

Our children are on the Internet, they are tech savvy, and they easily can become victims of an attractive site or attractive sounds and music, so I think this legislation, again, pinpoints a very serious issue.

The bill is an amendment of an existing legislation that includes a mens rea. There must be intent; but we do know, in the course of legislation, we have the opportunity to make sure that what we do does meet the test of getting those who are truly the perpetrators.

I would hope as this bill moves to the Senate, as we recognize the importance of this legislation, we, again, be reminded that one size does not often fit all and that judges can rightly have discretion to a sentence of life.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can have a comprehensive approach to legislative bills that have been on the floor today to attack head on, if you will, those who prey on our children, young men and women, people who find themselves lost with no place to go and become the serious victims of child pornography, sex trafficking, and human trafficking. As Members, we know that, many times, the entire life of that individual is changed forever.

I yield back the balance of my time and ask for support of the underlying bill.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, we have spent about an hour and a half today talking about how bad this problem is. The two previous bills were passed unanimously by voice vote.

There seem to be two arguments against the current bill. One is that the net might be too broad. That has been responded emphatically by putting a "knowingly" standard in so that somebody who is innocent will not be caught up if an advertisement for sex trafficking appears without their knowledge.

The second is the philosophical debate on mandatory minimum sentences. I think there are some crimes where there ought to be a mandatory minimum sentence. I know many of my colleagues sincerely disagree with that, but believe me, advertising kids—minor kids—for sex should be something that puts you in jail for some time.

I am glad this bill allows for life sentences in case of egregious offenses, but I think that even in ones that might be less than egregious, spending some time in jail will show this country and maybe others who may be tempted to get involved in this horrific business that if you are caught, you are going to spend some time.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr.

SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 285.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 181) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 181

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. VICTIM-CENTERED SEX TRAFFICKING DETTERENCE GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (j);

(2) by striking subsections (a) through (f), and inserting the following:

"(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may make grants to eligible entities to develop, improve, or expand comprehensive domestic child human trafficking deterrence programs that assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial officials, and qualified victims' services organizations in collaborating to rescue and restore the lives of victims, while investigating and prosecuting offenses involving child human trafficking.

"(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—

"(1) the establishment or enhancement of specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care officials, child welfare officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to—

"(A) identify victims and acts of child human trafficking;

"(B) address the unique needs of victims of child human trafficking;

"(C) facilitate the rescue of victims of child human trafficking;

"(D) investigate and prosecute acts of child human trafficking, including the soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing of commercial sex acts from children, as well as training to build cases against complex criminal networks involved in child human trafficking; and

"(E) implement and provide education on safe harbor laws enacted by States, aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of victims of child human trafficking for prostitution offenses;

"(2) the establishment or enhancement of dedicated anti-child human trafficking law enforcement units and task forces to investigate child human trafficking offenses and to rescue victims, including—

"(A) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers, detectives, and investigators, except that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under this section

shall not be more than the percentage of the officer's time on duty that is dedicated to working on cases involving child human trafficking;

"(B) investigation expenses for cases involving child human trafficking, including—

"(i) wire taps;

"(ii) consultants with expertise specific to cases involving child human trafficking;

"(iii) travel; and

"(iv) other technical assistance expenditures;

"(C) dedicated anti-child human trafficking prosecution units, including the funding of salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of child human trafficking offenses, except that the percentage of the total salary of a State or local prosecutor that is paid using an award under this section shall be not more than the percentage of the total number of hours worked by the prosecutor that is spent working on cases involving child human trafficking; and

"(D) the establishment of child human trafficking victim witness safety, assistance, and relocation programs that encourage cooperation with law enforcement investigations of crimes of child human trafficking by leveraging existing resources and delivering child human trafficking victims' services through coordination with—

"(i) child advocacy centers;

"(ii) social service agencies;

"(iii) State governmental health service agencies;

"(iv) housing agencies;

"(v) legal services agencies; and

"(vi) non-governmental organizations and shelter service providers with substantial experience in delivering services to victims of child human trafficking;

"(3) the establishment or enhancement of problem solving court programs for child human trafficking victims that include—

"(A) continuing judicial supervision of victims of child human trafficking who have been identified by a law enforcement or judicial officer as a potential victim of child human trafficking, regardless of whether the victim has been charged with a crime related to human trafficking;

"(B) the development of specialized and individualized treatment programs for identified victims of child human trafficking, including—

"(i) State-administered outpatient treatment;

"(ii) life skills training;

"(iii) housing placement;

"(iv) vocational training;

"(v) education;

"(vi) family support services; and

"(vii) job placement; and

"(C) collaborative efforts with child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, shelters, and non-governmental organizations to provide services to victims and encourage cooperation with law enforcement; and

"(4) the establishment or enhancement of victims' services programs for victims of child human trafficking, which offer services including—

"(A) residential care, including temporary or long-term placement, as appropriate;

"(B) 24-hour emergency social services response systems; and

"(C) counseling and case management services.

"(c) APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General for a grant under this section in such form and manner as the Attorney General may require.

