

# HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE TAKING ACTION TO FIGHT #HUMANTRAFFICKING

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE | Chairman Bob Goodlatte

The House Judiciary Committee has approved four bills to strengthen our current laws in order to combat the growing problem of human trafficking in the United States and provide much-needed services to victims of human trafficking.

## **H.R. 181, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act** (Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas)

This comprehensive anti-human trafficking bill boosts support and protection for domestic human trafficking victims. The bill makes the following improvements to current law, among others:

- ✔ Increases and streamlines law enforcement resources. This bill streamlines state and local human trafficking investigations by clarifying that prosecutors may obtain a wiretap warrant in a state court pursuant to a showing of probable cause that the wiretap will provide evidence of a crime of human trafficking and other child sexual abuse. It also provides that federal slavery laws are eligible for federal wiretap warrants. Additionally it provides that Child Advocacy Centers are authorized to assist victims of human trafficking and child exploitation, and improves the reporting of missing children.
- ✔ Enhances victims' services. The bill creates a victim-centered grant program to help states and local governments develop and implement comprehensive victim-centered programs to train law enforcement, rescue exploited children, prosecute human traffickers, and restore the lives of victims. It also provides accountability measures for victims' grant programs to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse and ensure the money actually goes towards helping trafficking victims.
- ✔ Strengthens our laws to ensure that both sellers AND buyers engaged in sex trafficking are held accountable for their crimes. The bill makes the law clear that purchasing sexual acts from human trafficking victims is a crime. The bill also holds 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.

## **H.R. 159, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act** (Rep. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn.)

This bill provides incentives to states to adopt safe harbor laws that treat trafficked children as victims, rather than as criminals or delinquents. This legislation gives states additional preference in their applications for Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) grants for having in place statutes that decriminalize child prostitution and encourage the diversion of these victims to necessary services.

The bill further helps to fight the scourge of child sex trafficking by requiring additional reporting to Congress on restitution orders in these cases, codifying a national human trafficking hotline to help victims get assistance, and making it easier for victims to leave a life of trafficking by providing skill training through the Job Corps program. It also clarifies that the U.S. Marshals Service has the discretionary authority to support other state, local, or federal law enforcement agencies that are investigating missing child cases.

## **H.R. 285, the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act** (Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Mo.)

The SAVE Act criminalizes those who knowingly advertise for the commercial exploitation of children and trafficking victims.

## **H.R. 350, the Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, & Recovery Act** (Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D.)

This bill launches a review by the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking that will look into federal and state trafficking prevention activities. The review will be done in consultation with nongovernmental organizations and will work to identify and develop best practices to prevent trafficking. It also requires an inventory of existing federal anti-trafficking efforts by the Government Accountability Office to make sure all federal agencies and programs work together and that federal resources are being targeted where needed, and improves existing Department of Justice grants, allowing the grants to also support shelters for survivors.



**29 states** do not have any shelter beds exclusively for human trafficking survivors. (Source: Polaris Project)



As many as **300,000** American youth are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking. (Source: Office of Justice Programs. DOJ)

**12-14** is the average age at which girls first become victims of sex trafficking. (Source: DOJ)



U.S. law enforcement has identified **online advertisements** as the primary platform for buying & selling sex with children. (Source: DOJ )

**76%** of transactions for sex with underage girls is conducted through the Internet. (Source: DOJ; National Center for Missing & Exploited Children)



Sex trafficking is the **fastest-growing** business of organized crime and the **third-largest** criminal enterprise in the world. (Source: FBI)

It's estimated that child sex trafficking in the U.S. is a **\$9.8 billion** industry. (Source: Shared Hope International)

**\$150,000-\$200,000:** The amount a pimp can make each year, per child. (Source: DOJ; National Center for Missing & Exploited Children)

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National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline  
FY 2008 - 2013 (Source: Polaris Project)

calls 97,502  
emails 6,739  
online tips 3,404

**107,645**

Potential human  
trafficking cases

**14,512**