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January 9, 2015

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I welcome the opportunity to hear your State of the Union Address on January 20<sup>th</sup> and know you will raise a variety of issues important to our country. Voters made clear in the last election that they expect action and cooperation from their elected officials. One area of bipartisan opportunity is combatting sex trafficking. I am writing to encourage you to mention this important topic during your State of the Union Address.

More than 100,000 children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the U.S. Last June, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested more than 280 sex traffickers, including 9 in my home state of Minnesota, and rescued 168 victims.

Despite many partisan fights that divide Washington, this is an issue where there are members on both sides of the aisle working together to enact solutions. Last Congress, the House passed 12 anti-trafficking bills with overwhelming bipartisan support to increase penalties for pimps and johns, protect victims and improve the services they receive, enhance the federal government's response to trafficking, increase cooperation with governments abroad, and go after websites that aid in trafficking minors. Unfortunately, only one of these bills ultimately became law.

The House will soon take action again to pass these bipartisan bills, including legislation I have authored with Congresswoman Gwen Moore, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, to extend Safe Harbor protections to victims of trafficking.

My guest at your State of the Union address will be Minneapolis Police Sergeant Grant Snyder. Sergeant Snyder is a leader in Minnesota's law enforcement community in combatting trafficking and ensuring trafficked children are treated as victims. He has admirably served his community for nearly 20 years and is now working almost exclusively on combatting trafficking and building relationships between local law enforcement and at-risk youth to prevent them from becoming involved in trafficking. His leadership gives me hope that we can end this despicable crime.

I encourage you to raise the problem of human trafficking in your State of the Union Address and look forward to working with you to protect vulnerable children from being subjected to violence and exploitation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik Paulsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress

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