"(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application submitted under this subsection shall—

"(A) disclose—

“(i) any other grant funding from the Department of Justice or from any other Federal department or agency for purposes similar to those described in subsection (b) for which the eligible entity has applied, and which application is pending on the date of the submission of an application under this section; and

“(ii) any other such grant funding that the eligible entity has received during the 5-year period prior to the date of the submission of an application under this section;

“(B) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

“(C) include a detailed plan for the use of funds awarded under the grant; and

“(D) provide such additional information and assurances as the Attorney General determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

“(3) PREFERENCE.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall give preference to grant applications if—

“(A) the application includes a plan to use awarded funds to engage in all activities described under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b); or

“(B) the application includes a plan by the State or unit of local government to continue funding of all activities funded by the award after the expiration of the award.

“(d) DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall expire 1 year after the date of award of the grant.

“(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this section shall be renewable not more than 3 times and for a period of not greater than 1 year.

“(e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall enter into a contract or other agreement with an academic or non-profit organization that has experience in issues related to child human trafficking and evaluation of grant programs to conduct an annual evaluation of grants made under this section to determine the impact and effectiveness of programs funded with grants awarded under this section, and shall submit any such evaluation to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

“(f) OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section is subject to the requirements of section 10 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014.

“(g) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The cost of administering the grants authorized by this section shall not exceed 5 percent of the total amount appropriated to carry out this section.

“(h) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a program funded by a grant awarded under this section may not exceed—

“(1) 70 percent in the first year;

“(2) 60 percent in the second year; and

“(3) 50 percent in the third year.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘child’ means a person under the age of 18;

“(2) the term ‘child advocacy center’ means a center created under subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.);

“(3) the term ‘child human trafficking’ means 1 or more severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) involving a victim who is a child; and

“(4) the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State or unit of local government that—

“(A) has significant criminal activity involving child human trafficking;

“(B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies,

prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking; and

“(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat child human trafficking.”; and

(3) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “Secretary of Health and Human Services” and inserting “Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.”; and

(B) by striking “fiscal years 2008 through 2011” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ACT OF 1990.

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(5) (42 U.S.C. 13001a(5)), by inserting “, including human trafficking and the production of child pornography” before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 214 (42 U.S.C. 13002)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.”.

SEC. 4. STREAMLINING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(A) by inserting before “section 1591” the following: “section 1581 (peonage; obstructing enforcement), section 1584 (sale into involuntary servitude), section 1589 (forced labor), section 1590 (trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor).”; and

(B) by inserting before “section 1751” the following: “section 1592 (unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of trafficking, peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor).”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “human trafficking, offenses pertaining to child pornography, child sexual abuse, coercion and enticement of children,” after “kidnaping.”.

SEC. 5. ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING.

Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5780) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and a photograph taken within the previous 180 days” after “dental records”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution; and”.

SEC. 6. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or maintains” and inserting “maintains, patronizes, or solicits”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “or maintained” and inserting “, maintained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(B) by striking “knew that the person” and inserting “knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person”.

SEC. 7. USING EXISTING TASK FORCES TO TARGET OFFENDERS WHO EXPLOIT CHILDREN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that all task forces and working groups within the Violent Crimes Against Children Program engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the investigative capabilities of State and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of persons who patronize, or solicit children for sex.

SEC. 8. HOLDING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE.

Section 2423(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “a preponderance of the evidence” and inserting “clear and convincing evidence”.

SEC. 9. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—In fiscal year 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of covered grantees to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of such funds. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of covered grantees to be audited each year.

(b) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A covered grantee that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible for an allocation of grant funds from the covered grant program from which it received a grant award during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subsection (g)(3).

(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—If a covered grantee is awarded funds under the covered grant program from which it received a grant award during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the covered grantee is ineligible for an allocation of grant funds as a result of subsection (b), the Attorney General shall—

(1) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the covered grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(2) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the Fund from the covered grantee that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(d) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “nonprofit”, when used with respect to an organization, means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(2) PROHIBITION.—A nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, shall not be eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, any funds from a covered grant program.

(3) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is a covered grantee shall disclose

in its application for such a grant, as a condition of receipt of such a grant, the compensation of its officers, directors, and trustees. Such disclosure shall include a description of the criteria relied upon to determine such compensation.

(e) **CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.**—

(1) **LIMITATION.**—No amounts made available under a covered grant program may be used to host or support a conference that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice unless the Deputy Attorney General or the appropriate Assistant Attorney General, Director, or principal deputy (as designated by the Deputy Attorney General) provides prior written approval that the funds may be expended to host or support such conference, except that a conference that uses more than \$20,000 in such funds, but less than \$500 in such funds for each attendee of the conference, shall not be subject to the limitation under this paragraph.

(2) **WRITTEN APPROVAL.**—Written approval under paragraph (1) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

(3) **REPORT.**—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this subsection.

