

in any state potentially is subject to being covered if the requisite number of violations are found to have been committed.

Prior to *Shelby Co. v. Holder*, the Voting Rights Act covered 16 states in whole or in part, including most of the states in the Deep South.

The states that would be covered initially under the new bill are: Texas, North Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, and South Carolina.

To compensate for the fact that fewer jurisdictions are covered, our bill also includes several key provisions that are consistent with the needs created by a narrower Section 5 trigger.

For example, the Voting Rights Amendment Act:

Expands judicial “bail-in” authority under Section 3 so that it applies to voting changes that result in discrimination (not just intentional discrimination);

Requires nationwide transparency of “late breaking” voting changes; allocation of poll place resources; and changes within the boundaries of voting districts;

Clarifies and expands the ability of plaintiffs to seek a preliminary injunction against voting discrimination; and

Clarifies and expands Attorney General’s authority to send election observers to protect against voting discrimination.

This bipartisan compromise legislation is not ideal—but on the balance, it represents a step forward as we continue to fight for enforcement of our most fundamental right: the right to vote.

Additional measures introduced to help protect and enforce our right to vote include the Voter Empowerment Act and the Coretta Scott King Mid-Decade Redistricting Prohibition Act.

The Voting Empowerment Act was introduced to help ensure equal access to the ballot for every eligible voter.

The Voting Empowerment Act was designed to protect voters from suppression, deception and other forms of disenfranchisement by modernizing voter registration, promoting access to voting for individuals with disabilities, and protecting the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office.

This legislation would expand and protect citizens’ access to the polls and would increase accountability and integrity among elected officials and poll workers.

It would also expand eligibility to allow all ex-offenders who have been released from prison (even those who may still be on probation or parole) the opportunity to register and vote in federal elections.

Outlined in 13 Title sections, this bill prioritizes access, integrity and accountability for voters.

I have also introduced H.R. 75 (originally introduced in 2013 as H.R. 2490) which prohibits any state whose congressional districts have been redistricted after a decennial census from carrying out another redistricting until after the next decennial census, unless a court requires such state to conduct a subsequent redistricting to comply with the Constitution or enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is no ordinary piece of legislation.

For millions of Americans, and many of us in Congress, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans

who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

Please know that I am as committed to the preservation of the Voting Rights Act and I will not rest until the job is done.

As I stated in 2006, during the historic debate in Congress to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

I stand today an heir of the Civil Rights Movement, a beneficiary of the Voting Rights Act. I would be breaking faith with those who risked all and gave all to secure for my generation the right to vote if I did not do all I can to strengthen the Voting Rights Act so that it will forever keep open doors that shut out so many for so long.

With these legislative priorities and principles at the forefront, I intend to work with my colleagues and advocates to do all I can to protect the voting rights of all Americans.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman.

The right to vote is fundamental to the integrity of our democracy, and, as Lyndon Baines Johnson said from this very Chamber shortly before the Voting Rights Act was passed into law a few months later, “We shall overcome.”

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

#### 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the Majority Leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be allowed 5 days to file remarks and revise and extend those remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, May 29, marks the 1-year anniversary for the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act being signed into law, or the JvTA, as we refer to it.

This is a vital piece of legislation that the House and Senate passed and that was signed by the President a year ago that takes this scourge of human slavery that is taking place internationally, but also here in the United States, and Congress weighs in on this to deal with this issue, I think, in a very good way.

It is impressive to me as a Member of the House how many Members of Congress on both sides were involved in drafting legislation over a year ago that came to the House and passed. In the House itself, there were 11 pieces of legislation that dealt with sex trafficking. All of those bills came up to the House floor in the same week, and all of them passed with overwhelming numbers.

They went down the hallway to the U.S. Senate. The Senate combined

those bills into one bill, and it passed that legislation. It came back to the House, we passed that, and it was signed by the President. I want to thank all of those Members of Congress—Republicans and Democrats—who worked on this.

Just by way of background, I got involved in this issue in several ways. One way was when I was in Eastern Europe several years ago and found out about the human trafficking, sex trafficking, and labor trafficking that was taking place in Eastern Europe and how young women were lured into thinking they were going to get a better job—or have a job—in Africa and the next thing they knew they were in sex slavery in northern Africa. Most of those women just disappeared over the years.

Then, back here in the United States, we have the problem of the crime and the scourge of trafficking, and it happens in two areas. There is international sex trafficking into the United States. About 20 percent of the trafficking here in America is international, primarily coming from the southern border.

You see those drug traffickers, those drug dealers, who come across the southern border of Texas. They bring anybody into the United States, and they will do anything for money.

They will bring young girls, young women, and traffic them into the United States and turn them over to the criminal gangs, like the MS-13 gang, and then they are trafficked throughout the United States.

That is about 20 percent of the trafficking. The other 80 percent is trafficking by domestic or young girls, young women. They are trafficked throughout the United States in the same crime—sex slavery, sex trafficking.

