

FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6552) to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6552

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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TITLE I—COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Subtitle A—Programs To Support Victims and Persons Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

SEC. 101. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING.—Section 106(b)(2) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(b)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING” and inserting “FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “under a program named ‘Fred-

erick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grants’” after “may award grants”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, linguistically accessible, and culturally responsive” after “age-appropriate”;

(3) in the heading of subparagraph (C), by inserting “FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS” after “PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS”;

(4) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) give priority to local educational agencies serving a high-intensity child sex trafficking area or an area with significant child labor trafficking;

“(ii) give additional priority to local educational agencies that partner with non-profit organizations specializing in human trafficking prevention education, which partner with law enforcement and technology or social media companies, to assist in training efforts to protect children from labor trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, materials depicting the sexual abuse of children, and human trafficking transmitted through technology; and

“(iii) consult, as appropriate, with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, and the Attorney General, to identify the geographic areas in the United States with the highest prevalence of at-risk populations for child trafficking, including children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority, homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in the child welfare system, and children and youth who run away from home or an out-of-home placement.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—Grantees should be selected based on their demonstrated ability to—

“(i) engage stakeholders, including survivors of human trafficking, and Federal, State, local, or Tribal partners, to develop the programs;

“(ii) train the trainers, guardians, K–12 students, teachers, and other school personnel in a linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed fashion; and

“(iii) create a scalable, repeatable program to prevent child labor trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, child sexual abuse materials, and trafficking transmitted through technology that—

“(I) uses evidence-based (as such term is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices; and

“(II) employs appropriate technological tools and methodologies, including linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed approaches for trainers, guardians, educators, and K–12 students.

“(F) TRAIN THE TRAINERS.—For purposes of subparagraph (E), the term ‘train the trainers’ means having experienced or master trainers coach new trainers who are less experienced with a particular topic or skill, or with training overall, who can then teach the material to others, creating a broader reach, sustainability, and making efforts cost- and time-efficient (commonly referred to as ‘training of trainers’).

“(G) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Secretary of the Interior to determine the appropriate demographics of the recipients or of students at

risk of being trafficked or exploited, to be collected and reported with respect to grants under this paragraph, which shall include data collection of, at a minimum, students who are economically disadvantaged, members of a racial or ethnic minority, homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in the child welfare system, and children and youth who run away from home or an out-of-home placement.

“(H) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committees on the Judiciary and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and make available to the public a report, including data on the following:

“(i) The total number of entities that received a Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grant over the past year.

“(ii) The total number of partnerships or consultants that included survivors, non-profit organizations specialized in human trafficking prevention education, law enforcement, and technology or social media companies.

“(iii) The total number of elementary and secondary schools that established and implemented evidence-based (as such term is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices through programs developed using such grants.

“(iv) The total number and geographic distribution of trainers, guardians, students, teachers, and other school personnel trained using such grants pursuant to this paragraph.

“(v) The results of pre-training and post-training surveys to gauge trainees’ increased understanding of the scope and signs of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse; how to interact with potential victims and survivors of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse using age-appropriate and trauma-informed approach; and the manner in which to respond to potential child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“(vi) The number of potential victims and survivors of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse identified and served by grantees, excluding any individually identifiable information about such children and acting in full compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

“(vii) The number of students in elementary or secondary school identified by grantees as being at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited and abused, excluding any individually identifiable information about such children.

“(viii) The demographic characteristics of child trafficking survivors and victims, sexually exploited and abused children, and students at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited and abused described in clauses (vi) and (vii), excluding any individually identifiable information about such children.

“(ix) Any service gaps and best practices identified by grantees.”.

SEC. 102. HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may carry out a Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program to prevent the re-exploitation of eligible individuals who have been victims of trafficking, by assisting such individuals to integrate or reintegrate into society through social services support for the attainment of life-skills, employment, and

education necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

(b) **SERVICES PROVIDED.**—Services offered, provided, and funded by the Program shall include (as relevant to the victim of trafficking)—

(1) enrollment and participation in—

(A) basic education, including literacy education and English as a second language education;

(B) job-related skills training;

(C) vocational and certificate programs; and

(D) programs for attaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

(2) life-skill training programs, including management of personal finances, self-care, and parenting classes;

(3) résumé creation and review;

(4) interview coaching and counseling;

(5) assistance with expungement of criminal records when such records are for non-violent crimes that were committed as a consequence of the eligible individual's victimization, including assistance with credit repair;

(6) assistance with enrollment in college or technical school;

(7) scholarship assistance for attending college or technical school;

(8) professional coaching or professional development classes;

(9) case management to develop an individualized plan with each victim of trafficking, based on each person's needs and goals;

(10) assistance with obtaining victim compensation, direct victim assistance, or other funds for mental health care; and

(11) other programs and services that help eligible individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, such as wrap-around social services to assist survivors in meeting their basic needs.