(f) **PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts made available under a covered grant program may not be used by any covered grantee to—

(A) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(B) lobby any representative of the Federal Government or a State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(2) **PENALTY.**—If the Attorney General determines that a covered grantee has violated paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) require the covered grantee to repay the grant in full; and

(B) prohibit the covered grantee from receiving a grant under the covered grant program from which it received a grant award during at least the 5-year period beginning on the date of such violation.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “covered grant program” means the following:

(A) The grant program under section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b).

(B) The grant programs under section 214 and 214A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002, 13003).

(2) The term “covered grantee” means a recipient of a grant from a covered grant program.

(3) The term “unresolved audit finding” means an audit report finding in a final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that a covered grantee has used grant funds awarded to that grantee under a covered grant program for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during the 12-month period beginning on the date on which the final audit report is issued.

SEC. 10. CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea agreement or deferred prosecution agreement.

“(10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.”;

(2) in subsection (d)(3), in the fifth sentence, by inserting “, unless the litigants, with the approval of the court, have stipulated to a different time period for consideration” before the period; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “this chapter, the term” and inserting the following: “this chapter:

“(1) **COURT OF APPEALS.**—The term ‘court of appeals’ means—

“(A) the United States court of appeals for the judicial district in which a defendant is being prosecuted; or

“(B) for a prosecution in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

“(2) **CRIME VICTIM.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term”;

(B) by striking “In the case” and inserting the following:

“(B) **MINORS AND CERTAIN OTHER VICTIMS.**—In the case”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **DISTRICT COURT; COURT.**—The terms ‘district court’ and ‘court’ include the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.”.

(b) **APPELLATE REVIEW OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: “In deciding such application, the court of appeals shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.”.

(2) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any petition for a writ of mandamus filed under section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) child human trafficking (as such term is defined in section 203(i) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b), as added by this Act) has no place in a civilized society, and that persons who commit crimes relating to child human trafficking should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;

(2) the United States, as a leader in monitoring and combating human trafficking throughout the world, must hold all nations to the same standards to which we hold our Nation;

(3) those who obtain, solicit, or patronize a victim of trafficking for the purpose of engaging in a commercial sex act with that person, are committing a human trafficking offense under Federal law;

(4) the demand for commercial sex is a primary cause of the human rights violation of human trafficking, and the elimination of that human rights violation requires the elimination of that demand;

(5) United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking are not required to obtain an official certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to access any of the specialized services described in section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 or any other Federal benefits and protections to which they are otherwise entitled; and

(6) as matters stand on the date of enactment of this Act, there are insufficient services and programs for victims of severe forms of human trafficking in the United

States, including United States citizens and lawful permanent residents.

SEC. 12. CLARIFYING THE BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS OFFERED TO DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (F), as subparagraph (G);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (G), as subparagraph (H); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) **NO REQUIREMENT OF OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to require United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking to obtain an official certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to access any of the specialized services described in this subsection or any other Federal benefits and protections to which they are otherwise entitled.”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members might have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials to H.R. 181, currently under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as has been stated today, we are dealing with a very important and critical issue in America. It seems, however, that the Super Bowl is coming up this weekend.

The national media and Americans seem to be concerned more about the disappearance of air in footballs than they are about the disappearance of America's greatest resource: our children—children that are being trafficked throughout the United States, bought and sold for sexual assault.

It is not just an international crime; it is a crime here in America. Unfortunately, my hometown of Houston, Texas, is one of the hubs for trafficking because of its location.

We have today several bills, bills that passed yesterday and bills that will come up today—and hopefully all will pass—that deal with this scourge and slavery that is taking place in America.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. GOODLATTE from Virginia; and also the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER; the ranking member, SHEILA JACKSON LEE; and also the former ranking member, BOBBY SCOTT, for their work on these types of legislation that came up last year. Because the Senate didn't

act on them, these bill are being brought up again.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, I am glad to be the original sponsor, but I am also thankful that my friend, CAROLYN MALONEY from New York, who has been working on trafficking issues long before I was ever in Congress, is the original co-sponsor on the Democrat side.

Madam Speaker, you don't get much more bipartisan than a New York liberal Democrat and a conservative Republican from Texas. We are just separated by a common language. Other than that, we get along quite well, especially on this issue.

When Brooke was 7, Madam Speaker, her mother was ill in the hospital. Her care was then entrusted to a nanny; but protecting her was not what the nanny had in mind. Instead of taking care of Brooke and making sure that she was healthy and safe, the nanny sold her into sex slavery. She was a trafficking victim. She was 7.

As is common with child trafficking victims, Brooke was also a victim of child pornography. She was subjected to the most sadistic forms of abuse. She was 7. All she wanted to do was be safe.

Stories like Brooke's and other survivors' make it clear that human trafficking is quite serious. It is occurring with the most vulnerable group of Americans: young children. I have four kids, three daughters. I have 11 grandkids; seven of them are granddaughters. We all believe, I think, the greatest resource of America is our youth, and their lives and their souls are being stolen every day for money, for filthy lucre.

This crime happens in America, and it happens across the seas, and it is all about money. I understand that the greatest criminal enterprise for money is drug trafficking, but close behind is the sex slave trafficking.

