

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2961

To reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MFUME, Mr. McCAUL, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. JACK, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Frederick Douglass
5 Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthor-
6 ization Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

8 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
 Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Sec. 101. Modifications to grants to assist in the recognition of trafficking.
 Sec. 102. Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program.

TITLE II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 201. Extension of authorizations under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.
 Sec. 202. Extension of authorizations under the International Megan’s Law.

1 **TITLE I—COMBATING TRAF-**
 2 **FICKING IN PERSONS IN THE**
 3 **UNITED STATES**

4 **SEC. 101. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE**
 5 **RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING.**

6 (a) AMENDMENTS TO AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT
 7 TRAFFICKING.—Section 106(b)(2) of the Victims of Traf-
 8 ficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
 9 7104(b)(2)) is amended—

10 (1) in the heading, by striking “GRANTS TO AS-
 11 SIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING” and
 12 inserting “FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAF-
 13 FICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS”;

14 (2) in subparagraph (B) in the matter pre-
 15 ceding clause (i), by inserting “under a program
 16 named ‘Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Pre-
 17 vention Education Grants’” after “may award
 18 grants”;

1 (3) in the heading of subparagraph (C), by in-
2 serting “FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAF-
3 FICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS” after
4 “PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS”;

5 (4) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding Frederick
8 Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Edu-
9 cation Grants under this paragraph, the Sec-
10 retary shall—

11 “(i) give priority to local educational
12 agencies serving a high-intensity child sex
13 trafficking area or an area with significant
14 child labor trafficking;

15 “(ii) give additional priority to local
16 educational agencies that partner with
17 non-profit organizations specializing in
18 human trafficking prevention education,
19 which partner with law enforcement and
20 technology or social media companies, to
21 assist in training efforts to protect children
22 from labor trafficking and sexual exploi-
23 tation and abuse including grooming, ma-
24 terials depicting the sexual abuse of chil-

1 dren, and human trafficking transmitted
2 through technology; and

3 “(iii) consult, as appropriate, with the
4 Secretary of Education, the Secretary of
5 Housing and Urban Development, the Sec-
6 retary of the Interior, the Secretary of
7 Labor, and the Attorney General, to iden-
8 tify the geographic areas in the United
9 States with the highest prevalence of at-
10 risk populations for child trafficking, in-
11 cluding children who are homeless youth,
12 foster youth, youth involved in the child
13 welfare system, and children and youth
14 who run away from home or an out-of-
15 home placement.”; and

16 (5) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(E) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—Grant-
18 ees should be selected based on their dem-
19 onstrated ability to—

20 “(i) engage stakeholders, including
21 survivors of human trafficking, and Fed-
22 eral, State, local, or Tribal partners, to de-
23 velop the programs;

24 “(ii) train the trainers, guardians, K-
25 12 students, teachers, and other school

1 personnel in an age-appropriate and trauma-informed fashion; and

2
3 “(iii) create a scalable, repeatable program or model, to be publicly available for
4 distribution online, that can be adapted to
5 address the needs of any school to prevent
6 child labor trafficking, child sex trafficking,
7 and child sexual exploitation and
8 abuse including grooming, child sexual
9 abuse materials, and trafficking transmitted through technology that—

10
11
12 “(I) uses evidence-based (as such
13 term is defined in section
14 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and
15 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
16 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices;
17 and

18 “(II) employs appropriate technological tools and methodologies, including age-appropriate and trauma-informed approaches for trainers,
19 guardians, educators, and K–12 students.
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24 “(F) TRAIN THE TRAINERS.—For purposes of subparagraph (E), the term ‘train the
25

1 trainers’ means having experienced or master
2 trainers coach new trainers who are less experi-
3 enced with a particular topic or skill, or with
4 training overall, who can then teach the mate-
5 rial to others, creating a broader reach, sustain-
6 ability, and making efforts cost- and time-effi-
7 cient (commonly referred to as ‘training of
8 trainers’).

9 “(G) TARGET BENEFICIARIES.—The Sec-
10 retary shall consult with the Secretary of Edu-
11 cation, the Secretary of Housing and Urban
12 Development, and the Secretary of the Interior
13 to determine the appropriate recipients or stu-
14 dents at risk of being trafficked or exploited, to
15 be reported with respect to grants under this
16 paragraph, which shall include, at a minimum,
17 homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in
18 the child welfare system, and children and
19 youth who run away from home or an out-of-
20 home placement.

21 “(H) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days
22 after the date of the enactment of this subpara-
23 graph, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services shall submit to the
25 Committees on Education and Workforce, En-

1 ergy and Commerce, and the Judiciary of the
2 House of Representatives and the Committees
3 on the Judiciary and Health, Education, Labor,
4 and Pensions of the Senate and make available
5 to the public a report, including data on the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(i) The total number of entities that
8 received a Frederick Douglass Human
9 Trafficking Prevention Education Grant
10 over the past year.

11 “(ii) The total number of partnerships
12 or consultants that included survivors,
13 non-profit organizations specialized in
14 human trafficking prevention education,
15 law enforcement, and technology or social
16 media companies.

