

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6736

To establish a Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GUEST, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MELJER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PFLUGER, and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Ways and Means, 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 establish a Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking, 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 “Countering Human
5 Trafficking Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the victim-centered approach must become
4 universally understood, adopted, and practiced;

5 (2) criminal justice efforts must increase the
6 focus on, and adeptness at, investigating and pros-
7 ecuting forced labor cases;

8 (3) corporations must eradicate forced labor
9 from their supply chains;

10 (4) the Department of Homeland Security must
11 lead by example—

12 (A) by ensuring that its government supply
13 chain of contracts and procurement are not
14 tainted by forced labor; and

15 (B) by leveraging all of its authorities
16 against the importation of goods produced with
17 forced labor; and

18 (5) human trafficking training, awareness, iden-
19 tification, and screening efforts—

20 (A) are a necessary first step for preven-
21 tion, protection, and enforcement; and

22 (B) should be evidence-based to be most
23 effective.

24 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER**
25 **FOR COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

26 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
2 Security shall operate, within U.S. Immigration and
3 Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Inves-
4 tigations, the Center for Countering Human Traf-
5 ficking (referred to in this Act as “CCHT”).

6 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of CCHT shall be
7 to serve at the forefront of the Department of
8 Homeland Security’s unified global efforts to
9 counter human trafficking through law enforcement
10 operations and victim protection, prevention, and
11 awareness programs.

12 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—Homeland Security In-
13 vestigations shall—

14 (A) maintain a concept of operations that
15 identifies CCHT participants, funding, core
16 functions, and personnel; and

17 (B) update such concept of operations, as
18 needed, to accommodate its mission and the
19 threats to such mission.

20 (4) PERSONNEL.—

21 (A) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Home-
22 land Security shall appoint a CCHT Director,
23 who shall—

24 (i) be a member of the Senior Execu-
25 tive Service; and

(ii) serve as the Department of Homeland Security's representative on human trafficking.

(B) MINIMUM CORE PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS.—Subject to appropriations, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that CCHT is staffed with at least 45 employees in order to maintain continuity of effort, subject matter expertise, and necessary support to the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(i) employees who are responsible for the Continued Presence Program and other victim protection duties;

(ii) employees who are responsible for training, including curriculum development, and public awareness and education;

(iii) employees who are responsible for stakeholder engagement, Federal inter-agency coordination, multilateral partnerships, and policy;

(iv) employees who are responsible for public relations, human resources, evaluation, data analysis and reporting, and information technology;

- 1 (v) special agents and criminal ana-
2 lysts necessary to accomplish its mission of
3 combating human trafficking and the im-
4 portation of goods produced with forced
5 labor; and
6 (vi) managers.

7 (b) OPERATIONS UNIT.—The CCHT Director shall
8 operate, within CCHT, an Operations Unit, which shall,
9 at a minimum—

10 (1) support criminal investigations of human
11 trafficking (including sex trafficking and forced
12 labor)—

13 (A) by developing, tracking, and coordi-
14 nating leads; and

15 (B) by providing subject matter expertise;

16 (2) augment the enforcement of the prohibition
17 on the importation of goods produced with forced
18 labor through civil and criminal authorities;

19 (3) coordinate a Department-wide effort to con-
20 duct procurement audits and enforcement actions,
21 including suspension and debarment, in order to
22 mitigate the risk of human trafficking throughout
23 Department acquisitions and contracts; and

24 (4) support all CCHT enforcement efforts with
25 intelligence by conducting lead development, lead

1 validation, case support, strategic analysis, and data
2 analytics.

3 (c) PROTECTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

4 UNIT.—The CCHT Director shall operate, within CCHT,
5 a Protection and Awareness Programs Unit, which shall—

6 (1) incorporate a victim-centered approach
7 throughout Department of Homeland Security poli-
8 cies, training, and practices;

9 (2) operate a comprehensive Continued Pres-
10 ence program;

11 (3) conduct, review, and assist with Department
12 of Homeland Security human trafficking training,
13 screening, and identification tools and efforts;

14 (4) operate the Blue Campaign’s nationwide
15 public awareness effort and any other awareness ef-
16 forts needed to encourage victim identification and
17 reporting to law enforcement and to prevent human
18 trafficking; and

19 (5) coordinate external engagement, including
20 training and events, regarding human trafficking
21 with critical partners, including survivors, non-
22 governmental organizations, corporations, multilat-
23 eral entities, law enforcement agencies, and other in-
24 terested parties.

1 **SEC. 4. SPECIALIZED INITIATIVES.**

2 (a) HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION MOD-
3 ERNIZATION INITIATIVE.—The CCHT Director, in con-
4 junction with the Science and Technology Directorate Of-
5 fice of Science and Engineering, shall develop a strategy
6 and proposal to modify systems and processes throughout
7 the Department of Homeland Security that are related to
8 CCHT's mission in order to—

- 9 (1) decrease the response time to access victim
10 protections;
- 11 (2) accelerate lead development;
- 12 (3) advance the identification of human traf-
13 ficking characteristics and trends;
- 14 (4) fortify the security and protection of sen-
15 sitive information;
- 16 (5) apply analytics to automate manual proc-
17 esses; and
- 18 (6) provide artificial intelligence and machine
19 learning to increase system capabilities and enhance
20 data availability, reliability, comparability, and
21 verifiability.

22 (b) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Upon the completion of
23 the strategy and proposal under subsection (a), the Sec-
24 retary of Homeland Security shall submit a summary of
25 the strategy and plan for executing the strategy to—

1 (1) the Committee on Homeland Security and
2 Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

3 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security of the
4 House of Representatives.

5 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

6 (a) INFORMATION SHARING TO FACILITATE RE-
7 PORTS AND ANALYSIS.—Each subagency of the Depart-
8 ment of Homeland Security shall share with CCHT—

9 (1) any information needed by CCHT to de-
10 velop the strategy and proposal required under sec-
11 tion 4(a); and

12 (2) any additional data analysis to help CCHT
13 better understand the issues surrounding human
14 trafficking.

15 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the CCHT
17 Director shall submit a report to Congress that identifies
18 any legislation that is needed to facilitate the Department
19 of Homeland Security’s mission to end human trafficking.

20 **SEC. 6. TRANSFER OF OTHER FUNCTIONS RELATED TO**
21 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

22 (a) BLUE CAMPAIGN.—The functions and resources
23 of the Blue Campaign located within the Office of Part-
24 nership and Engagement on the day before the date of

1 the enactment of this Act are hereby transferred to
2 CCHT.

3 (b) OTHER TRANSFER.—

4 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of Homeland Security may transfer the func-
7 tions and resources of any component, directorate,
8 or other office of the Department of Homeland Se-
9 curity related to combating human trafficking to the
10 CCHT.

11 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days be-
12 fore executing any transfer authorized under para-
13 graph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
14 notify the Committee on Homeland Security and
15 Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
16 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives of such planned transfer.

18 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-
20 propriated, there is authorized to be appropriated to the
21 Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out this Act
22 \$14,000,000, which shall remain available until expended.

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