Why is sex slavery such a money-maker? Well, unlike drugs that are sold one time, children are sold numerous times. As our friend, KRISTI NOEM, of South Dakota mentioned earlier, children sometimes are sold up to 50 times a day, Madam Speaker.

Plus, the consequences for the criminals is not as great as the consequences for drug smugglers, and the risk of apprehension is not as great. This bill tries to deal with all three entities that are involved in sex trafficking. There is the trafficker, the slave master; there is the consumer, the child abuser; and then there is the child—they are victims of crime, and the American social conscience needs to change to understand these children are not criminals, and they are not prostitutes. They are children that are victims of slavery. We need to change that conscience, and we need to change it legally as well.

Now, in all fairness to police, many times, they see a child on the street; they arrest the child for child prostitution and file a juvenile crime case

against that individual. Many times, they don't have a place to take the child.

We have approximately 3,000 animal shelters in the United States. I got one of my three Dalmatians from an animal shelter. We need those animal shelters, but there are less than 300 beds for child sex trafficking victims. Why is that? There is no answer, except we need to deal with it.

Police don't have a place to take the rescued child, except they put them in the criminal justice system, which is not a good thing. It doesn't help the child at all recover, even though everybody knows that the child is a victim. We need places to take children. We need to treat those children like victims of crime.

That is what this bill does. It helps rescue and restores victims of crime. On the other end, the slave master, well, it punishes them. As Chairman SENSENBRENNER said, life sentences are appropriate for some people, and that is quite appropriate, at least a minimum sentence of life, and that is what this bill does as well.

The bill also goes after the demand, the consumer. Those men—primarily—are the child molesters. They are child abusers, and for too long, society has kind of looked at that situation as, "Oh, well, boys will be boys."

Madam Speaker, those days are over. The days of "boys being boys" is over in America, and this law will go after the consumer. We need to know who they are. You talk about photographs on the Internet, their photographs ought to be on the Internet after they are convicted, but the law goes and punishes them as well.

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It gives law enforcement, child welfare, health care officials, and others who will come in contact with victims training. It also clarifies some State and Federal wiretap laws. It allows law enforcement officials the flexibility to obtain warrants in all Federal human trafficking investigations so that they are better able to follow evidence and target criminal networks, because there are networks throughout the country that are taking children and selling them every night.

Madam Speaker, we will only be able to reduce the demand by putting the demand behind bars, where they belong. Girls are not property; they are little girls. And the same is true of boys who are being trafficked in the United States as well.

The legislation here also strengthens and clarifies the Trafficking Victims Protection Act by making it clear for judges, juries, prosecutors, and law enforcement that criminals who purchase sex acts from trafficked victims should be a priority and be prosecuted. That is why we build prisons, for people like that—the demand and the traffickers.

So I am encouraged by the tremendous support in the House on these 12 bills, bipartisan bills, coming up. And I

do want to commend the ladies of the House who have been the ones—on both sides of the aisle—advocating and making sure that this legislation comes to the House floor.

Passage of Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act will be a major step toward ridding our country of modern-day slavery. Brooke and her mother have worked through Brooke's issues after she was trafficked at 7. They are working together. She has been rescued and restored, and she is an advocate for better legislation and protection of children like she was when she was trafficked. But the message is, Madam Speaker, our children are not for sale, period.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am glad that the manager, Congressman POE, set the tone again for the vigorousness of the bipartisanship around what all of us want, which is to, in essence, cut out the cancers of human trafficking and sex trafficking.

Let me first of all congratulate Mr. POE, Judge POE, a Texan whose language I can fully understand, as well as his partner, Congresswoman MALONEY. Over the years, she has championed the rights of women and the empowerment of our children: what a great partnership, Judge POE and Congresswoman MALONEY. I am delighted to join with them in my commitment to fighting human trafficking and sex trafficking in supporting H.R. 181, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014, marked up in the Judiciary Committee. Many amendments were accepted, and so this bill has a holistic approach.

I am also glad that we did not run away from this issue in Houston, as we convened a hearing that I called for with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to openly and forthrightly listen to law enforcement, people who had been victimized, adults who are still suffering from what had happened to them as a child. This hearing was held in March. It was a field hearing, titled, "Combating Human Trafficking in Our Major Cities." It was a fitting venue because, regrettably, Houston has been noted as a human trafficking hub in the United States. But it was the important contributions of my colleagues, many on the floor today, who added to the record to begin to craft or to continue to work on important legislation such as the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. I am glad that we are here again to move it so it can ultimately be signed by the President of the United States.

At that hearing, we heard testimony from Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials regarding an operation the day before in which they discovered and rescued 115 from a packed, rancid stash house in south Harris County. It was not completely vetted as to whether or not all of the individuals in the stash house or some of the

individuals or a few were victims of human trafficking or sex trafficking. I would venture to say that their future would not be a future worthy of promoting. Ninety-nine of those victims were men, 16 were women, one of whom was pregnant, and 19 others were juveniles. You wonder what would happen to the juveniles.

