



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

October 30, 2015

The Honorable Eileen Decker
U.S. Attorney
Central District of California
312 North Spring Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear U.S. Attorney Eileen Decker:

I write to congratulate you for obtaining the lengthy sentence for the 59-year-old sex offender who hired a young teenager for commercial sex after meeting her online. I would like to commend your office, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) office, and the Long Beach Police Department, for successfully investigating and prosecuting the case.

Human trafficking has grown to a \$150 billion industry, the second-largest criminal enterprise after drugs. As HSI Special Agent in Charge Claude Arnold stated in the press release: **“Those who pay for sex with minors are contributing in no small way to the current epidemic of teen and child sex-trafficking. The clients in these cases are, for all intents and purposes, as culpable as the actual traffickers.”**

As you may know, President Obama recently signed into law a major bipartisan anti-trafficking bill – the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act*. The law includes an important provision to reduce the demand for sex trafficking by clarifying that buyers of commercial sex from trafficking victims can be federally prosecuted.

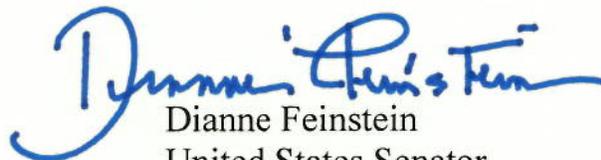
Specifically, the new law adds the words “patronizes” and “solicits” to Section 1591 of Title 18 of the United States Code. This means that whoever knowingly patronizes or solicits a trafficking victim is guilty of a federal felony offense, including if the perpetrator knows or recklessly disregards that the victim is a minor and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act.

I would urge your office and federal prosecutors throughout the country to make aggressive use of this statute and other authorities to go after those who fuel the demand for this horrific crime.

Again, I congratulate your office for bringing this case, and my strong hope is that it serves as a model for other U.S. attorneys. As you said, **“The significant sentence the defendant received in this case should serve as a warning to adults who engage in this type of criminal conduct. Although this case is the first case of its kind in this district, it will not be the last.”**

Directing the focus of federal prosecutors and agents toward these cases is a top priority of mine, and I want to thank you again for pursuing this case. Please also extend my thanks to the agents and prosecutors who worked on this case.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator