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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 17, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Sonya Thompson
 President
 Compass Connections

Dear Ms. Thompson:

On May 5, 2025, I wrote to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding whistleblower disclosures that Polaris Project, the former contractor operating the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), failed to report tips of human trafficking, including child sex trafficking.¹ I also raised concerns regarding conflicts of interest involving the NHTH contracting process and Katherine Chon, the co-founder of Polaris, and the current Director of the Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) at HHS.² In that letter, I noted that 41 Attorneys General wrote to HHS on April 15, 2025, regarding allegations that Polaris was not sharing tips from concerned citizens and family members with law enforcement.³ On July 29, 2025, HHS responded to my office stating that Polaris had failed to report tips to law enforcement; more specifically, HHS stated that they conducted an audit and found a nearly 10 percent failure rate in a sample of 294 cases.⁴

Then, on December 12, 2025, I wrote to you regarding HHS's decision to award a \$35 million grant to Compass Connections to operate the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH).⁵ I requested information from Compass as to how the company would ensure the failures of the former contractor would not be repeated.⁶

On December 22, 2026, you responded to my letter and stated that Compass is not only “aware of the whistleblower allegations,” but also that you were planning on completing “initial implementation activities within the first (9) months” to “ensure full compliance with . . . programmatic and operational requirements.”⁷

The six activities that you highlighted included actions to implement (1) “standardized criteria and assessment tools”; (2) “clear, standardized reporting protocols”; (3) “a law enforcement engagement plan” as well as “a survivor engagement plan that centers survivor voices in the continuous improvement of NHTH services”; (4) a “national coverage plan to ensure consistent, high-quality access across all geographic regions”; (5) “staff care and retention strategies”; (6) and “strategic communications plans.”⁸

¹ Letter from the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, to the Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, Dep't of Health and Human Services, (May 5, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_hhs_-_national_human_trafficking_hotline.pdf.

² *Id.*; see also Letter from the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Sonya Thompson, President, Compass Connections, (Dec. 12, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_compass_-_national_human_trafficking_hotline.pdf.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*; see also Floor Speech, the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Applauds HHS Action to Improve National Human Trafficking Hotline Following Congressional Oversight*, (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-applauds-hhs-action-to-improve-national-human-trafficking-hotline-following-congressional-oversight>.

⁵ Letter from the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Sonya Thompson, President, Compass Connections, (Dec. 12, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_compass_-_national_human_trafficking_hotline.pdf.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Letter from to Sonya Thompson, President, Compass Connections to the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, (Dec. 22, 2025). On file with Comm. staff.

⁸ *Id.*

In your letter you specified that some of these activities would be implemented in “Months 1-4,” others in “Months 1-6,” and still others in “Months 1-9.”⁹ Given that we are roughly 7 months after Compass received the NHTH grant on September 22, 2025, and roughly 4 months after Polaris completed the full transfer of hotline operations to Compass Connections on December 8, 2025, I am now requesting an update on the progress of these implementation activities.¹⁰

So that Congress may conduct oversight of this important matter, please respond to the following requests no later than May 1, 2026:

1. Provide an update regarding the first round of implementation activities to be completed in “Month 1-4,” per your December letter to me. These include implementing “standardized criteria and assessment tools” and “clear, standardized reporting protocols.”¹¹ Provide all records.¹² If you do not believe one or more of these activities will be completed, please state so and explain in detail the reason for the delay.
2. Provide an update regarding the remainder of the implementation activities scheduled to be completed in 2026. If you believe that one or more of the implementation activities will not be completed on time, explain why and detail your concerns about the timely completion of each implementation activity. Provide all records.
3. How much of the \$1 million in additional annual funding does Compass plan on allocating to each implementation activity in 2026? Explain in detail and provide all records.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Tucker Akin or Ross Berg on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Press Release, Dep’t of Health & Human Services, Admin. for Children & Families, *HHS Invests \$35 Million to Bolster National Human Trafficking Hotline and Protect Survivors*, (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://acf.gov/media/press/2025/hhs-invests-35-million-human-trafficking>; see also Press Release, Polaris, *Polaris Announces Successful Transfer of Hotline Operations to Compass Connections*, (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://polarisproject.org/press-releases/polaris-announces-successful-transfer-of-hotline-operations-to-compass-connections/>.

¹¹ Letter from to Sonya Thompson, President, Compass Connections to the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, (Dec. 22, 2025). On file with Comm. staff.

¹² “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).