

April 22, 2025

## **Civil Society Groups Alarmed by Cuts to ILAB Grants to Address Forced Labor and Child Labor**

The undersigned organizations are alarmed by the U.S. Department of Labor's decision to cancel approximately \$500 million in grants awarded by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB). These funds play a vital role in addressing forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking across the globe.

ILAB's grant programs are crucial in the fight against these abuses, supporting efforts to eliminate child labor, prevent exploitation, uphold freedom of association, support trade unions, build capacity and strengthen enforcement mechanisms that combat forced labor worldwide. Their elimination weakens U.S. efforts to eradicate forced labor. This decision undercuts the U.S. government's decades-long commitment to combating human trafficking. More importantly, it strips essential support for those at risk of exploitation, including children, further entrenching cycles of forced labor in supply chains.

We strongly believe that dismantling these programs will not make the U.S. safer, secure, and more prosperous. Instead, these cuts undermine American workers and businesses by allowing unfair competition from goods produced with forced labor. They will also have severe implications for our country's economic security.

We call on the Secretary of Labor to immediately restore ILAB grants and maintain robust staffing at ILAB to ensure that its projects are administered properly and that the office is able to meet its Congressionally mandated responsibilities. This funding is important to create a level playing field for American businesses and workers while fighting human trafficking and forced labor.

### **Signed,**

Above Ground (a project of MakeWay)  
Action on Smoking and Health  
AFL-CIO  
Alliance to End Human Trafficking

Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST)  
American Apparel and Footwear Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Industrial Hygiene Association  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)  
Azul  
Be Slavery Free  
Beyond Borders  
Campaign to End U.S. Child Labor  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc (CDM)  
Childfund International  
Childhood Education International  
Child Labor Coalition  
China Labor Watch  
Child Welfare League of America  
Coffee Watch  
Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI)  
Common Good Iowa  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Corporate Accountability Lab  
Covenant House International  
Disability Rights International  
Dr. Bronner's  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
Economic Policy Institute  
Educate the Children Inc.  
Fair Labor Association  
Fairtrade America  
Family Support Center  
Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute  
FishWise  
First Focus on Children  
Florida Policy Institute  
Food Empowerment Project  
Freedom Network USA  
Free the Slaves  
Free Uyghur Now  
Futures Without Violence  
Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children's Issues  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Global Campaign for Education - US  
Global March Against Child Labour  
Green America

Greenpeace USA  
Global Labor Justice  
GoodWeave International  
HEAL Trafficking  
Heartland Initiative  
HKM Employment Attorneys LLP  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
Human Trafficking Legal Center  
Humanity United  
Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)  
International Justice Mission  
International Rescue Committee  
International Rights Advocates  
Investor Alliance for Human Rights  
Jewish Movement for Uyghur Freedom  
Justice At Last  
Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor  
La Isla Network  
Maquila Solidarity Network  
Media Voices for Children  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Consumers League  
National Council Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA)  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
Occupational Health & Safety Section/APHA  
Oceana  
Oxfam America  
Partners for Dignity and Rights  
PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union  
Polaris  
Preble Street  
Public Citizen  
Responsibility Sourcing Network  
Rights CoLab  
Santa Clara University - International Human Rights Clinic  
Shine Global Inc.  
Social Accountability International  
Solidarity Center  
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Loyola Law School  
The Centre for Child Rights and Business

The Global March Against Child Labour  
Together for Girls  
Transparentem  
University of Maryland SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA  
Uyghur Human Rights Project  
Verité  
VOICE Network  
Winrock International  
Womankind  
Worker Rights Consortium  
Workplace Justice Lab at Rutgers University  
World Vision