

S. 178, JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

- **Funding for Victims' Services and Law Enforcement**—Creates a “Domestic Trafficking Victims’ Fund” to finance victims’ services for human trafficking and child pornography survivors. This fund is deficit-neutral and financed through previously appropriated funds and fines on persons convicted of child pornography, human trafficking, child prostitution, sexual exploitation, and human smuggling offenses. This fund will increase the federal resources available for victim support and law enforcement efforts by up to \$60 million/yr. Creates a deficit-neutral block grant to help states and local governments develop and implement victim-centered programs that train law enforcement to rescue trafficking survivors, prosecute human traffickers, and restore the lives of victims. This program is funded entirely through the “Domestic Trafficking Victims’ Fund” created by the bill.
- **Restoring the Lives of Victims**—Prioritizes victim restoration and witness assistance for trafficking survivors by directing the proceeds of forfeited criminal assets to pay victim restitution orders and financial awards for witnesses who come forward and assist law enforcement. Encourages prosecutor training on restitution in human trafficking cases. Increases law enforcement authorities to seize the assets of human traffickers. Clarifies that United States Citizen and Lawful Permanent Residents are eligible for all services under the TVPA. Makes human trafficking victims eligible for Job Corps. Allows existing trafficking grant programs to be used to provide housing to human trafficking victims. Increases the statute of limitations for victim lawsuits against traffickers.
- **Breaking the Cycle of Sexual Exploitation**—Recognizes that child pornography production is a form of human trafficking. Ensures that victims have access to direct restorative services at Child Advocacy Centers. Contains the HERO Act, providing statutory authorization for federal law enforcement programs that target internet child predators and human traffickers, including the training and hiring of returning military veterans to serve as law enforcement officers combatting child exploitation. Allows the “Domestic Trafficking Victims’ Fund” to supplement Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces that rescue children from slavery and exploitation. Encourages the enactment of laws helping rape survivors prevent their exploiters from obtaining custody of children. Increases the authority of U.S. Marshals to assist in locating and recovering missing children.
- **Fighting Human Traffickers**—Allows state and local human trafficking task forces to obtain wiretap warrants within their own state courts without federal approval in order to investigate crimes of child pornography, child sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. Clarifies law enforcement authority to target persons who sell children for sex on the internet. Clarifies current law to reduce demand for human trafficking by encouraging police, prosecutors, judges, and juries to target all persons involved in the buying and selling of human trafficking victims. Protects victims and witnesses by requiring human traffickers to be treated as violent criminals for purposes of pre-trial release and detention pending judicial proceedings. Allows the Attorney General to cross deputize state and local law enforcement to prosecute interstate trafficking networks.
- **Increasing Awareness and Prevention**—Ensures regular reporting on the number of human trafficking crimes by making human trafficking a Part I offense for purposes of the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Contains the “Bringing Missing Children Home Act,” requiring law enforcement to upload available photos of missing into the National Criminal Information Center database and to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of any child reported missing from foster care. Requires the Secretary of Defense to report military sex offenders to the National Sex Offender Registry. Helps train healthcare and homeland security officials in prevention and response to human trafficking.
- **Empowering Victims**—Ensures that federal crime victims are informed of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement in their case and clarifies that the ordinary standard of appellate review applies in cases concerning federal crime victims’ rights petitions. Creates a Human Trafficking Advisory Council composed of 8-14 human trafficking survivors to formulate recommendations to the federal government. Encourages the enactment of safe harbor laws that prevent child victims from being prosecuted for prostitution. Helps victims expunge their record of crimes that they committed as a direct result of being enslaved.
- **Building Consensus**—**Passed the United States Senate 99-0.** Endorsed by 200 victims’ rights and law enforcement organizations, including: Shared Hope International, Rights 4 Girls, Fraternal Order of Police, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, National Children’s Alliance, National Criminal Justice Association, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, PROTECT, National Association of Police Organizations, National Conference of State Legislatures. Includes versions of 10 bills that passed the House of Representatives.