I had an opportunity to meet a lot of these trafficking victims in my work as chairman and co-chairman with JIM COSTA of the Crime Victims Caucus. I will tell you about three of those, and those three women helped get the minds straight of Members of Congress on this issue that is taking place.

“T,” as her nickname is, was in foster care. She spent 18 years of her life in foster care. In foster care, she was abused, treated like an animal, hardly fed by some of the individuals who were in the foster care system. All she wanted was a family, someone to love and care for her.

She met an older boy, and that individual made her feel special. He promised to love her and take care of her. But as soon as she left with him, she became a sex slave, and her innocence was crushed. She was sold around the country in massage parlors, strip clubs, in hotels, and on the Internet. She was treated like property for 7 years, Mr. Speaker.

I mentioned that she was in foster care. We now understand that about two-thirds of the sex trafficking victims in the United States, at some

time in their lives, were in foster care. That is an issue we have to deal with. Congress has to deal with that.

Finally, "T" was rescued, and now she tells her story wherever she can. Even Time magazine featured her and her life and her story and her recovery.

Brooke Axtell I met in Texas. Her mother was extremely ill when she was about 7 years of age. So the mother turned Brooke over to a nanny, but the nanny did not protect her. In fact, the nanny did just the opposite. The nanny sexually abused Brooke and then trafficked her.

It is common with child trafficking victims, as with Brooke, to also be victims of child pornography. After Mom got out of the hospital, Brooke was slow to tell Mom what happened, but she finally did. In working with her mother, she was able to be rescued and get out of this scourge of sex trafficking. Now she works with Allies Against Slavery in Texas.

The third person I want to mention very briefly is Cheryl Briggs. She grew up in an abusive home. She was sexually abused by her father. Things were so bad in the home that Mama left when Cheryl was very young to escape the abuse.

At the age of 12, Cheryl didn't know what else to do except get away from her father. So she ran away. She began hitchhiking with truck drivers or with anybody who would take her. It led her to get involved with a motorcycle group, and she started a career, unfortunately, in sex trafficking hell.

This individual took her to a biker club that was filled with men who sexually assaulted her. They raped her. She became a trafficked victim and was forced to do all kinds of just awful, horrible things. She was trapped in this scourge of human trafficking and didn't know how to get help.

She was finally able to get help when a patron of the strip club figured out on his own that she was too young and helped her get rescued. Now Cheryl works to help those who are in this sex trafficking in the United States.

Those are just three stories, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you about one bill, and then I want other Members of Congress who are here at this late hour to make comments as well.

CAROLYN MALONEY and I worked on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. Now, you know CAROLYN MALONEY. She is a New York liberal Democrat who talks a little funny. She teamed up with me, a Texas conservative who talks a little funny, according to her.

The two of us got together and started working on this with lots of Members of Congress. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, thanks to the hard work of Mrs. MALONEY and others—and especially of the women in the U.S. House of Representatives—passed the House. It does three things.

□ 2115

It does three things. It goes after the trafficker, the slave master, and makes

sure that when prosecutors—Mr. Speaker, as you know about prosecutors—when they prosecute those cases, that person goes away to the penitentiary, the do right hotel, for as long as the judge can send them.

It then goes to the other end and looks at the trafficking victim. For years, society looked at this victim as a criminal, a child prostitute. Children cannot be prostitutes. It is impossible, legally impossible. So rather than treat them like criminals and put them in the criminal justice system, it rescues those victims and treats them like victims of crime rather than criminals. This is a major change in society's thought and thought process about these children and young women.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it goes after the money, the consumer, the buyer in the middle. Too long, these buyers of trafficking victims who pay money to do these awful things to children have kind of skated under the criminal justice system. Not anymore. Those days are over. The days of boys being boys are over, and these buyers can be prosecuted to the same extent of the law as the trafficker.

So the bill does three things: it goes after the trafficker; it goes after the demand, the money; and it rescues the victims.

How do we pay for this? It is kind of a novel approach. Federal judges now can impose fines and fees on the trafficker and the buyer because a lot of them have a lot of money. And that money goes into a fund, and that fund is used and given as grants to different organizations, nonprofits throughout the country in States to help trafficking victims and also to educate police and educate the public.

So it is a good piece of legislation. That was just one of several pieces of legislation that came to the House floor.

As I mentioned, this was a bipartisan effort. Mrs. JOYCE BEATTY of Ohio is here. She filed legislation called Improve the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking. All of that legislation was included in the Senate bill and came back to the House and then passed. What it does is decriminalize child sex and makes it easier for people to report potential incidences of crimes against children.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), a great advocate on behalf of crime victims and trafficking victims.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge POE, chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus and Representative of Texas' Second Congressional District, for organizing this evening's important Special Order hour and for all of his hard work on behalf of the victims of human trafficking.

I am also very pleased to have the opportunity to partner with my good friend, Congresswoman ANN WAGNER of Missouri, who is my classmate and a friend. We share the same priority of eradicating human trafficking.

It is kind of odd, as Judge POE talked about his relationship with CAROLYN MALONEY. They are two people who seem, on paper, very different. One might say the same about ANN WAGNER and me. But, Mr. Speaker, there is that common thread that puts us together to not only advocate and fight for something that we need to fight for, but we have been able to make a difference.

