Dear [Senator/Representative] [select one] [elected official last name],

According the State Department’s 2022 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, children as young as 8 years old are recruited and deployed as soldiers in 12 countries throughout the world. These children are used as fighters, cooks, spies, sexual slaves, and more.

In 2008, the US passed the Child Soldier Protection Act (CSPA) to stand up against the global problem of child soldiers. The Act restricts U.S. military assistance for countries listed in the TIP report as using child soldiers in an effort to keep children safe.

However, the CSPA fails to address one of the most prolific perpetrators of child soldier recruitment: non-government militias. The CSPA doesn’t prevent private arms companies from distributing weapons to these militias, or in areas where they are known to operate.

Please stand up against the global use of child soldiers. Amend the CSPA to monitor and prevent the private distribution of weapons in areas where children are on the front lines of conflict.

Sincerely,
[Your name]