17 “(iii) The total number of elementary
18 and secondary schools that established and
19 implemented evidence-based (as such term
20 is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the
21 Elementary and Secondary Education Act
22 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best
23 practices through programs developed
24 using such grants.

1 “(iv) The total number and geo-
2 graphic distribution of trainers, guardians,
3 students, teachers, and other school per-
4 sonnel trained using such grants pursuant
5 to this paragraph.

6 “(v) The results of pre-training and
7 post-training surveys to gauge trainees’ in-
8 creased understanding of the scope and
9 signs of child trafficking and child sexual
10 exploitation and abuse; how to interact
11 with potential victims and survivors of
12 child trafficking and child sexual exploi-
13 tation and abuse using age-appropriate
14 and trauma-informed approach; and the
15 manner in which to respond to potential
16 child trafficking and child sexual exploi-
17 tation and abuse.

18 “(vi) The number of potential victims
19 and survivors of child trafficking and child
20 sexual exploitation and abuse identified
21 and served by grantees, excluding any indi-
22 vidually identifiable information about such
23 children and acting in full compliance with
24 all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

1 “(vii) The number of students in ele-
2 mentary or secondary school identified by
3 grantees as being at risk of being traf-
4 ficked or sexually exploited and abused, ex-
5 cluding any individually identifiable infor-
6 mation about such children.

7 “(viii) The demographic characteris-
8 tics of child trafficking survivors and vic-
9 tims, sexually exploited and abused chil-
10 dren, and students at risk of being traf-
11 ficked or sexually exploited and abused de-
12 scribed in clauses (vi) and (vii), excluding
13 any individually identifiable information
14 about such children.

15 “(ix) Any service gaps and best prac-
16 tices identified by grantees.”.

17 **SEC. 102. HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS EMPLOYMENT**
18 **AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services may carry out a Frederick Douglass
21 Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education
22 Program to prevent the re-exploitation of eligible individ-
23 uals who have been victims of trafficking, by assisting
24 such individuals to integrate or reintegrate into society
25 through social services support for the attainment of life-

1 skills, employment, and education necessary to achieve
2 self-sufficiency.

3 (b) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services offered, pro-
4 vided, and funded by the Program shall include (as rel-
5 evant to the victim of trafficking)—

6 (1) enrollment and participation in—

7 (A) basic education, including literacy edu-
8 cation;

9 (B) job-related skills training;

10 (C) vocational and certificate programs;

11 and

12 (D) programs for attaining a regular high
13 school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

14 (2) life-skill training programs, including man-
15 agement of personal finances, self-care, and par-
16 enting classes;

17 (3) résumé creation and review;

18 (4) interview coaching and counseling;

19 (5) assistance with expungement of criminal
20 records when such records are for nonviolent crimes
21 that were committed as a consequence of the eligible
22 individual’s victimization, including assistance with
23 credit repair;

24 (6) assistance with enrollment in college or
25 technical school;

1 (7) scholarship assistance for attending college
2 or technical school;

3 (8) professional coaching or professional devel-
4 opment classes;

5 (9) case management to develop an individual-
6 ized plan with each victim of trafficking, based on
7 each person’s needs and goals; and

8 (10) assistance with obtaining victim compensa-
9 tion, direct victim assistance, or other funds for
10 mental health care.

11 (c) SERVICE PERIOD.—Eligible individuals may re-
12 ceive services through the Program for a cumulative pe-
13 riod of 5 years.

14 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the
15 availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall enter
16 into cooperative agreements with one or more eligible or-
17 ganizations to carry out this section.

18 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible
20 individual” means a victim of trafficking who—

21 (A) has attained the age of 18 years; and

22 (B) is eligible to receive services under sec-
23 tion 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
24 tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)).

1 (2) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The “eligible
2 organization” may include a nongovernmental orga-
3 nization and means a service provider that meets the
4 following criteria:

5 (A) Experience in using national or local
6 anti-trafficking networks to serve victims of
7 trafficking.

8 (B) Experience qualifying, providing, and
9 coordinating services for victims of trafficking,
10 as described in subsection (b), that is trauma-
11 informed.

12 (C) A provider that has experience identi-
13 fying and assisting victims of trafficking, as
14 such term is defined in section 103 of the Traf-
15 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22
16 U.S.C. 7102).

17 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
18 the Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Sur-
19 vivors Employment and Education Program estab-
20 lished under this section.

21 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1 **TITLE II—AUTHORIZATION OF**
2 **APPROPRIATIONS**

3 **SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE**
4 **VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE**
5 **PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.**

6 Section 113 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act
7 of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

9 (A) by striking “To carry out the purposes
10 of sections 106(b) and 107(b),” and inserting
11 “To carry out the purposes of sections 106(b)
12 and 107(b) of this Act and sections 101 and
13 102 of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Vic-
14 tims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization
15 Act of 2023,”; and

16 (B) by striking “\$19,500,000” and all that
17 follows, and inserting “\$30,755,000 for each of
18 the fiscal years 2025 through 2029, of which
19 \$5,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated in
20 each fiscal year for the National Human Traf-
21 ficking Hotline and for cybersecurity and public
22 education campaigns, in consultation with the
23 Secretary of Homeland Security, for identifying
24 and responding as needed to cases of human
25 trafficking.”; and