That is why I come to the House floor this evening to recognize and celebrate a very important anniversary: the 1-year anniversary of bipartisan, comprehensive legislation, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, that was signed into law.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, or JVT A, was a landmark bill, as you have heard, that updated America's effort to combat the scourge of human trafficking and provided essential resources to survivors and law enforcement officials. I am so proud to have had my bill be included in this legislation and to have been able to take part in its drafting, passage, and enactment.

Mr. Speaker, in the year since JVT A's enactment, we have witnessed important achievements. For example, the JVT A has reinvigorated Americans' commitment to protecting our children from cruel exploitation. And, Mr. Speaker, these children still need our protection.

Human trafficking, as we have heard, is an estimated multibillion-dollar-a-year international enterprise that forces the most at risk among us, both here at home and abroad, into modern-day slavery. It is one of the fastest growing crimes in the world.

According to the United States State Department, human trafficking is among the world's top three criminal enterprises. It is forced prostitution, domestic slavery, and forced labor, which is why enactment and, now, the implementation of the JVT A is so important. We must continue to work to eradicate human trafficking and support the victims.

In the year since the JVT A's enactment, we have seen educators, law enforcement officials, and service providers working together, Democrats and Republicans, Mr. Speaker, raising awareness in our communities that human trafficking is not merely an international phenomenon. It, unfortunately, happens all too often in our backyards, just as we have heard Judge POE talk about "T" and talk about Brooke. And the stories could go on and on.

In fact, in my home State of Ohio, for example, each year, an estimated 1,000 children become victims of human trafficking, and over 3,000 more are at risk. Ohio is the fifth leading State for human trafficking because of its proximity to waterways that lead to an international border and the I-75 interstate that allows anyone to exit the State, within 2 hours, to almost anywhere.

Lastly, I am very thankful for having amazing advocates in Ohio for victims of human trafficking, like Theresa Flores, the founder of SOAP, Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution, and State Representative Teresa Fedor, a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, who has made a lifetime commitment to working to protect our victims.

We must remain vigilant in the implementation of JVTA, as we were when we passed it, so every child, every woman and man is free from this form of modern-day slavery, which is why I am proud to have joined Judge POE and Congresswomen WAGNER and MALONEY of New York in leading a letter to United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch supporting the Department of Justice's implementation thus far of the JVTA and requesting needed information on what more can be done within the confines of the current law.

Mr. Speaker, this is what happens when we work together. This is a great example of what we can do when Democrats and Republicans come together to change lives.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio. I like your tag line. I might use it myself.

You point out several good things, and I think everybody listening can understand why legislation like this got passed because of your passion and—I will say it again—because of the women in the U.S. House that pushed this last year and were relentless until all this legislation came up.

You point out many good things. There are two things, though, that I want to point out myself that you mentioned. One is about the money.

People may ask, Mr. Speaker, why is there so much money involved in this? Well, drug dealers, when they sell drugs, you sell drugs one time. The cost of apprehension, the consequences, are great, and the chances of getting caught are great.

On the other end, you have sex trafficking. Unfortunately, these children are sold multiple times a day—sometimes 20, 25 times a day. The risk of getting caught is very low, and the punishment, up until now, has been very low. So that is why it is the second or third biggest monetary system of criminal enterprises anywhere.

That, Mr. Speaker, in itself is a disgrace to us as a people to allow this to happen, where slavery is the second or third money maker for the criminal gangs who primarily run all of these enterprises.

I yield to another gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER). He has been in the antitrafficking movement a long time. He worked in the Texas Legislature and helped Texas get ahead of the curve on the movement before we actually did here in the House.

I yield to the gentleman from southeast Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here and to work in

a bipartisan fashion across the aisle for this very worthwhile cause.

I will tell you, Judge POE is exactly correct. In Texas, we like to say that things are bigger in Texas. But, unfortunately, Texas has one record that we really didn't want, and that is that we have 25 percent of the sex trafficking in the country. We are 1 of 50 States, and yet we have 25 percent of the victims of sex trafficking going on right there in Texas.

We were able to pass Texas House Bill 4009, which did a number of things. It actually instructed the enforcement officials to take a look at some of these young girls that were picked up—and, I guess, for that matter, young men as well—and to not just assume that they were willfully participating in the sex trade, but to look deeper into the background there.

Some of these girls we found out were actually held against their will, were drugged and beat into submission. Some, as young as 12, were dancing in some of these strip clubs and, like Judge POE said, some of the patrons would take notice of that and would actually get them help.

In Texas, we did identify that pretty early on, about 5 or 6 years ago now, and were able to pass legislation to get the HHSC to put law enforcement together, to get some training for these officers, to get these NGOs together to say, look, we need to get some programs for these young girls to rehabilitate them. How in the world do you ever get them back to normal life after something like this? We needed more facilities, more beds, more training. So I am proud to say that, in Texas, we actually did take the lead on that.

