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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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To: Thomas L. Freedman
From: Robert Gerber, Office of Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II
Date: 2/2/98
Re: CHILD LABOR

Mr. Freedman:

This memo is a follow-up to the conversation you had with Heather Mizeur last Friday. As Heather explained to you, we are very interested in assisting the Administration with its child labor initiative, as announced by President Clinton during the State of the Union address.

Rep. Kennedy has been a leading actor in the fight against child labor world-wide. Here are some of our past initiatives:

5/96 Together with the International Labor Rights Fund (a DC-based NGO), Rep. Kennedy launched the Foul Ball Campaign, an initiative to pressure the soccer ball industry to fight child labor and to adopt codes of conduct. Rep. Kennedy worked with U.S. and international soccer bodies to advance this program.

6/96 Rep. Kennedy introduced an amendment to Treasury/Postal Appropriations to fund two overseas customs posts to combat child labor. The amendment passed the House, but was stripped by the Senate.

104th Congress

Rep. Kennedy introduced legislation to ban the import of soccer balls made with child labor.

104th Congress

Anti-child prostitution bill: Passed a law that made it illegal for US citizens to travel abroad for purposes of having sex with minors.

I would be glad to give you an update on other child labor-related legislation in the House.

I look forward to brainstorming this issue with you, drafting legislation that can effectively address the problem of domestic and international child labor, and finding ways to secure the President's proposed funding increases in these important areas. I can be reached at 225-5111.

Sincerely,

Robert Gerber