



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7th, 2020

Mr. JAMES and Mr. ROMERIO (for themselves, Mr. JACOB, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KYOUKO, Mr. KOAY, Mr. CONWAY, Mr. CHUCK, Mr. PURDY, Mr. LOULOU, Mr. ROBINSON, Mr. MILLER, Mr. DARBY, Mr. SONN and Mr. LIGHTWOOD) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To provide resources to law enforcement and states in the fight against human trafficking.

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives in Congress Assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “War on Trafficking Act”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (a) The International Labour Organization found that worldwide sixteen million people are trafficked annually in the private economy (every private industry except for the sex industry).
- (b) The International Labour Organization found that four point eight million people are trafficked annually for forced sexual exploitation.
- (c) Forced labor from trafficked individuals is estimated to garner over one hundred and fifty billion dollars in illegal profits worldwide every year.
- (d) The International Labour Organization found that one million children are trafficked for sexual exploitation every year.

- (e) The United States Department of Homeland Security estimated that in the year 2016 there were fifty seven thousand and seven hundred individuals trafficked into the United States.
- (f) The United States Department of Health and Human Services estimated in 2009 that over three hundred thousand children in the United States are at risk of sexual exploitation.
- (g) Each year thousands of victims of trafficking are rescued after receiving help by calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

- (a) **HUMAN TRAFFICKING.** — The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- (b) **SEX TRAFFICKING.** — The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age
- (c) **HOT ZONES.** — Jurisdictions identified by the Department of Justice as being at higher than average risk for Human Trafficking or Sex Trafficking or which have exhibited higher than average instances of Human Trafficking or Sex Trafficking.
- (d) **BORDER PATROL.** — The Law Enforcement Branch of Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

IN GENERAL.— The United States Marshals Service shall continue their operations against human trafficking with the additional resources and authorizations in the following subsections.

- (1) 28 U.S. Code § 566 (e)(1) is amended—

- (a) in Subparagraph (D), by striking “children” and inserting “persons” in its place.
- (b) at the end, by adding Subparagraph (E), and inserting, “assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in conducting investigations regarding Sex Trafficking, and providing resources to conduct such investigations, and any law enforcement directives therein.”

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHING “HOT ZONES”

IN GENERAL.— The United States of America shall provide resources to aid local authorities in Hot Zones, to ensure that the directives undertaken can be performed to the fullest capacity.

(1) 28 U.S. Code § 566 (e)(1) is amended—

(a) at the end, by adding Subparagraph (F), and inserting, “provide special assistance and resources to local authorities and law enforcement in Hot Zones, for the purpose of ensuring that the prevalence of Sex Trafficking in the jurisdiction can be reduced.”

(2) IN GENERAL.— A Federal Grant Program will be established to provide funding to the local authorities and law enforcement in Hot Zones, for the purpose of reducing the prevalence of Sex Trafficking in these jurisdictions and ensuring that local law enforcement agencies have the resources needed to combat Sex Trafficking.

(a) The Program shall be administered by the Department of Justice.

(b) The Program shall be responsible for;

(i) determining the amount necessary to be provided to local authorities in Hot Zones. In general, the amount shall be enough to perform law enforcement directives in Hot Zones to reduce the prevalence of Sex Trafficking in the jurisdiction.

(ii) negotiating with local authorities to provide proper grant funding, and ensure that the funding is being properly used. In general, the funding shall be used for the following law enforcement directives—

1) investigating cases of Sex Trafficking in the jurisdiction, as well as determining the person or persons, including any organizations involved in, responsible for the Sex Trafficking occurring.

2) performing operations and other law enforcement directives to arrest, interrogate, and prosecute suspected Sex Traffickers.

(iii) Using the General Fund of Appropriations to provide Federal Grant Funding.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING—

(i) The Program is authorized to provide no more than \$50,000,000 for each of the Fiscal Years 2021-2025.

(3) IN GENERAL.— Border Patrol shall participate in local law enforcement efforts to aid in quelling Sex Trafficking across the Southern border of the United States with Mexico.

(a) Border Patrol may;

- (i) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, with investigating cases of Sex Trafficking across the border of the United States and Mexico.
- (ii) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in aiding in law enforcement operations to arrest or capture sex traffickers, or to locate or recovery missing persons.

SEC. 6. GRANTS TO STATES FOR AWARENESS PROGRAMS

IN GENERAL.— The United States of America shall provide resources to states for the administration of programs to raise awareness of Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking, as well as to publicize available resources to victims of Human Trafficking or Sex Trafficking.

- (1) A Federal Grant Program shall be established to provide funding to states for the purpose of administering programs to raise awareness of Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking.

- (a) The Program shall be administered by the Department of Justice.

- (b) The Program shall be responsible for;

- (i) Determining grant amounts necessary for individual states to administer programs to raise awareness of Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking.
 - (ii) Authorizing grant funds and ensuring that funds are used appropriately and efficiently for the authorized purposes under Section 6(1).

- (c) Grant Limitations and Conditions

- (i) States receiving funds shall have to match any grants given by appropriating one-half of the amount provided by the Grant.

- (d) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING—

- (i) The Program is authorized to provide no more than \$10,000,000 in each of the Fiscal Years 2021-2025. Every State to which funding is provided must be provided at least \$650,000 in the Fiscal Year in which funding is being given.

SEC. 7. PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKERS

IN GENERAL. — The United States shall prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking to the greatest extent that the law provides.

- (1) 18 U.S. Code § 1591(b)(1) is amended—

- (a) By striking “imprisonment for any term of years not less than 15 or for life” and inserting “imprisonment for any term of years not less than 20 or for life”

- (2) 18 U.S. Code § 1591(b)(2) is amended—

- (a) By striking “imprisonment for not less than 10 years or for life” and inserting “imprisonment for not less than 15 years or for life”
- (3) 18 U.S. Code § 2421(a) is amended—
 - (a) By striking “imprisoned not more than 10 years” and inserting “imprisoned not more than 12 years”
- (4) 18 U.S. Code § 2422(a) is amended—
 - (a) By striking “imprisoned not more than 20 years” and inserting “imprisoned not more than 25 years”
- (5) 18 U.S. Code § 2422(b) is amended—
 - (a) By striking “imprisoned not less than 10 years or for life” and inserting “imprisoned not less than 12 years or for life”
- (6) 18 U.S. Code § 2423(a) is amended—
 - (a) By striking “imprisoned not less than 10 years or for life” and inserting “imprisoned not less than 12 years or for life”

SEC. 8. ENACTMENT

- (1) The provisions under Section 4, 5(1), Section 5(3) and Section 7 shall be enacted immediately upon the passage of this Act into law.
- (2) For the provisions under Section 5(2) and Section 6 the appropriations for these programs shall be authorized upon the beginning of the first new fiscal month following the passage of this Act into law.