One of my favorites was in the town of Waco. You mentioned three things: going after the perpetrators; going after the demand, the money; and, of course, helping the victims. Well, the town of Waco had a way of dealing with the johns. What they did was, when someone was arrested in Waco, they would put that john's picture on a billboard in the city with the headline, "Arrested for solicitation of prostitution."

Now, that will ruin your family life at home and in a little town like Waco. So we took some lessons from that to say, look, we are going after the demand, after the johns, to try to dry up that money stream.

Mr. Speaker, Judge POE ought to be commended. It has been almost a year since the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act was signed into law. This comprehensive legislation tackled a number of issues to combat human trafficking. It took a stand against the seller, which we have been talking about, and the buyer by criminally pressing charges on both for the first time.

It also provided smart solutions to help victims of trafficking get back on their feet, which is what I said from my days in the Texas Legislature. They needed a program. They needed

people to understand. They needed counseling. Good Lord, how do those young girls ever get back to some semblance of normalcy after something like that?

Thanks to the JVTA, States are now incentivized to draft and pass what we call safe harbor legislation, which helps victims of trafficking expunge their criminal records in an effort to start fresh without the ghosts of their past haunting them.

Legislation like this also addresses the need for shelter, for more beds, for facilities for those NGOs, a place for rehabilitation.

As you know, currently, 34 out of the 50 States have versions of safe harbor legislation, which is an increase of 14 States just since the passage of the act. Training on the identification of trafficking victims has also increased within the airline, the hotel, and even in the medical industries.

□ 2130

Mr. Speaker, victims of human trafficking are men, women, and children. This is not a victimless crime, I might add. We all have undoubtedly passed these victims in an airport, at a hotel, or maybe even at the fuel station. Until society at large stops sexualizing our children, we will be unable to prevent the predators' interest in our minors.

We have made crucial steps, Mr. Speaker, toward combating human trafficking, as evidenced by the very success of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act we are talking about here tonight. Yet, we still have a long way to go to eradicate this scourge of human slavery. But we have a good start on it, and we are committed to seeing it through to the end and making a difference. Mr. Speaker, you know I am right.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his several important comments that he made about facilities to take the victims once they are rescued by law enforcement or by nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, there is no place to put them. Sometimes that is why the police arrest these young girls and put them in juvenile detention, is because there is no facility to take them. I am not blaming the police. They have no other place for them to go.

There have been some studies done on how many beds are available for trafficking victims. The latest comes out of the State of Illinois. They did some research, and there are about 600 to 700 beds nationwide for trafficking victims—600 to 700 beds; that is it—in a country of 350 million people.

Compare that to animal shelters. I love animal shelters. I have got three Dalmatians. I call them the weapons of mass destruction. I got one of them from a Dalmatian rescue in Dallas. But there are 5,000 animal shelters in the United States, and that is good. We need every one of them.

Six hundred to seven hundred beds for trafficking victims is not near enough. That is one thing this legislation does. It provides resources so we can have places to take these crime victims, and that is what they are.

They are victims of crime. They are not criminals. They are hard to deal with. They are not easy to help. They have had their whole lives destroyed in front of them. So it takes time, it takes facilities, and it takes resources.

One other comment you made about the signs. Of course, I am a big fan of criminals carrying signs in front of businesses that they commit crimes in. I did that as a judge and some other things.

You are exactly right. If we could add an amendment to this legislation—and I think we should—to give Federal judges the option to allow the posting in the county in which the crime was committed on a billboard or a sign of a photograph of the child molester who has been convicted of trafficking children, that would get the attention of some of those folks out there who are trying to hide their criminal conduct.

And maybe those billboards ought to pop up right before some big sporting event that cities have as well. That is just a thought, Mr. Speaker. I think we ought to work on that.

We also have with us another person who has worked on this whole issue of trafficking victims and justice for them. Mr. YOHO is one of our newer Members of Congress, TED YOHO from the Third District of the State of Florida. I yield to the gentleman at this time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Texas. You wouldn't have hurt my feelings if you would have said one of the younger Members, but that wouldn't have been true.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the growing army that is fighting human trafficking worldwide. I rise to speak out against this heinous crime known as human trafficking, the scourge of our time in the 21st century, a \$32 billion industry.

The statistics are overwhelming, as we have heard all the estimates of over 22 million people being trafficked worldwide. Sometimes, though, they seem far away. It is estimated that the individuals in the adult entertainment are often victims of human trafficking, people in farm camps, people in domestic servitude. There are people being trafficked for human body parts. It goes on every day.

People often say, "That kind of stuff happens overseas" or, "That doesn't happen here." There is an acronym called NIMBY, not in my backyard. People don't think this happens. No, it happens in our own backyards. It happens here at home. It happens in your State, in your county, and more than likely it happens in your town.

Human trafficking happens as we speak. Human trafficking knows no skin color, no gender, no socio-

economic background. It only knows how to exploit, abuse, and victimize.

Who is guilty of this? Well, nation-states are guilty of this, criminal gangs, drug cartels, people needing labor, and terrorist organizations. People are doing this for greed, profit, and power. They are the scum of humanity, the people who are involved in this.

