



May 6, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Leaders McConnell and Reid:

As the largest Flight Attendant union representing aviation's first responders at 18 airlines and leading the efforts to stop Human Trafficking through aviation, we urge you to support the amendment to S. 995 offered by Senator Menendez to deny expedited consideration of any trade agreement with a country on the State Department's list of Tier III human trafficking. The Senate Finance Committee adopted the amendment with a strong bipartisan vote.

A Tier III ranking means the country's government does not comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and is not making significant efforts to do so. Failure to include this provision in any trade legislation could result in rewarding egregious abusers of human rights who either condone or fail to prevent human trafficking.


To be clear, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA does not support Congress ceding its authority to the Executive Branch through Trade Promotion Authority. Further, we believe your leadership must demand that any discussion on trade must be cast aside entirely if it does not first promote a world free of slavery. This amendment makes clear our country's commitment to combating human trafficking and 60,000 Flight Attendants look to your bipartisan leadership in support of stamping out modern day slavery around the world.

Since 2009, AFA has been a key partner in the Blue Campaign, the Department of Homeland Security's continuing campaign to promote the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice. Until we stamp out this modern day slavery, we call on Congress to remain consistent with every piece of legislation to make clear that U.S. lawmakers agree on one key principle: freedom.

Innocents at Risk advise human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world today, producing \$32 billion annually. Every day, young women and children are being bought and sold, used and tortured. Flight Attendants, through the nature of our jobs, come in contact with offenders and their victims every single day and with proper training we are in a unique position to help stop it. Please help us put a stop to suffering.

Countries, like Malaysia, that turn a blind eye to this injustice should not be granted preferred trading status. We urge you to protect the millions of men, women and children who may be taken and kept against their will. Keep the Menendez amendment in S. 995.

Respectfully,

  
Sara Nelson  
International President