I went to that stash house. It was a terrible scene. All of them had been kidnapped and smuggled into the United States. And as previously said, human trafficking, sex trafficking, is a great business for those who are of that kind of vile mind because they can use them and use them and use juveniles over and over again, some of whom, however, have been driven to such low ends of the Earth, meaning the victims, that their life is ruined. Some have probably been driven to suicide.

Trafficking of any human being, especially domestic child trafficking, has no place in civilized society. The term “slavery” has often been used. And it is true that slavery exists around the world. We need to ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies have the tools, resources, and training necessary to identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals who ruthlessly traffic in children.

These children have suffered the worst imaginable trauma, and as a result, they require and are deserving of comprehensive and tailored services to assist in their recovery. We need to ensure that funding is in place to provide for such comprehensive services. This bill is an essential step toward combating the crisis of domestic minor sex trafficking and helping survivors begin their lives anew. Throughout this afternoon, we have said that they have to have an opportunity to change their lives.

While the rescue of trafficking victims is necessary, so is the prosecution of traffickers. While we habitually refer to those who solicit commercial sex acts from minors as “customers” and “johns,” and I have said this before on the floor, the cold, hard fact is that these people are nothing more than child rapists. We need to stop being polite and call them what they are—child rapists. Let us not let them hide behind polite names such as “john,” particularly when they prey on our children.

Federal courts have interpreted the existing statute, title 18 U.S.C. section 1591, to cover the acts of patronizing and soliciting. Therefore, the specifications of the terms “patronize” and “solicit” in this bill simply clarify and emphasize the fact that these actions are actually covered.

Those who patronize and solicit are already criminally liable under the language contained in the original text of section 1591. Under this legislation, a child rapist will no longer be able to find refuge in any jurisdiction. This bill will also promote the coordination of investigations among Federal, State, and local law enforcement and enhance

reporting data for missing children—everything that the witnesses at the March 2014 hearing told us call for this.

Let me say that I am also grateful that this bill emphasizes the local, State, and Federal collaboration. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, which is what the hearing was held under, under the auspices of the Homeland Security Committee, we recognize that is part of the threat to national security. The utilizing of our children, the victimizing of our children, the co-opting of our children, the soliciting of our children, and this bill gets right at the target.

Human trafficking is the second fastest growing criminal industry in the world, generating over \$32 billion annually. This bill is the most comprehensive piece of legislation to deal with this problem over the years, and it is a great foundation to continue to build, to weed out every nuance, every person hiding behind the rock who is dealing in sex trafficking and human trafficking.

For years, we have labeled child victims of sex trafficking as prostitutes and juvenile delinquents rather than the victims that they are. We have seen runaways and we have condemned them for being a runaway, but we don't know the horrible stories and what they have experienced. They are victims of criminal conduct, and we need to treat them that way—not prostitutes, not juvenile delinquents.

This bill recognizes and treats victims as victims, provides for more services and shelters for them, and provides resources to law enforcement, child welfare, health care officials, and others who will come into contact with them.

One of the early organizations, the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which I have associated with throughout my entire time in the House of Representatives, early on raised the clarion call that we must do something about these exploited and missing children. I know that they are celebrating as we have been on the floor talking about human trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the Judiciary Committee saw fit to adopt section 11 in H.R. 181, the Jackson Lee amendment, which expresses a sense of Congress that human trafficking has no place in a civilized society and that perpetrators of such vile acts should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and we can build on this for finding those who may be thinking that they are squeezing outside the law.

Mr. Speaker, as a global leader in combating global trafficking throughout the world, the United States must hold all nations to the same standards by which we hold ourselves. The demand for commercial sex is a primary cause of the human rights violation of human trafficking. Elimination of that violation requires elimination of that demand. I am glad that we are here

confronting it head-on, and I ask my colleagues to support the underlying legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 181, the “Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.”

Madam Speaker, last year, on March 20, 2014, the Homeland Security Committee, of which I am a member, held a field hearing titled, “Combating Human Trafficking in Our Major Cities,” in my home city of Houston. It was a fitting venue because, regrettably, Houston is a human trafficking hub of the United States.

At that hearing my colleagues, Chairman McCAUL, Judge POE, Congressman AL GREEN, Congressman FARENTHOLD, and I heard testimony from Federal, state and local law enforcement officials regarding an operation the day before during which they discovered and rescued 115 people from a packed, rancid stash house in south Harris County. 99 of those victims were men, 16 were women, one of whom was pregnant, and 19 were juveniles. All of them had been kidnapped and smuggled into the United States.

Trafficking of any human being, especially domestic child trafficking, has no place in civilized society. We need to ensure that state and local law enforcement agencies have the tools, resources, and training necessary to identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals who ruthlessly traffic in children.

These children have suffered the worst imaginable trauma, and as a result, they require and are deserving of comprehensive and tailored services to assist in their recovery. We need to ensure that funding is in place to provide for such comprehensive services. This bill is an essential step toward combatting the crisis of domestic minor sex trafficking and helping survivors begin their lives anew.

