

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9450

To counter Russian trafficking in persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To counter Russian trafficking in persons.

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 “Countering Russian
5 Trafficking Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Since February 2022, elements of the Rus-
9 sian Federation have engaged in the systematic ab-
10 duction and forcible transfer of thousands of
11 Ukrainian children from temporarily occupied areas
12 of Ukraine to the territory of the Russian Federa-

1 tion or to areas under Russian control, in a pattern
2 that meets the definition of a “severe form of traf-
3 ficking in persons” under section 103 of the Traf-
4 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

5 (2) These operations have been coordinated and
6 facilitated by a network of Russian state actors—in-
7 cluding Federal ministries, regional administrations,
8 the Office of the Commissioner for Children’s
9 Rights, and affiliated “rehabilitation” and “patriotic
10 education” camps—as well as non-state actors, in-
11 cluding segments of the Russian Orthodox Church
12 and its subordinate dioceses and charitable founda-
13 tions, and private adoption and foster networks op-
14 erating in occupied Ukrainian territory, that to-
15 gether constitute transnational organized criminal
16 activity.

17 (3) The forced transfer, deportation, indoctrina-
18 tion, and re-education of these children is intended
19 to erase their Ukrainian national identity and inte-
20 grate them into Russian society, constituting both a
21 war crime under international law and a continuing
22 violation of the human rights of the victims and
23 their families.

24 (4) The network of state and non-state actors
25 described in paragraph (2) has generated docu-

1 mented financial benefits from the forced transfer,
2 placement, and illegal adoption of Ukrainian chil-
3 dren, and the conditions created by these operations
4 have been reported to facilitate the sex trafficking of
5 displaced Ukrainian women and children by orga-
6 nized criminal networks operating in Russian-con-
7 trolled territories, the proceeds of which flow to per-
8 sons within the scope of section 4(c).

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that the systematic abduc-
11 tion and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children by the
12 Russian Federation constitutes one of the most egregious
13 ongoing human-trafficking crimes of the 21st century and
14 demands an immediate, aggressive, and coordinated sanc-
15 tions response.

16 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
19 apply the measures described in subsection (b) to the cov-
20 ered persons described in subsection (c).

21 (b) MEASURES DESCRIBED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The measures described in
23 this subsection are the following:

1 (A) Executive Order 13581 (Blocking
2 Property of Transnational Criminal Organiza-
3 tions).

4 (B) Section 111 of the Trafficking Victims
5 Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7108).

6 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
7 Act may be construed to limit the President’s au-
8 thority to impose sanctions under any provision of
9 law.

10 (c) COVERED PERSONS.—The persons described in
11 this subsection are persons determined by the President
12 to have participated in, attempted to engage in, conspired
13 to engage in, or provided material support for or otherwise
14 facilitated the transfer, deportation, indoctrination, or re-
15 education of Ukrainian children, including—

16 (1) any Federal ministry, regional administra-
17 tion, or agency of the Russian Federation;

18 (2) any “rehabilitation,” “patriotic education,”
19 or similar camp, facility, or program operated or
20 funded by the Russian Federation that has received
21 or processed transferred Ukrainian children;

22 (3) any entity or instrumentality of the Russian
23 Orthodox Church, or any diocese, foundation, or
24 charitable organization subordinate to or affiliated
25 with it, to the extent such entity has participated in

1 or facilitated the placement, adoption, foster care, or
2 ideological re-education of transferred Ukrainian
3 children;

4 (4) any private adoption agency, foster network,
5 or intermediary operating in territory of Ukraine oc-
6 cupied by the Russian Federation that has facili-
7 tated the removal or transfer of Ukrainian children;

8 (5) any person who knowingly deals in or other-
9 wise directly or indirectly benefits from the proceeds
10 of the activities of the persons described in para-
11 graphs (1) through (4);

12 (6) any person that has knowingly materially
13 assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material,
14 or technological support for, or goods or services to
15 or in support of, any person described in paragraphs
16 (1) through (5); or

17 (7) any person that is owned or controlled by,
18 owns or controls, or acts or has acted for or on be-
19 half of, any person described in paragraphs (1)
20 through (6).

21 (d) LIST.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 President shall submit to the appropriate congres-

1 sional committees an interim unclassified list of per-
2 sons that meet the criteria in subsection (c).

3 (2) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1)
4 shall be submitted in unclassified form and may con-
5 tain a classified annex.

6 (e) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than 120
7 days after receiving a request from the chairman or rank-
8 ing member of one of the appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees with respect to whether a foreign person meets
10 the criteria of a person described in subsection (c), the
11 President shall—

12 (1) determine if the person meets such criteria;
13 and

14 (2) submit a written justification to the chair-
15 man and ranking member detailing whether or not
16 the President imposed or intends to impose sanc-
17 tions described in subsection (c) with respect to such
18 person.

19 (f) REGULATORY UPDATES.—Not later than 180
20 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President
21 shall issue such regulations, guidance, and advisories as
22 may be necessary to implement this Act.

23 (g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
24 priate congressional committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
2 Committee on Financial Services of the House of
3 Representatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
5 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
6 fairs of the Senate.

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