



**AG STRANGE ADVOCATES CHANGE IN FEDERAL LAW
TO HELP FIGHT PROSTITUTION AND CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**
AGs call on Congress to amend Communications Decency Act

[MONTGOMERY]-- Attorney General Luther Strange today joined a bi-partisan national coalition of 49 Attorneys General calling on Congress to amend the law to help fight prostitution and child sex trafficking. In a letter to key members of Congress, the Attorneys General advocated that Congress amend the Communications Decency Act to provide criminal jurisdiction to state and local prosecutors.

According to Attorney General Strange, the Communications Decency Act of 1996 was drafted when the internet was in its infancy. The original purpose of the Act was to protect children from accessing indecent material online, but courts have interpreted certain provisions of the Act to provide immunity from State prosecution to online classified ad sites, such as Backpage.com, that promote and profit from human trafficking.

Prostitution is a local crime. Absent interstate travel, federal property, or the involvement of a minor, prostitution is not a federal crime. While the Communications Decency Act provides criminal authority to the federal government, the Attorneys General believe that criminal jurisdiction needs to be extended to help combat these crimes.

"Federal law needs to be modernized to provide local prosecutors the tools to strike back against those who use technology to promote sexual exploitation of children," Attorney General Strange said.

Local prosecutors report that prostitution solicitations have largely moved online. Backpage.com, for example, generates an estimated \$3 million to \$4 million per month in revenue.

The NAAG letter can be found here: <http://www.ago.alabama.gov/File-20130723-CDA-Sign-On-Letter>

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