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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

December 12, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Sonya Thompson
 President
 Compass Connections

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I write to you concerning the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to award a \$35 million grant to Compass Connections to operate the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH).¹ According to recent reports, Compass Connections completed the full transfer of the NHTH from Polaris on December 8, 2025.²

On May 5, 2025, I wrote to Secretary Kennedy making public whistleblower disclosures that Polaris Project, the former contractor operating the NHTH, failed to report tips of human trafficking, including child sex trafficking, to law enforcement, which on July 29, 2025, HHS confirmed.³ In that letter, I also raised concerns about conflicts of interest between Katherine Chon, the Director of the Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) and co-founder of Polaris, and the contracting process.⁴ Additionally, I also highlighted letters from 36 Attorneys General on February 27, 2023,⁵ and 41 AGs on April 15, 2025,⁶ which raised concerns that Polaris was not reporting tips of adult trafficking to state law enforcement except under limited circumstances, and that Polaris "no longer share[ed] tips from concerned citizens and distressed family members with local law enforcement."⁷

Through my oversight, I've stressed that it's imperative HHS ensure the NHTH is running efficiently and effectively to protect victims of human trafficking and work with law

¹ Press Release, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, *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>.

² 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/>.

³ Letter from the Hon. Charles E. Grassley to the Hon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (May 5, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_hhs_-_national_human_trafficking_hotline.pdf; Floor Speech, the Hon. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Applauds HHS Action to Improve National Human Trafficking Hotline Following Congressional Oversight* (Oct. 15, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-applauds-hhs-action-to-improve-national-human-trafficking-hotline-following-congressional-oversight>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Letter from the National Association of Attorneys General to the Hon. Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, the Hon. Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader, the Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House, and the Hon. Hakeem Jefferies, House Minority Leader (Feb. 27, 2023), <https://www.naag.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/State-Attorney-General-Letter-to-Congress-Polaris.pdf>.

⁶ Letter from the National Association of Attorneys General, to the Hon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (Apr. 15, 2025), https://www.naag.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline_FINAL.pdf.

⁷ Letter from the Hon. Charles E. Grassley to the Hon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (May 5, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_hhs_-_national_human_trafficking_hotline.pdf.

enforcement to hold wrongdoers fully accountable. Accordingly, to ensure that Congress can better understand how Compass Connections will be better than its predecessor on behalf of the taxpayer, please provide answers to the following by December 26, 2025:

1. Are you aware of the whistleblower allegations I've publicly raised regarding your predecessor's failure to properly manage the NHTH? What steps will you take to ensure the failures are not repeated? Explain in detail.
2. What steps will Compass Connections take to ensure that the complaints raised by the Attorneys General regarding Polaris are not repeated? Explain in detail.
3. What new policies is Compass Connections planning to implement to improve the use and the effectiveness of the NHTH? Explain in detail and provide all records.
4. How does Compass Connections plan to use the additional \$1 million in annual funding to improve the use of the NHTH? Explain in detail and provide all records.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. Should you have 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

cc:

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services