



## SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTS SENATORS TO REINTRODUCE THE DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE AND VICTIMS SUPPORT ACT

**ARLINGTON, VA** – At least 100,000 children are exploited through prostitution every year in the U.S. Continuing their commitment to combat this domestic minor sex trafficking, Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and John Cornyn (R-TX) are reintroducing the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act which nearly passed Congress in the final hours of the last session and continues to have strong support from around the nation.

A public briefing will be held Wed., March 16 at 2 p.m., in the Dirksen Senate Building, Room 628 (the Indian Affairs Committee hearing room) followed by a screening at 4 p.m. of *Playground* and Q/A with producer Libby Spears and acclaimed actress Mira Sorvino.

“The bill introduced by Senators Wyden and Cornyn recognizes that our young girls and boys are being victimized on a daily basis, and law enforcement and social service providers lack the resources necessary to care for them,” remarked Linda Smith, Founder and President of Shared Hope International. “This bill is a statement about the need for protective shelter, the elimination of a criminal response to the victims, and resources such as training of law enforcement men and women, who come into contact every day with these kids.”

### BRIEFING DETAILS

Wed., March 16, 2011, 2 p.m.  
Dirksen Senate Building, Room 628  
Washington, D.C.

### Briefing agenda:

- **Mira Sorvino:** Welcome and introduction
- **Senators Ron Wyden and John Cornyn:** comments on the re-introduction of the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act
- **Libby Spears,** filmmaker - Director of the documentary film *Playground*: brief commentary and viewing of the trailer for *Playground*

### Panel of speakers:

**Dr. Sharon Cooper,** Forensic Pediatrician, University of North Carolina School of Medicine  
**Sgt. Doug Justus,** Portland Police Bureau (ret.), former head of the Portland Police's vice unit  
**Natasha,** victims' rights advocate, law enforcement trainer, and sex trafficking survivor  
**Ernie Allen,** President and CEO, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

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**ABOUT SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL:** Shared Hope International was founded in 1998, by former U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith, and exists to rescue and restore women and children in crisis. We are leaders in a worldwide effort to prevent and eradicate sex trafficking and slavery using a three-pronged strategy: prevent, rescue & restore, and bring justice. For more information about Shared Hope International, and the *Protected Innocence Initiative*, go to [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org).

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