ISIS, as we all know today, traffics people for terrorist reasons. They sell children from 1 to 9 years of age. Children 1 to 9 years of age bring the most for ISIS, \$168. Young women between 9 and 18 have dropped in value. They are worth \$128. ISIS even gives away slaves for rewards of deeds that we deem are bad deeds.

The alarming estimate of more than 1 million teenagers run away every year in the United States. Runaways are the most at-risk youth and susceptible of trafficking. Runaways are the most at risk when they leave. In fact, runaways are typically picked up by the pimps or traffickers within the first 48 hours.

Who does this sort of thing? Well, the perpetrators aren't of a certain stereotype. They are of all backgrounds. I don't want to name any backgrounds, but they are people of low, no, and high profiles.

This year in my hometown of Gainesville a trafficking ring was discovered and six people were arrested.

Last week a person of high profile, one of the leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement, was arrested for sexually trafficking a minor in New York.

Just last year a 15-year-old girl was discovered by police in a motel room being sexually abused and trafficked several times a day. When I say several times a day, we are talking 15 to 20 times a day their body is being sold, like an amusement ride.

Her parents had been handing out missing child flyers in the neighborhood when somebody recognized her picture from an online ad. That young girl went from being a runaway to a trafficking victim in less than a month. That 15-year-old girl could be the son or daughter of you, your friends. It could be your niece or nephew, your brother or sister.

However, it is not just runaways that become victims of trafficking. Traffickers don't discriminate based on economic class, race, gender, or age. Traffickers are motivated by profit. The average cost of a slave worldwide—worldwide—is less than \$90. That is the value the scum of the earth puts on the value of a human's life.

As the world's fastest growing and third largest criminal enterprise, it is shocking how little people know about this horrendous practice. Further, it is appalling how little is put toward the effort to stop it.

In my district, we have created the North Central Florida Human Trafficking Task Force, which is aimed at bringing together community partners from the Federal, State, and local levels to combat trafficking.

For many, education awareness is half the battle. We teamed up with the Department of Homeland Security and used their Blue Campaign to raise awareness. This week here on Capitol Hill we celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act sponsored by Judge TED POE of Texas, and I am a proud cosponsor of this important legislation. I thank my colleagues for their support of this bill as well.

This issue, the issue of human trafficking, is not a Republican or Democratic issue. Back in January, several of us took to this very House floor to speak of the horrors of this crime.

But taking a stand on one particular day or highlighting the issue once a month doesn't even begin to cover what the victims experience on a daily basis or the horrors and nightmares they have for a lifetime.

We must always, always be vigilant and active in our fight. If we become aware and educate just one other person to know what the signs are, we can help end this horrific tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, no neighborhood is immune. No city is exempt. These slaves, or victims, are a part of our daily lives quietly suffering, but being traded like livestock and treated beyond comprehension.

We cannot in good conscience continue our daily routines without making every effort to stamp out the practice of forced labor, domestic servitude, sex trafficking, or the selling of body parts. Whether you are a college student, businessowner, or stay-at-home parent, we all play a role.

First, I ask my colleagues to stand with me as we take another step in taking down trafficking. Thank you to all those both here at home and abroad who are fighting every day to make this modern-day slavery a thing of the past. All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men, women, or people to do nothing.

Finally, thank you to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida. I appreciate his comments. He made several excellent points, the NIMBY attitude that some people have, not in my backyard.

I met with a father last week. He came to my office and told me the story of how his daughter had been trafficked. He went to the local sheriff in another part of the State and told the sheriff what had happened. The sheriff said: It doesn't happen here.

It does. It happens everywhere. It is in our backyard. It is everywhere. We need to recognize that. The gentleman worked on his own, then, to find his daughter and take her back home.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) makes another good comment about how these young kids are prey. A trafficked child, like the one I just mentioned, they had been working on her for 18 months, seducing her, talking to her, using the Internet. She

thought these people were her friends. They were not her friends. They were all involved in the trafficking process.

We need to understand that traffickers are not old guys in trench coats wandering around and snatching kids. They are not. Many times they are young people, young, good-looking guys who will strike up a conversation with a middle schooler at the mall and then talk to them again later and then later and then, finally, that individual gets in the vehicle or meets the individual, the trafficker, someplace, and then she is gone.

This father that I talked to knew the statistics, that, if you have a child that is trafficked, you have about 3 weeks to find her or she is gone because those traffickers move those kids all over the country, selling them every day. It is in our backyard, unfortunately.

I yield to another Texan, the gentleman from Houston, Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has worked on this issue of trafficking here and also back home in our hometown of Houston.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Texas for his persistence, his determination, and for this exciting commemoration of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016.

Let me thank the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus and co-chair JIM COSTA, along with Congressman POE, Judge POE, who famously has said, "And that is just the way it is," and I see all of us seemingly adopting those words. So he has now put the English language in a form that we just can't help ourselves. So I thank Judge POE so very much.