While the rescue of trafficking victims is necessary, so is the prosecution of traffickers. And while we habitually refer to those who solicit commercial sex acts from minors as “customers” and “johns,” the cold, hard fact is that these people are nothing more than “child rapists.” We need to stop being polite and call them what they are—“child rapists”!

Federal courts have interpreted the existing statute, Title 18 United States Code, section 1591, to cover the acts of patronizing and soliciting. Therefore, the specifications of the terms “patronizing” and “solicit” in this bill simply clarify and emphasize the fact that these actions are actually covered.

Those who patronize and solicit are already criminally liable under the language contained in the original section 1591. Under this legislation, child rapists will find no refuge in any jurisdiction. This bill will also promote the coordination of investigations among federal, state and local law enforcement and enhance reporting data for missing children—everything that the witnesses at the March 2014 Houston field hearing called for.

Human Trafficking is the second fastest growing criminal industry in the world, generating over \$32 billion annually. This bill is the most comprehensive piece of legislation to deal with that problem in years.

For years we have labeled child victims of sex trafficking as prostitutes and juvenile delinquents rather than as the victims they are. They are victims of criminal conduct, and we need to treat them that way. This bill recognizes that and treats victims as victims, provides for more services and shelters for them,

and provides resources to law enforcement, child welfare, healthcare officials and others who will come into contact with these victims.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I am very pleased that the Judiciary Committee saw fit to adopt as Section 11 of H.R. 181 the Jackson Lee Amendment which expresses the Sense of Congress that human trafficking has no place in a civilized society and that perpetrators of such vile acts should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Madam Speaker, as the global leader in combatting human trafficking throughout the world, the United States must hold all nations to the same standards to which we hold ourselves. The demand for commercial sex is a primary cause of the human right violation of human trafficking. Elimination of that violation requires the elimination of that demand.

I received yet more tragic illustration of the global horrors of human trafficking as recently as last evening during a meeting with the Prime Minister of Jamaica. Last year Jamaica improved its position in the U.S. State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons ("TIP") Report after it passed amendments to its Trafficking in Persons Act. Those amendments stipulated harsher penalties for offenders with penalties of up to 30 years.

Despite this new legislation, Jamaican children subjected to sex trafficking in the country's sex trade remains a serious problem with reports of sex trafficking of children and adults occurring on streets and in night clubs, bars, and private homes. The Jamaican government realizes that it must move more vigorously to not only prosecute, convict and punish trafficking offenders, but to also identify, and assist more victims.

Madam Speaker, while it is entirely proper for the United States to hold all nations to the same standard to which we hold ourselves, it is also entirely proper for the United States to lend assistance to those nations that may lack the resources needed to effectively combat Human Trafficking. I hope that we will give consideration to providing such assistance in future anti-human trafficking legislation.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I must also thank Representative POE and his staff as well as Committee staff on both sides of the aisle for working together to address a point raised by an amendment that Rep. POE offered and withdrew during the bill's markup. The changes that were made to the bill as a result of that collaborative work yielded some real improvements to the bill.

For these reasons I support H.R. 181 and encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who has made it a priority to stop, to combat the scourge of human trafficking by bringing numerous bills before the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for his long dedication to addressing this very serious problem and for yielding me this time.

Few nightmares equal the terrible reality that thousands of American children awake to each day. Held against their will, before the day is out, they will be forced to share perhaps a dozen

strangers' beds and be subjected to arbitrary violence for any real or imagined infraction.

Child sex trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in our country, and we must update our laws to combat it. H.R. 181, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, is a targeted effort to deploy our law enforcement and social resources against the worst offenders: those who sexually exploit children and other vulnerable victims.

Rather than simply increasing penalties, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act directly aids the survivors of this crime. The bill creates a comprehensive, victim-centered grant program to train law enforcement, rescue exploited children, prosecute traffickers, and restore the lives of victims. The bill also streamlines existing law enforcement tools by providing that child advocacy centers can and should use their resources to help victims of trafficking and other types of child exploitation.

H.R. 181 clarifies that State prosecutors may obtain wiretaps, pursuant to a showing of probable cause, for trafficking and other child sex crimes. Additionally, the bill adds several of the Federal antislavery statutes as Federal wiretap predicates—something that should have been done a long time ago.

These important tools simply give police the same investigatory tools they would have if these criminal gangs sold drugs or stolen property instead of sex with children and other victims.

The bill makes the law clear that the men who purchase these children's innocence will be held to the same standard as those who make it available for sale, and hold sex traffickers accountable by increasing the standard for claiming an affirmative defense by requiring defendants to show by clear and convincing evidence that they believed the victim to be 18 years of age or older.

We in Congress have no higher duty than to protect the innocent children of this Nation. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, introduced by my friend and colleague Judge POE, is a critical step toward banishing human trafficking to where it belongs—the realm of nightmares.

Please join me in supporting this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who, as I indicated, has worked unceasingly on empowering the most vulnerable, particularly in her work on empowering women, vulnerable women around the world, providing them rights, and, of course, the work she has done in collaboration with Congressman POE and our committee in her work on this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague for her leadership and for yielding to me.

