N A E | National Association of **Evangelicals**

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Roy Blunt The Honorable Sherrod Brown The Honorable Richard Durbin United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blunt, Brown and Durbin,

Thank you for your leadership in introducing bipartisan legislation aimed at ensuring the availability of adequate housing resources for survivors of both sex and labor trafficking crimes.

Protecting vulnerable populations from exploitation in the form of human trafficking has been a key pillar in the efforts of both interagency councils and congressional action. With the introduction of the Trafficking Survivors Housing Act of 2021 in both the House and Senate, we see a reinvigoration of the commitment to address the housing needs of over 63,000 survivors through scientific data collection leading to trauma-informed solutions.

As evangelical Christians we are guided by Scripture to speak up for marginalized populations. Proverbs 31:8 says, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." We believe adequate and safe shelter should be a right and the availability of such has been proven by the <u>U.S. Federal Strategic Action</u> Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking to reduce recidivism rates for those on whom traffickers prey, like young people in foster care, runaway youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Founded in 1942, the National Association of Evangelicals is the largest umbrella group of evangelicals in the United States, with membership representing 40 denominations and 45,000 churches in addition to Christian colleges and universities and nonprofits. Ending modern-day slavery, otherwise known as human trafficking, is a core value at the NAE as outlined in our "For the Health of the Nation" document.

We look forward to being a trusted resource for you and your staff as the 117th Congress continues. Please feel free to contact me at GCarey@NAE.net as this piece of legislation moves forward.

Gratefully,

Vice President of Government Relations