

AG Lynn Fitch Reports on Successful Human Trafficking Operations

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Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced recent successful human trafficking operations in Rankin, Hinds, and Lincoln Counties. Together, they recovered five trafficking victims, including one minor, who were offered care and assistance. These operations included recently trained investigators with local law enforcement agencies.

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are committed to shutting traffickers down in Mississippi and helping their victims recover without shame or blame, but this is going to take a statewide network of law enforcement officers who are trained in carrying out trafficking operations and providing support for those recovered. And our investigators are pleased to offer that training.”

“There is no place for human trafficking in the state of Mississippi,” said Commissioner Sean Tindell. “The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, a division of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, will continue to partner with the Attorney General’s office to prevent human trafficking, prosecute those involved in human trafficking, and protect the victims of human trafficking.”

In September, at a ceremony marking a year since passage of HB 1559, the bill that established a fund administered by the Attorney General’s Office to aid service providers who assist victims of human trafficking, as well as a coordinated program of emergency assessment teams for suspected trafficking involving minor victims, about 100 certified investigators were honored. There are now 124 certified investigators, from 13 Sheriff’s offices, 27 police departments, 6 State agencies, 3 college/school police departments, and the National Guard across Mississippi.

“The collaboration between law enforcement and victim services is key to effective human trafficking investigations,” said Sandy Middleton, Executive Director for the Center for Violence Prevention. “Due to the expertise and specialized training these law enforcement investigators possess, they are able to quickly recognize indica-

tors for trafficking and alert a rapid response from certified advocates. Once victim services are engaged, the emergent response allows for immediate screening of potential victims and the best opportunity for victims to engage in services through the Tower program at the Center for Violence Prevention or another partner agency.”

“We also want to empower Mississippians to help rid their communities of trafficking,” continued Attorney General Fitch. “Through our Be The Solution initiative, we are sharing with citizens the signs of trafficking and the hotline number to report it. Calling a tip into 1-888-373-7888 or texting INFO to 233733 is the first step these certified investigators need to catch a trafficker and help their victims recover with dignity, hope, and peace of mind.

We can all be aware, be prepared, and Be The Solution.”

Hyde-Smith, colleagues denounce USPS expansion into banking

In Letter, Senators Air Concerns that Shift Would Undermine Timely Mail Delivery

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), with Senator John Boozman and others, today demanded the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) provide the statutory authority by which it launched a new banking pilot program, which the lawmakers consider a threat to mail delivery and a misguided attempt to federalize financial services.

Nineteen Senators signed a letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy questioning the USPS authority behind its September implementation of a banking pilot program that includes check-cashing services.

“This untested program raises serious questions about whether these activities waste taxpayer resources without any commensurate benefit,” the Senators wrote. “We are concerned that the

pilot program exceeds the Postal Service’s legal authority and fails to comply with relevant regulations and procedural requirements.”

The USPS launched the pilot program without notifying Congress, weeks before its October announcement that it will further slow service and increase prices in an attempt to fix its own notoriously poor financial footing. The Postal Service logged more than \$75 billion in losses from 2007-2019.

“Given that these losses occurred during a period of time in which the Postal Service was exclusively focused on mail delivery, it would be imprudent to shift attention and resources toward an area in which the agency lacks expertise. It is essential that the Postal Service address this revenue shortfall by focusing on fixing inefficiencies with its mail delivery system, not pivoting to financial products and offerings with which the agency

has no expertise,” the letter said.

Hyde-Smith is the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, which has jurisdiction over the USPS.

Boozman led the letter, which was also signed by Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Ranking Member Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), and Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), John Kennedy (R-La.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall, M.D. (R-Kan.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), John Thune (R-S.D.) and Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) Believer in karma
- 6) Smiles from ear-to-ear
- 11) Love mo.
- 14) Brainstorming products
- 15) 1-Across' country, often
- 16) Amazement
- 17) Computer's main circuit card
- 19) Common British drink
- 20) Lacy mat
- 21) Father of Indira Gandhi
- 23) Get one's brain back on track
- 27) Most recently produced
- 28) Ark's landing place
- 29) Beer, after a shot
- 31) A quart and a little bit more
- 32) "Aka" kin
- 33) Turkey serving, sometimes
- 36) Comeback sound
- 37) Look down one's nose at
- 38) "Give that ___ cigar!"
- 39) Her relative?
- 40) Ecrulike shade
- 41) Makes a concession
- 42) Fight divisions
- 44) Reach a place
- 45) Need water
- 47) Holes in the head?
- 48) Dressing type
- 49) Septet plus one
- 51) Not hale
- 52) Ones expecting special deliveries
- 58) Some cells for women
- 59) First step of a contest
- 60) Stand by for
- 61) What to do when following a pattern
- 62) Who a dictator answers to
- 63) Value

DOWN

- 1) Masculine pronoun
- 2) What people wait to hear at a wedding
- 3) Smashes smash into it
- 4) "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-__"
- 5) A lot of a trade-in?
- 6) Netanyahu and namesakes
- 7) Double-bonded compound
- 8) Beatles' "___ in the Life"
- 9) Cosmonaut's home in space, once
- 10) Gloom
- 11) Countries of origin
- 12) Still-life pitchers
- 13) Doozie
- 18) Overwhelm
- 22) Sheepish farm animal
- 23) Respiratory noises
- 24) Segal who wrote "Love Story"
- 25) Kurt Vonnegut, to Geraldo Rivera, once
- 26) Black-and-white sandwich cookie
- 27) Bread in 15-Across
- 29) Hinders, as a drain flow
- 30) Do personnel work
- 32) Battery contents
- 34) Provide, as with some quality
- 35) 23-Down relatives
- 37) Dropped in the mailbox
- 38) List of restaurant options
- 40) Some dwellers of the Australian Outback
- 41) Powerful shop tool
- 43) Tolkien beast
- 44) Dishonest speaker
- 45) Small singing groups
- 46) Cut by 50 percent
- 47) One cubic meter
- 49) "The Simpsons" bus driver
- 50) "Big Brother" host
- 53) Notable "Bed-In for Peace" participant
- 54) Ark quorum
- 55) Boat maneuverer
- 56) It's boring
- 57) Biblical verb ending

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

By Timothy E. Parker


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