

JOSH HARDER  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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April 9, 2020

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office of Victims of Crime  
810 Seventh Street NW, Second Floor  
Washington D.C., 20531

RE: International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Turlock's Proposal for OVC FY2020 Services for Victims of Trafficking (VOT)

To the Office of Victims for Crime Grant Committee:

I am writing to express my support for the International Rescue Committee in Turlock's proposal for the Services for Victims of Trafficking program (Purpose Area 1: Developing Capacity to Serve Human Trafficking Victims). If awarded, this project would allow the IRC to improve our community's understanding about how to better serve victims of trafficking and build capacity to serve VOTs throughout Central Valley.

The need for Victims of Trafficking services is one that has been discussed in multiple forums in the Central Valley community. However, our community has not yet had the opportunity to develop the resources that would allow us to better understand and meet this need. The IRC in Turlock's proposed project would help Turlock/Modesto build capacity that would improve identification and service coordination for victims of trafficking. It is our belief that an in-depth community assessment, as proposed by IRC in Turlock, would allow us to collaboratively identify strategies to provide client centered, trauma-informed care to victims. IRC works collaboratively with local partners to assess needs, develop strategies, and ensure victims of trafficking receive the assistance needed for victims of trafficking to thrive in the Central Valley.

The IRC is well-positioned to explore ways to better serve our community and to improve services for victims of trafficking in the Central Valley. Thank you for your full and fair

consideration of the International Rescue Committee's application for the Services for Victims of Trafficking program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Josh Harder  
California 10<sup>th</sup> congressional District