I remember his beginning. I want to thank him for a year or 2 ago when he joined me and Chairman MCCAUL for a Committee on Homeland Security human trafficking hearing in Houston, Texas.

I believe we have had other hearings since then because we know that Houston, Texas, Harris County, and in Texas has been called one of the center points of human trafficking, to our dismay. Many stories have come to our attention.

I think it was about 2 years ago, Judge POE, when they found a stash house out in the county. I actually went to that site where teams of—when I say teams, tens upon tens of individuals, including children, were in that particular place. We had to shut down a cantina in and around the inner city that had been used for human trafficking in the city of Houston.

□ 2145

The one point that is very important that I will make—and I will comment on some other aspects that are in this bill—is that human trafficking is profitable. Human trafficking is profitable. That means that slavery is not dead. Human trafficking is profitable.

The reason is, tragically, the young child, the young teenager, the preteen,

the young woman, or the young man or boy is recycled, tragically, over and over again, which makes human trafficking more than profitable and vicious and vile. They have to keep that human being who needs to be free and enjoy the freedom of being a child and enjoy the various special things of being a child, like being loved and nurtured, going to picnics, going to school, they have to keep that young woman, that young man in bondage.

That is what this bill, as spoken of previously, and certainly among other things, speaks to today. In the many bills that were incorporated in this bill, it was to eliminate, if you will, the pain and viciousness of human trafficking.

Let me quickly say that I want to congratulate the fact that this bill reduces the rape kit backlog and provides resources for forensic labs in cities all over America. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, we were hearing the stories about backlogs of rape kits. So this bill requires at least 75 percent of amounts made available to the DOJ for forensic testing and to be used for direct testing of crime scene evidence, including rape kits.

It improves the sexual assault nurse examiner program by incentivizing the hiring of full-time nurses, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and reauthorizes and improves the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants, which awards grants to States and local governments to improve the quality of forensic science services, which is so very important.

I also say that I acknowledge that numerous studies have shown that at least 75 percent of youths involved in the justice system have experienced traumatic victimization, making them vulnerable to mental health disorders and perceived behavioral and non-compliance and misconduct.

This legislation deals with best-evidence research to be able to help our youth as well, and to ensure that they get the kind of treatment they need, particularly after sexual assault, which is what human trafficking mostly is, besides the heinousness of being held by another human being.

So I am very glad that we are moving forward on the reauthorization for Justice for All for 2016. So many things have been made better.

I want to cite one example as I close. I am reminded of this because of the floods that we dealt with recently. There were incidences of women living in places where their name was not on the lease. So, for example, if a man gets evicted for abusing his live-in girlfriend, the girlfriend who is not a named tenant on the lease, but is a resident, would automatically be evicted. That is so very important. Many times, that girlfriend is living there with her children. She would be permitted to stay for a reasonable time to establish her own eligibility to remain in the public housing unit.

Let me say this: this is not a one-size-fits-all, but it is not one commu-

nity. It is not any race of people, it is not any economic level of people. It is people who are egregiously abusing and violating another human being. In many instances, Judge POE, it is a child.

So I want to thank you for this legislation. Let us continue to walk this pathway together in a bipartisan manner. Certainly, as a very valued member of the Judiciary Committee, a lot of your work is part of that legislative agenda, and I am very glad to join in. A lot of your work is also on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Let us work together to save lives and to protect our children.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, Congressman TED POE (R-TX) and Congressman JIM COSTA (D-CA) who are anchoring this Special Order in support of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016.

The Justice for All Act, which I co-sponsored in 2004, enhanced protections for victims of Federal crimes, provided resources to improve the use of DNA and forensic technology to combat crimes, and established safeguards to prevent and reverse wrongful convictions.

This legislation reauthorizes and improves many of the programs created by the original law and responsibly reduces overall funding in response to current economic conditions.

The bipartisan Justice for All Act of 2004 increased resources devoted to DNA and other forensic technology, established safeguards to prevent wrongful convictions, and enhanced protections for crime victims.

This legislation builds on the Justice for All Act to improve the criminal justice system and ensure public confidence in it.

The Justice for All Act of 2016 increases access to restitution for crime victims and requires that interpreters be available to all federal crime victims who wish to participate in a court proceeding.

Reauthorizing important programs used to notify crime victims of their right to be heard in court, this legislation provides them with legal assistance.

Additionally, the bill improves housing rights for domestic violence victims and protects Violence Against Women Act (VA-WA) funding from federal penalties.

The bill makes payment of restitution a mandatory condition of supervised release for any defendant convicted of a Federal felony or misdemeanor and ordered to pay restitution.

The bill will also amend the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to give the court authority to appoint an interpreter for any victim present during proceedings.

Importantly, this legislation supports programs that inform crime victims of their rights and helps ensure that those rights are enforced by reauthorizing the Crime Victims Legal Assistance Grants and Crime Victims Notification Grants.

Reducing current Rape Kit Backlog, the Justice for All Act requires that at least 75% of amounts made available to the Attorney General for local, state, and Federal forensic activities must be used for direct testing activities described in the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Requiring law enforcement agencies to conduct audits of their backlogged rape kits, this

law also creates tracking mechanisms, and prioritizes testing in cases in which the statute of limitations will soon expire.

