

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4478

To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report and to require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based on grounds related to human trafficking.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2020

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report and to require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based on grounds related to human trafficking.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Leveraging Informa-
3 tion on Foreign Traffickers Act” or the “LIFT Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) the annual Trafficking In Persons Report
7 prepared by the Department of State pursuant to
8 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (the
9 “TIP Report”) remains one of the most comprehen-
10 sive, timely, and important sources of information on
11 human trafficking in the world, and currently in-
12 cludes 187 individual country narratives;

13 (2) in January 2019, the statute mandating the
14 TIP Report was amended to require that each report
15 must cover efforts and activities occurring within the
16 period from April 1 of the prior year through March
17 31 of the current year, which necessarily requires
18 the collection and transmission of information after
19 March 31;

20 (3) ensuring that the Department of State has
21 adequate time to receive, analyze, and incorporate
22 trafficking-related information into its annual Traf-
23 ficking In Persons Report is important to the quality
24 and comprehensiveness of that report;

25 (4) information regarding prevalence and pat-
26 terns of human trafficking is important for under-

1 standing the scourge of modern slavery and making
2 effective decisions about where and how to combat
3 it; and

4 (5) United States officials responsible for moni-
5 toring and combating trafficking in persons around
6 the world should receive available information re-
7 garding where and how often United States diplo-
8 matic and consular officials encounter persons who
9 are responsible for, or who knowingly benefit from,
10 severe forms of trafficking in persons.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) LOCATIONS OF UNITED STATES VISA DENI-
14 ALS.—The term “location of United States visa de-
15 nials” means—

16 (A) the United States diplomatic or con-
17 sular post at which a denied United States visa
18 application was adjudicated; and

19 (B) the city or locality of residence of the
20 applicant whose visa application was so denied.

21 (2) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-
23 tees” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
25 the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
2 Senate;

3 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
4 the House of Representatives; and

5 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL DEADLINE FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**
8 **REPORT.**

9 Section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
10 tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) is amended by
11 striking “June 1” and inserting “June 30”.

12 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HUMAN**
13 **TRAFFICKING.**

14 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 115(h) of the Justice for
15 Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22;
16 129 Stat. 243) is amended by striking “September 30,
17 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

18 (b) COMPENSATION.—Section 115(f) of such Act is
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(3) may each receive compensation for each
2 day such member is engaged in the actual perform-
3 ance of the duties of the Council.”.

4 (c) COMPENSATION REPORT.—Not later than 120
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of State shall submit a plan to the relevant congres-
7 sional committees for implementing compensation for
8 members of the United States Advisory Council on Human
9 Trafficking pursuant to section 115(f)(3) of the Justice
10 for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, as added by sub-
11 section (b)(3).

12 **SEC. 6. TIMELY PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE OF-**
13 **FICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAF-**
14 **FICKING IN PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT**
15 **OF STATE.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Trafficking
17 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104) is
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(1) INFORMATION REGARDING HUMAN TRAF-
20 FICKING-RELATED VISA DENIALS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State
22 shall ensure that the Office to Monitor and Combat
23 Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplo-
24 matic Security of the Department of State receive
25 timely and regular information regarding United

1 States visa denials based, in whole or in part, on
2 grounds related to human trafficking.

3 “(2) DECISIONS REGARDING ALLOCATION.—

4 The Secretary of State shall ensure that decisions
5 regarding the allocation of resources of the Depart-
6 ment of State related to combating human traf-
7 ficking and to law enforcement presence at United
8 States diplomatic and consular posts appropriately
9 take into account—

10 “(A) the information described in para-
11 graph (1); and

12 “(B) the information included in the most
13 recent report submitted in accordance with sec-
14 tion 110(b).”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of
16 such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(18) GROUNDS RELATED TO HUMAN TRAF-
19 FICKING.—The term ‘grounds related to human traf-
20 ficking’ means grounds related to the criteria for in-
21 admissibility to the United States described in sec-
22 tion 212(a)(2)(H) of the Immigration and Nation-
23 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(H)).”.

1 **SEC. 7. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 State shall submit a report to the relevant congressional
5 committees that—

6 (1) describes the actions that have been taken
7 and that are planned to implement section 106(l) of
8 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as
9 added by section 6(a); and

10 (2) identifies by country and by United States
11 diplomatic and consular post the number of visa ap-
12 plications denied during the previous calendar year
13 with respect to which the basis for such denial, in-
14 cluded grounds related to human trafficking (as de-
15 fined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Pro-
16 tection Act of 2000, as amended by section 6(b)).

17 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning with the first an-
18 nual anti-trafficking report required under section
19 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
20 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) that is submitted after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, and concurrent with
22 each such subsequent submission for the following 7 years,
23 the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the relevant
24 congressional committees that contains information relat-
25 ing to the number and the locations of United States visa
26 denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to

1 human trafficking (as defined in section 103 of the Traf-
2 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended by
3 section 6(b)) during the period covered by each such re-
4 port.

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