

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2015

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my concern about the vacancy of the Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons post at the U.S. State Department.

The position has been vacant for over 2 months since the resignation of Ambassador Luis CdeBaca in November of 2014. The Ambassador, as head of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office), leads the U.S. government's efforts against human trafficking and supports the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts across the U.S. government. The TIP Office is responsible for bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, public engagement and targeted foreign assistance to address human trafficking. The TIP Office publishes the annual Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP) report. The TIP report, including its tier system, is the main tool the U.S. government uses to monitor foreign governments' efforts to combat human trafficking. The tier system ranks countries by their anti-trafficking efforts and encourages them to invest in combatting trafficking.

The United States leads the world in combatting human trafficking and needs a strong diplomat and advocate in the position of Ambassador-at-Large. The new Ambassador should have the substantive expertise and diplomatic acumen to engage multiple stakeholders across cultures, borders, and bureaucracies on all forms of human trafficking. I urge you to appoint a new Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons as soon as possible. This vacancy should be filled by a highly qualified individual who will fight to end modern day slavery.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
United States Senator