

# Calendar No. 272

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2991

[Report No. 117-73]

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 18, 2021

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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## 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 2021~~”.

★(Star Print)

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

1           (ii) serve as the Department of Home-  
2           land Security's representative on human  
3           trafficking.

4           (B) MINIMUM CORE PERSONNEL REQUIRE-  
5           MENTS.—Subject to appropriations, the Sec-  
6           retary of Homeland Security shall ensure that  
7           CCHT is staffed with at least 45 employees in  
8           order to maintain continuity of effort, subject  
9           matter expertise, and necessary support to the  
10          Department of Homeland Security, including—

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

14           (ii) employees who are responsible for  
15           training, including curriculum develop-  
16           ment;

17           (iii) employees who are responsible for  
18           stakeholder engagement, Federal inter-  
19           agency coordination, multilateral partner-  
20           ships, and policy;

21           (iv) employees who are responsible for  
22           public relations, human resources, evalua-  
23           tion, data analysis and reporting, and in-  
24           formation 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—

17 (A) to encourage victim identification and  
18 reporting to law enforcement; and

19 (B) to prevent human trafficking; and

20 (5) coordinate external engagement, including  
21 training and events, regarding human trafficking  
22 with critical partners, including survivors, non-  
23 governmental organizations, corporations, multilat-  
24 eral entities, law enforcement agencies, and other in-  
25 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 proe-  
17 cesses; 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 5(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. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21          In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-  
22 propriated, there is authorized to be appropriated to the  
23 Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out this Act  
24 \$14,000,000, which shall remain available until expended.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Countering Human*  
3 *Trafficking Act of 2021”.*

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

5 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

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19 *against the importation of goods produced with*  
20 *forced labor; and*

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8 *(referred to in this Act as “CCHT”).*

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10 *serve at the forefront of the Department of Homeland*  
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21 *needed, to accommodate its mission and the*  
22 *threats to such mission.*

23 (4) *PERSONNEL.*—

24 (A) *DIRECTOR.*—*The Secretary of Home-*  
25 *land Security shall appoint a CCHT Director,*  
26 *who shall—*

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3                   (ii) serve as the Department of Home-  
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15                   victim protection duties;

16                   (ii) employees who are responsible for  
17                   training, including curriculum develop-  
18                   ment, and public awareness and education;

19                   (iii) employees who are responsible for  
20                   stakeholder engagement, Federal interagency  
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1 *eral entities, law enforcement agencies, and other in-*  
2 *terested parties.*

3 **SEC. 4. SPECIALIZED INITIATIVES.**

4 *(a) HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION MODERNIZA-*  
5 *TION INITIATIVE.—The CCHT Director, in conjunction*  
6 *with the Science and Technology Directorate Office of*  
7 *Science and Engineering, shall develop a strategy and pro-*  
8 *posal to modify systems and processes throughout the De-*  
9 *partment of Homeland Security that are related to CCHT's*  
10 *mission in order to—*

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20 *(6) provide artificial intelligence and machine*  
21 *learning to increase system capabilities and enhance*  
22 *data availability, reliability, comparability, and*  
23 *verifiability.*

24 *(b) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Upon the completion of*  
25 *the strategy and proposal under subsection (a), the Sec-*

1 *etary of Homeland Security shall submit a summary of*  
2 *the strategy and plan for executing the strategy to—*

3 *(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and*  
4 *Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and*

5 *(2) the Committee on Homeland Security of the*  
6 *House of Representatives.*

7 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

8 *(a) INFORMATION SHARING TO FACILITATE REPORTS*  
9 *AND ANALYSIS.—Each subagency of the Department of*  
10 *Homeland Security shall share with CCHT—*

11 *(1) any information needed by CCHT to develop*  
12 *the strategy and proposal required under section 4(a);*  
13 *and*

14 *(2) any additional data analysis to help CCHT*  
15 *better understand the issues surrounding human traf-*  
16 *ficking.*

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

22 **SEC. 6. TRANSFER OF OTHER FUNCTIONS RELATED TO**  
23 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

24 *(a) BLUE CAMPAIGN.—The functions and resources of*  
25 *the Blue Campaign located within the Office of Partnership*

1 *and Engagement on the day before the date of the enactment*  
2 *of this Act are hereby transferred to 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, or*  
8 *other office of the Department of Homeland Security*  
9 *related to combating human trafficking to the CCHT.*

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

17 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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



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