The Act also amends the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants to give preference to entities which will: operate or expand forensic nurse examiner programs in rural areas or for underserved populations, hire full-time forensic nurse examiners, or support training programs for forensic nurse examiners.

Critically, the Act provides community health centers, colleges and hospitals with information about resources available to address domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.

Clarifying requirements for housing protections in the Violence Against Women Act, the act will extend protection against automatic eviction to any “resident” in a public housing unit—who is not a tenant listed on the lease—in situations where the named tenant is evicted.

For example, if a man gets evicted for abusing his live-in girlfriend, the girlfriend, who is not a named tenant on the lease but is a resident, would not automatically be evicted. She would be permitted to stay for a reasonable time to establish her own eligibility to remain in the public housing unit.

The Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 strengthens the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

PREA currently requires that all states to comply with its requirements or suffer a 5% reduction in DOJ funds they would receive for “prison purposes.”

States can still receive the funds however, even if they are not in compliance, if the Governor submits an “assurance” that the state will reallocate 5% of those funds to PREA implementation.

To ensure compliance, states are required to have all of their prisons audited for at least once every three years.

The bill requires Governors to submit with their annual certification or assurance information about the state’s PREA implementation efforts, including which correctional facilities were audited in the most recent audit year, a proposed schedule for completing an audit of all prison during the next three audit years, and all final audit reports.

Numerous studies have also shown that at least 75% of youth involved in the justice system have experienced traumatic victimization, making them vulnerable to mental health disorders and perceived behavioral non-compliance and misconduct.

Over the years, clear evidence has emerged from federal investigations, class-action lawsuits or authoritative reports written by reputable media outlets or respected public or private agencies showing that youth corrections facility across the country have repeatedly failed to protect youth from violence by staff or other youth, sexual assaults and/or excessive use of isolation or restraints. (Annie E. Casey Foundation—Maltreatment Report, 2015).

Despite costly law suits and periods of federal supervision, inhumane conditions of youth confinement remains rampant and a national epidemic.

Despite national outcry for compliance with PREA, Many states have failed to implement and enforce its standards for youth in correctional and detention facilities.

Current law provides that states not conforming to required protocols will lose 5% of

all funds they receive from the U.S. DOJ grant programs.

However, financial penalties will not begin until 2017, and expected that DOJ will extend deadline and/or disperse funds to non-compliant states (provided they use the money toward implementing PREA requirements). (AECF Report).

Further, the bill requires the Attorney General to post all final audit reports on its website and to update the site at least annually.

Expanding the reach of these valiant efforts, the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 clarifies that grants authorized for victim assistance may be used to support nonprofit entities which assist victims of crime on a nationwide basis or Americans abroad who are victims of crimes committed outside of the United States.

Truly, improving the administration of criminal justice programs, the bill increases accountability for federal funds spent by state and local governments by requiring that states receiving funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program develop a strategic plan detailing how the funds will be spent.

The bill directs the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to promulgate best practices for evidence retention within eighteen months of enactment and requires NIJ to assist state, local, and tribal governments wishing to adopt those best practices.

Because this bill has tremendous potential to improve victims’ access to justice, support law enforcement, exonerate the innocent, and strengthen and improve the criminal justice system, we urge the committee to bring this bill up for timely consideration and passage.

As a member of the Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus, I thank my colleagues Congressman TED POE (R-TX) and Congressman JIM COSTA (D-CA) ) for hosting this Special Order in support of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016.

It is an invaluable and much needed effort.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman for her comments. As the gentlewoman knows and has been mentioned on the House floor, I think, by Mr. WEBER, Houston, Texas, is a hub for child sex trafficking in the United States, and it is because of our location. We are using that, though, to change the dynamics of the city, working with our new mayor, Sylvester Turner, who was in the State legislature for a long time.

Our new mayor has now come up with a protocol for the city of Houston to work to eliminate this scourge. I think it is a protocol that cities throughout the country will be able to use themselves to address the issue, admit the problem, and then deal with it on a multilayer basis, working with all the nonprofits and all the government agencies and different types of law enforcement.

So I know that the gentlewoman is working with the mayor on this project. I want to congratulate you and the mayor for taking this issue and solving it so that Houston now will be an example of what to do in solving this scourge.

I also thank you for being on the Victims’ Rights Caucus. As you men-

tioned, it is bipartisan. JIM COSTA and I started this in 2005. There are 80 members: 40 Republicans, 40 Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, the Victims’ Rights Caucus promotes victims of crime before Congress.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I express my appreciation for being a member of the Victims’ Right Caucus because it is bipartisan. I should say it is multi-communities. All different people.

Let me thank the gentleman for mentioning Mayor Turner. This is an exciting effort. If you don’t take notice, you are not going to be able to solve the problem. And that is what the city is doing. It is taking notice and putting in infrastructure for being helpful.

