

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6536

To amend the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 to require abortion providers to notify the national human trafficking hotline of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. BUDD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 to require abortion providers to notify the national human trafficking hotline of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stopping Traffickers
5 and Their Accomplices Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Slavery and involuntary servitude are in-
2 compatible with American society and law.

3 (2) The 13th Amendment to the United States
4 Constitution abolished legal slavery and involuntary
5 servitude in the United States.

6 (3) Despite slavery being abolished in 1865,
7 modern forms of slavery still exist throughout the
8 United States.

9 (4) Every year, hundreds of thousands of Amer-
10 icans and immigrants are coerced into commercial
11 sex acts against their will.

12 (5) In addition to sexual exploitation, victims of
13 trafficking suffer repeated physical, mental, and
14 emotional abuse at the hands of their traffickers.

15 (6) Abortion providers and facilities aid sex
16 traffickers by turning a blind eye to the plight of
17 abused women.

18 (7) The Department of State's 2017 Traf-
19 ficking in Persons Report indicated that sex traf-
20 fickers coerce women into receiving abortions against
21 their will.

22 (8) Research conducted by Laura J. Lederer
23 and Christopher A. Wetzel, entitled "The Health
24 Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implica-
25 tions for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facili-

1 ties” published in the *Annals of Health Law Journal*
2 nal, indicated that 71 percent of women coerced into
3 commercial sex acts reported at least one pregnancy
4 and 21 percent reported five or more pregnancies
5 while trafficked (23 *Annals Health L.* 61 (2014)).

6 (9) Lederer and Wetzel’s research found that
7 almost a third of women trafficked reported under-
8 went numerous abortions as victims of trafficking.
9 More than half of respondents answered that their
10 abortion while a victim of sex trafficking was a re-
11 sult of coercion. One victim of sex trafficking re-
12 counted, “[in most of my six abortions,] I was under
13 serious pressure from my pimps to abort the ba-
14 bies”.

15 (10) A moral obligation exists to report sus-
16 pected instances of sex trafficking to authorities.

17 (11) Section 2 of the 13th Amendment empow-
18 ers Congress to enact appropriate legislation to com-
19 bat all forms of slavery and involuntary servitude,
20 including forced sex trafficking.

21 **SEC. 3. COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

22 Section 114 of the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking*
23 *Act of 2015* (34 U.S.C. 20709) is amended by adding at
24 the end the following:

1 “(g) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE NO-
2 TIFICATION BY ABORTION PROVIDERS.—

3 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—

4 “(A) NOTIFICATION TO NATIONAL HUMAN
5 TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Not later than 24
6 hours after consulting with a patient, an abor-
7 tion provider shall notify the national human
8 trafficking hotline if the provider has a reason-
9 able suspicion that the patient is a victim of
10 trafficking.

11 “(B) REPORT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL
12 AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Not later
13 than 24 hours after an abortion provider noti-
14 fies the national human trafficking hotline
15 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of
16 Health and Human Services shall notify the At-
17 torney General of such notification by the abor-
18 tion provider. Not later than 24 hours after re-
19 ceipt of a notification from the Secretary of
20 Health and Human Services under this sub-
21 paragraph, the Attorney General shall notify
22 the appropriate State and local law enforcement
23 agencies.

24 “(C) PENALTY.—An abortion provider who
25 violates subparagraph (A) shall be fined

1 \$10,000, imprisoned not more than 6 months,
2 or both.

3 “(2) TRAINING.—

4 “(A) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of
5 Health and Human Services shall make avail-
6 able to abortion providers the training entitled
7 ‘Foundational (101) Human Trafficking
8 Trainings—SOAR For Health Care’ (or any
9 substantially similar successor training).

10 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each abortion pro-
11 vider shall complete the training provided under
12 subparagraph (A) on an annual basis and prior
13 to January 30 of each calendar year, and cer-
14 tify such completion to the Director of the Of-
15 fice on Trafficking in Persons of the Depart-
16 ment of Health and Human Services. The cer-
17 tification under this subparagraph shall include
18 the protocols that the abortion provider has in
19 place to identify and assist victims of traf-
20 ficking.

21 “(C) PENALTY.—An abortion provider who
22 fails to comply with subparagraph (B) shall be
23 subject to a fine in an amount of \$1,000 per
24 day of noncompliance.

25 “(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

1 “(A) NO REQUIREMENT FOR VICTIMS OF
2 TRAFFICKING TO SELF-REPORT.—Nothing in
3 this subsection may be construed to require a
4 victim of trafficking to self-report.

5 “(B) NO RIGHT TO ABORTION.—Nothing
6 in this subsection may be construed to provide
7 a right to an abortion.

8 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) The term ‘abortion provider’ means a
10 person who—

11 “(i) performs an abortion and is li-
12 censed to practice medicine and surgery or
13 osteopathic medicine and surgery; or

14 “(ii) is otherwise legally authorized to
15 perform an abortion.

16 “(B) The term ‘victim of trafficking’ has
17 the meaning given to such term in section 103
18 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
19 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).”.

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