I want to commend the Republican and Democratic leadership for bringing

to the floor a large number of bipartisan bills to address the problem of human trafficking. I particularly want to thank Judge POE for his enlightened leadership. He has brought an informed, intelligent, effective focus on this crime, and he has brought new momentum that is helping this country address this issue.

□ 1415

I thank the bipartisan Women's Caucus that has made this goal, this common goal of attacking the exploitation of children as a joint priority for our caucus and for this Congress.

It is an important way to mark Human Trafficking Awareness Week, and this modern-day form of slavery happens all across the world. We don't like to admit it, but it is happening right here in America. It is happening in our small cities, our big cities, every State, every race, creed, and color.

There are no reliable estimates, but by some accounts, there are as many as 2 million minors trafficked within the U.S. alone. When they have missing children reports, many of the parents believe their children have been stolen into sex trafficking. Most of these child victims who are sex-trafficked are United States citizens or are here legally in the United States.

Human trafficking, as my colleague pointed out, is the fastest growing crime and the third largest criminal activity in the world, but unlike drugs and guns that are sold only once, human lives can be sold repeatedly over and over and over again until their lives are shattered and destroyed. It destroys lives and comes with a huge social and economic cost.

We can all agree that no child should be for sale in America—not now, not ever. Our children should not be for sale, but they are for sale under the guise of human traffickers and pimps.

I am very pleased to work shoulder to shoulder with Congressman POE on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. As a former judge and a former prosecutor, he knows firsthand how damaging this crime is to the lives of our young people—and it involves young boys, too—and how difficult it is to get a conviction. His knowledge in this area is tremendously appreciated, and his knowledge is in this bill. I thank him for having been the key author on it and for his passion and hard work on it.

This bill directly and specifically supports law enforcement training and prosecution of sex trafficking crimes, and it creates a domestic trafficking victims fund within the Treasury Department to support critically needed services for victims.

We know there are not enough beds; there is no treatment. Many trafficked women tell me they get saved, but then they are put in a park with no place to go, and the traffickers come up and try to get them back into it.

It goes after those who are trying to exploit children and vulnerable women,

those who would profit off the misery of others by going after their wallets. It targets the demand side: the child abusers, the child molesters.

Our victims fund will be financed through fines levied on those convicted of child pornography, human trafficking, child prostitution, sexual exploitation, and human smuggling offenses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlelady.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. The bill also makes it clear that it is not the victim who is sold and exploited who is the criminal. The criminal is the john, the child abuser who solicits a minor or a trafficker who puts a woman or man out on the street to be bought and sold.

Human trafficking is harmful not only to the victims, but to society at large. Last May, this House passed this bill in total agreement, and I urge the Senate to follow it and pass it also. It is time to help the survivors get the resources they need to rebuild their lives and to punish the evildoers who purchase and sell these innocent children.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge POE for his great leadership in this very important area. It is so encouraging to see the bipartisan commitment. Thank you, Congresswoman LEE and Congresswoman MALONEY, for your strong support.

When I came to Congress, it was my perception that human trafficking was a concern found in other parts of the world, certainly not in North Carolina. After talking to our law enforcement, I found out that North Carolina was within the top 10 States for human trafficking.

As such, I realized that we needed to take care of our own in our own region and hosted a meeting for public officials, church leaders at the Billy Graham Center. We brought in wonderful organizations, Compassion to Act, Justice & Mercy, Neet's Sweets, and others who have been there on behalf of these women.

There are so many important ways that we can provide safety, security, a safe haven for these precious young girls that have been brought into slavery.

Human trafficking is one of the most tragic issues plaguing our world today. Nearly 21 million human beings are living in modern-day slavery, including domestic servitude, forced labor, and sex work. As a nation, we have both a moral and a constitutional obligation to protect the most vulnerable in our society from this horrific exploitation.

I therefore urge all my colleagues today to join in supporting the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 presented by Congressman POE. We

need to ensure that we can provide to these young, domestic human trafficking victims the support that they need.

This week, yes, we in the House will devote ourselves to raising awareness of this heinous crime and passing legislation to take significant steps toward the eradication of trafficking, both domestically and abroad.

However, even as Human Trafficking Awareness Month draws to a close, our dedication must not waver. I thank the chairman for his leadership, and I thank my colleagues for their support.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I will close. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The previous speaker indicated that we are in the national month acknowledging and recognizing the gravity of human trafficking, and I believe that it calls upon us to stand by the most vulnerable who really can't help themselves.

My last comment before yielding was the demand for commercial sex is a primary cause of the human rights violation of human trafficking, so eliminating that violation requires the elimination of the demand.

What I might not have added, which a number of Members have said, is the violence that goes along with sex trafficking and human trafficking, the violence that goes along when some entity—a person called a pimp, which is an old-time term, really becomes an abuser, a violent abuser and abuses the frail, small body of a little girl or boy because they really haven't risen to the occasion, provided them with their daily infusion of dollars to continue to do their dastardly work.

As I have heard mentioned on this floor, we are not alone here in the United States. For those of us who met the victims of sex trafficking and human trafficking around the world, we understand that America's standards will help others.