Let me close by simply saying that, as Judge POE knows, in the last couple of days of Houston we have been mourning the killing of an 11-year-old child on his way home from school. We have not determined who it is, but all I can say to you is that even our children are vulnerable, whether by a heinous individual that maybe was trying to pick the child up—we don’t know—but the child is now deceased. My sympathies to his family, the Flores family in my congressional district. All I can say is that it is our responsibility to protect these children and not for little Josue to have died in vain in the tragic way that he lost his life.

Again, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to offer sympathy to his family and his community and say that we are doing the right thing by trying to protect those who are most vulnerable.

Mr. POE of Texas. The gentlewoman is exactly correct. That is really what we are supposed to be doing, is helping those that are the least fortunate, the most vulnerable in our community. And there is no more vulnerable people than our children.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize numerous Members of Congress who have worked on all this legislation. Before I do that, though, I want to recognize a person on my staff, Blair Bjellos, who is leaving the Hill and going to work for one of these groups that is trying to save the world, which is great. They are.

Blair has worked for me for almost 6 years. She is my victim advocate. I think I am the only Member of Congress that has a victim advocate who works on victims’ issues. She was, in large part, responsible for drafting this legislation, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. I want to thank her publicly for the work she has done on the victims’ movement, working on the Victims’ Rights Caucus, this legislation, and for other victims’ issues as well. I am fortunate to have a person who is so passionate working to help those who are most vulnerable in our community, and that is victims of crime. So I want to thank her for doing that.

I want to mention some other Members of Congress and just put in the

RECORD some of the things they have been doing. It is not all of them, but in limited time, I am going to mention the ones I can.

Two Members, bipartisan—one Republican, one Democrat—RENEE ELLMERS and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ—introduced the Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, all these bills were combined, passed the House, go to the Senate, and Senator CORNYN and Senator WYDEN combined them into one bill, it came back to House after it passed the Senate, and was signed by the President.

Also, ERIK PAULSEN, a Republican, and Representative GWEN MOORE, a Democrat, introduced the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act.

JOE HECK of Nevada, who was going to be here tonight to speak, introduced Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act.

ANN WAGNER, as has been mentioned already, introduced the SAVE Act; MARK WALKER, Human Trafficking Detection Act; KRISTI NOEM, Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act; TOM MARINO and KAREN BASS—one Republican, one Democrat—Strengthening Child Welfare Response for Human Trafficking; JOYCE BEATTY, who has spoken here tonight, also worked with ANN WAGNER and also introduced Improve the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking Act; and SEAN MALONEY introduced the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

There were lots of individuals, lots of folks who helped in the House. Then we had support from over 200 organizations throughout the country, trying to get this legislation passed. Some of those are Rights4Girls, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Shared Hope International, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the USA, National Children's Alliance, National Association to Protect Children, Equality Now, National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National Criminal Justice Association were all on the same page of the hymnal singing the same song, Mr. Speaker, and that song is that we are going to do everything we can to stop this scourge of human trafficking.

We want those folks to know that trafficked young children have no place to hide and that those customers that buy those kids have no place to hide. There is no safe place for them. And we want victims to know there is a safe place and that we will help them to recover from what has happened to them and hold people accountable for what they do, especially when they commit crimes against the most vulnerable people in our culture.

And if we are not to help kids, why are we here, Mr. Speaker?

I want to thank Members of Congress for passing this legislation overwhelmingly. Many of these bills passed the House unanimously. That doesn't happen a lot over here.

We are all working on this. We are not through. But we want people to know—victims of crime—that there is hope and there is rescue.

And that is just the way it is.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a family commitment in the district.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. O'ROURKE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of traveling with the President to Vietnam.

Mr. PETERS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight delayed.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2814. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Sevierville, Tennessee, the Dannie A. Carr Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5435. A letter from the Acting Director, Legislative Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule adopted as final with changes—Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) [Docket No.: NRCS-2014-0007] (RIN: 0578-AA62) received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5436. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Rear Admiral (lower half) Timothy J. White, United States Navy, to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5437. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Ac-

quisition Regulation Supplement: Duty-Free Entry Threshold (DFARS 2015-D036) [Docket No.: DARS-2015-0052] (RIN: 0750-A176) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5438. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program (RIN: 0575-AD04) received May 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5439. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting proposed legislation related to financial transparency; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5440. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations—Self-employment Tax Treatment of Partners in a Partnership that Owns a Disregarded Entity [TD 9766] (RIN: 1545-BM87) received May 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5441. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—Non-discrimination in Health Programs and Activities (RIN: 0945-AA02) received May 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5442. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Maleic anhydride; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0853; FRL-9945-82] received May 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5443. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Source Determination for Certain Emission Units in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0685; FRL-9946-55-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS06) received May 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5444. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Quaternary ammonium compounds, benzylbis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)methyl, bis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)dimethylammonium salts with sepiolite; and Quaternary ammonium compounds, benzylbis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)methyl, bis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)dimethylammonium salts with saponite; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0018, EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0020; FRL-9945-76] received May 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5445. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Arizona; Infrastructure Requirements to Address Interstate Transport for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0793; FRL-9946-58-Region 9] received May 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.