

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2018*

**Statement on Signing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017**

*December 21, 2018*

Today, I have signed into law S. 1312, the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017" (the "Act"). The Act represents an important step in bolstering the United States Government's efforts to combat human trafficking.

The Act, however, raises a constitutional concern.

Section 502 of the Act requires the Department of Justice to take "affirmative measures to avoid arresting, charging, or prosecuting human trafficking victims for any offense that is the direct result of their victimization." My Administration will interpret this provision consistent with the prosecutorial discretion of the executive branch and the President's constitutional responsibility to faithfully execute the laws of the United States.

DONALD J. TRUMP

The White House,  
December 21, 2018.

NOTE: S. 1312, approved December 21, was assigned Public Law No. 115–393.

*Categories:* Bill Signings and Vetoes : Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017, signing statement.

*Subjects:* Law enforcement and crime : Trafficking in persons, efforts to combat; Legislation, enacted : Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017; Presidency, U.S. : Constitutional role and powers.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD201800864.