

March 12, 2023

Dear Chair Melissa Wiklund,

My name is Samuel Jacobs. I am 16 years old and a sophomore at Anoka High School. I wrote an essay in my Honors English class this trimester on labor trafficking. Kindly find attached my essay to this letter.

Human trafficking is a destruction of human rights, and with all the work being done to prevent it, there is still one form of human trafficking not receiving the attention or funding it equitably deserves. That form of human trafficking is labor trafficking. Labor trafficking has been a part of my life ever since I was born and It breaks my heart to see that people who are in a similar situation to my mother or were in a similar situation as my mother are not getting the representation that they rightfully deserve.

With every passing day, I discover more reasons to provide labor trafficking with more funding and attention. For example, the fact that kids the same age as me if not younger are also being labor trafficked in the same state that I live in. Not only that, but labor trafficking has even been identified in six out of the seven regions in Minnesota. That is almost the entire state, not to mention that labor trafficking is very stealthy and could be going on in that last region but It hasn't been identified yet.

After hearing so many gut-wrenching stories and learning various facts about labor trafficking, I know now that it is going on everywhere. If we want to prevent labor trafficking, and finally bring this disgusting form of crime to a halt, we need to provide funding to those who have experienced labor trafficking in Minnesota, and to fund the

SF 2269 bill for comprehensive, trauma-informed, and culturally specific services for victims of labor trafficking or labor exploitation.

Sincerely,

Samuel Jacobs.