What is good about what we are doing today and the underlying bill is that we set a standard that the world can look at, that we are not going to tolerate or be sufferers of the abuse of little children.

Yesterday, as I listened to a great success story spoken about by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, relating their economic success, she was willing to talk about Jamaica's concerted effort at fighting human trafficking.

An island where it might be easy for that trafficker to move from one place to the next, here was a leader of government acknowledging the scourge of human trafficking and that Jamaican children were suffering and subjected to sex trafficking and that it remains a serious problem, but we are going to fight it.

I felt very good about that because you would think that an island that is very much dependent on tourism and entertainment would not have that calling and that cause; but, yes, the fight is spreading.

I believe the Jamaican Government should be congratulated, and I ask other governments to take heed of the underlying legislation, rise to the standard, be part of the total elimination of cutting into the lives of children, of little boys, of little girls, of cutting them off from any kind of aspirations and hope that they could ever have.

Maybe we don't necessarily connect it, but we know the story of the three women that were held for a period of time in our own Nation. Some started out as children. When they were ultimately found, they were women. One cannot help note that the violence that they described was a vile sex trafficking, human trafficking episode. We don't know how many around the Nation that are today, as we stand on the floor of the House, suffering.

I thank Representative POE. I thank my colleague Representative MALONEY and committee staff on both sides of the aisle to help address this issue, and as well, I am glad that this particular legislation will set a standard that this dastardly series of acts will not be suffered by any human being not only in this Nation, but around the world.

With that, I ask support for H.R. 181 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. May I inquire of the Chair as to how much time is left on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, there were a lot of different entities involved in bringing this and other pieces of legislation to the House floor.

There are numerous organizations throughout the United States, small and large, that are determined to stop human trafficking, and I want to thank all of them for their input into this cause and this legislation. I call them the victims' posse. They have rounded up and made sure that we are going to deal with this important issue.

I also want to thank the Members of the House who are cosponsors of this bill, especially CAROLYN MALONEY, my friend from New York, and her tenacious work on this and other pieces of legislation.

I also thank the Members of the House because many times, when they go back home on this specific issue, as mentioned by my friend Ms. JACKSON LEE from Texas, they are holding public forums and hearings about this crime of human trafficking. In fact, there is another one in my district this weekend in Houston.

I want to commend the Members for bringing public awareness to this horrible situation; but not all is gloom, doom, and despair, Mr. Speaker, because of this legislation and other pieces of legislation, but more importantly, the moral will of the House and I think of America is to get a grip on this slavery.

When a crime like this is committed against a person, especially a child, we call it sexual assault, but it is really rape. It is rape, Mr. Speaker, of children. A rapist commits that crime to try to destroy that person, destroy their identity, destroy their self-worth, to steal their soul. That is what rapists do.

That is why we are going to solve this case or solve these cases as best we can, by preventing them from occurring, by going after those rapists, going after the trafficker, and rescuing the most precious thing we have in our country, which is our children. We are not going to allow the situation where America's children are bartered and sold on the marketplace for sexual assault. Those days are going to be over.

I appreciate all those who have brought this bill to the floor, both sides, and I ask that the House of Representatives vote unanimously on this legislation.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is will the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 181, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETECTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 460) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 460

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Human Trafficking Detection Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term "human trafficking" means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department's initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

SEC. 4. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that all personnel referred to in section 3(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees the overall effectiveness of the program required by this Act, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of such trafficking.

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist such entity in establishing its program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from such entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to in-

clude extraneous material on H.R. 460, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 460, the Human Trafficking Detection Act of 2015, the first bill I have introduced as a Member of Congress.

A few weeks ago, we took an oath promising to protect the people of this great country. I am convinced that part of this high calling is protecting those who are victims of human trafficking.

North Carolina is often ranked as a top State for labor and sex trafficking. This insidious industry is in our own backyard and, unfortunately, it is growing. Just last week, in my own district, local officials announced the formation of the Alamance County Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Council to respond to the growing human trafficking problem throughout Alamance County. However, they cannot do it alone, and we must come together to stop this unconscionable industry.

As a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I feel strongly that the men and the women of the Department of Homeland Security have a crucial role in preventing human trafficking. Up to an estimated 17,500 people are trafficked each year into the United States, and many of these victims will pass by either Border Patrol or TSA. We must make certain that these agents are properly trained in the current trends and practices to end human trafficking.

This bipartisan legislation requires the Department of Homeland Security to train Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Border Protection, and other relevant DHS personnel to counter human trafficking in a manner specific to their professional roles and responsibilities.

The bill also ensures that such training will be assessed by the Secretary of Homeland Security on an annual basis so that it is based on the most current human trafficking trends and intelligence and directs the Secretary to report to Congress on the number of suspected cases reported by the DHS officials.

Lastly, this legislation recognizes the critical role that State and local authorities play in preventing human trafficking by authorizing the Department of Homeland Security to make training curricula available to State, local, tribal, and private sector partners.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is one of the most profitable forms of transnational crime in the world, second only to drug trafficking. It is incumbent upon Congress to take action