

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 53

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a database that shall serve as a central location for information from investigations relating to human trafficking for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a database that shall serve as a central location for information from investigations relating to human trafficking for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

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 “Coordinated Assistance
5 To Catch Human Traffickers Act of 2017” or the
6 “CATCH Traffickers Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The scourge of human trafficking persists
4 and manifests itself in the modern era, whether
5 termed modern-day slavery, forced labor, involuntary
6 domestic servitude, sex trafficking, child sex traf-
7 ficking, bonded labor, forced child labor, or debt
8 bondage among migrant laborers.

9 (2) According to the 2013 Trafficking in Per-
10 sons (TIP) Report of the United States Department
11 of State, each year an estimated 14,500 to 17,500
12 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United
13 States, with the largest number of people trafficked
14 into the United States coming from East Asia and
15 the Pacific, and the next highest numbers coming
16 from Latin America, Europe, and Eurasia.

17 (3) The majority of victims of modern-day slav-
18 ery are women and children because traffickers prey
19 on those who suffer most from gender discrimina-
20 tion, family violence, and a lack of access to edu-
21 cation and economic opportunity.

22 (4) Human trafficking is one of the fastest
23 growing criminal enterprises in the 21st century,
24 generating profits for traffickers in excess of
25 \$30,000,000,000, according to the International

1 Labor Organization, ranking with drug smuggling
2 and arms dealing in organized crime activities.

3 (5) There remains a stark disparity between the
4 large global problem of trafficking in persons and
5 the low numbers of prosecutions and convictions of
6 forced labor trafficking crimes, which accounted for
7 less than 3 percent of all convictions worldwide as
8 recently as 2009.

9 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL DATABASE FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
10 **INVESTIGATIONS.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland
12 Security (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
13 establish and maintain a database that shall serve as a
14 central location for information from investigations relat-
15 ing to human trafficking for Federal, State, and local law
16 enforcement agencies.

17 (b) CONTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The head of a Federal,
19 State, or local law enforcement agency conducting
20 an investigation related to human trafficking shall
21 ensure that such information relating to that inves-
22 tigation as the Secretary determines appropriate is
23 entered into the database established pursuant to
24 subsection (a).

1 (2) STATE AND LOCAL INCENTIVE.—In the case
2 of a State or unit of local government that received
3 a grant award under subpart 1 of part E of title I
4 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
5 of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), the law enforce-
6 ment agency of which does not substantially comply
7 with the requirement under paragraph (1), the At-
8 torney General shall reduce the amount that would
9 otherwise be awarded to that State or unit of local
10 government under such grant program by 20 per-
11 cent.

12 (c) ACCESS TO DATABASE.—Federal, State, and local
13 law enforcement agencies may only access the database
14 established pursuant to subsection (a) in connection with
15 an investigation related to human trafficking.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for fiscal year
18 2018 to carry out this Act.

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