and Families, our staff, volunteers and community partners work every day to heal children who have been inflicted by the wounds of exploitation and repeated trauma that are unimaginable for most people. We applaud your continued work to shed light on the issue of human trafficking and to give these young victims the justice and peace that they deserve. It is our pleasure to support your legislation and as always, we look forward to continuing to work with you to end trafficking.

If you have any concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Joyce Capelle, Chief Executive Officer and President at (714) 680-0009 or jcapelle@crittentonsocal.org, or Stefanie Benvenuto, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy at (714) 336-6536 or sbenvenuto@crittentonsocal.org.

Sincerely,

Joyce Capelle
President & Chief Executive Officer

Stefanie Benvenuto
Director, Public Policy & Advocacy