

**Protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence:
Restore Funding to the International Labor Affairs Bureau's Grant Program**

- 85 million children are in dangerous, dirty, and degrading jobs that prevent them from attending school and are harmful to their physical, mental, and social development. Boys and girls work in many places including agriculture, mining, quarrying, fishing, factories, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation. 5.5 million children are in forced labor.
- Child labor can impact a child's health by exposing them to heavy loads, dangerous chemicals, heavy machinery, and poor working conditions and robs children of the opportunity to receive an education.
- The International Affairs Bureau (ILAB) at the Department of Labor has worked for 20 years to reduce exploitative child labor through education. Since 1995 they have worked with partners to withdraw 1.7 million children from the worst forms of child labor, including trafficking. ILAB programs take a holistic approach, including community and government involvement to increase access to education for children and support livelihood opportunities for families to meet basic needs.
- The programs implemented by ILAB's partners are rigorously and independently evaluated and audited ensuring that tax payer money is used effectively and transparently.
- Last year, the House and Senate nearly cut all grant funding to end child labor. This funding is the largest contribution to ending violence against children in U.S. foreign assistance.
- For FY17, The Senate Appropriations Committee has appropriated \$54.825 million for ILAB grant programs. Unfortunately, the House did not appropriate any funding for these programs.
- At a time when the U.S. is a leader in combatting human trafficking, the U.S. can help prevent children from becoming vulnerable to worst forms of child labor, including trafficking. Preventing and responding to child labor through community-based approaches can protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

Ask: Speak with Senator Blunt or Representative Cole in support of robust funding for programs to eliminate child labor in the final appropriations bill.

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