(c) **SERVICE PERIOD.**—Eligible individuals may receive services through the Program for a cumulative period of 5 years.

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with one or more eligible organizations to carry out this section.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “eligible individual” means a domestic or foreign victim of trafficking who—

(A) has attained the age of 18 years; and

(B) is eligible to receive services under section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)).

(2) **ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.**—The “eligible organization” may include a non-governmental organization and means a service provider that meets the following criteria:

(A) Experience in using national or local anti-trafficking networks to serve victims of trafficking.

(B) Experience qualifying, providing, and coordinating services for victims of trafficking, as described in subsection (b), that is linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed.

(C) With respect to a service provider for victims of trafficking served by the Program who are not United States citizens, a provider that has experience in identifying and assisting foreign-born victims of trafficking, including helping them qualify for Continued Presence, T-Visas, and other Federal, State, and local services and funding.

(D) With respect to a service provider for victims of trafficking served by the Program who are United States citizens and legal permanent residents, a provider that has experience identifying and assisting victims of trafficking, as such term is defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102), especially youth and underserved populations.

(3) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means the Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program established under this section.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 103. EXTENDING SUNSET FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 115(h) of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 is amended by striking “2020” and inserting “2031”.

Subtitle B—Monitoring Child, Forced, and Slave Labor

SEC. 111. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUBMISSION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORTS ON TIME.

It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Justice has failed to meet reporting requirements under title IV of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-393; 132 Stat. 5273) and that progress on critical data collection on human trafficking and crime reporting are in jeopardy as a result of such failure and must be addressed immediately.

SEC. 112. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REQUIRING CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES TO REPORT INFORMATION ON MISSING AND ABDUCTED FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) each State child welfare agency should prioritize developing and implementing protocols to comply with section 471(1)(35)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(35)(B));

(2) report the information it receives on missing or abducted foster children and youth to the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and to law enforcement authorities for inclusion in the FBI's National Crime Information Center database, in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 471(a)(34) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(34));

(3) such reports must be made immediately (and in no case later than 24 hours) after the information is received; and

(4) such reports to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services were required to start on September 30, 2016, and annual reports were required to start on September 30, 2017, by such section 471(a)(34), to provide the total number of children and youth who are sex trafficking victims.

TITLE II—FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD

SEC. 201. MODIFICATIONS TO PROGRAM TO END MODERN SLAVERY GRANTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (g)(2), by striking “2020” and inserting “2026”.

(2) In subsection (h)(1), by striking “Not later than September 30, 2018, and September 30, 2020” and inserting “Not later than September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2026”.

(b) **AWARD OF FUNDS.**—All grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis.

SEC. 202. AMENDMENTS TO TIER STANDARDS.

(a) **MODIFICATIONS TO TIER 2 WATCH LIST.**—Subsection (b)(2) of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SPECIAL” and inserting “TIER 2”; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) **SUBMISSION OF LIST.**—Not later than the date on which the determinations described in subsections (c) and (d) are submitted to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with such subsections, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees

a list of countries that the Secretary determines requires special scrutiny during the following year. The list shall be composed of countries that have been listed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) pursuant to the current annual report because—

“(i) the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions; or

“(ii) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials.”.

(b) **MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL RULE FOR DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED COUNTRIES.**—Subsection (b)(2)(F) of such section 110 is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “the special watch list” and all that follows through “the country—” and inserting “the Tier 2 watchlist described in subparagraph (A) for more than 1 year immediately after the country consecutively—”;

(2) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “the special watch list described in subparagraph (A)(iii)” and inserting “the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A)”; and

(3) in clause (ii), by inserting “in the year following such waiver under subparagraph (D)(ii)” before the period at the end.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Subsection (b) of such section 110 is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (2), as amended by subsection (a)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “special watch list” and inserting “Tier 2 watch list”;;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “special watch list” and inserting “Tier 2 watch list”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “SPECIAL WATCH LIST” and inserting “TIER 2 WATCH LIST”; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “special watch list” and inserting “Tier 2 watch list”.

(2) In paragraph (3)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of”.

(3) In paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “each country described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “each country described in paragraph (2)(A)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking “the Special Watch List under paragraph (2)” and inserting “the Tier 2 watch list under paragraph (2)”.

SEC. 203. EXPANDING PREVENTION EFFORTS AT THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

In order to increase the prevention efforts by the United States abroad, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall encourage integration of activities to counter trafficking in persons (C-TIP) into broader assistance programming. The Administrator shall—

(1) determine a reasonable definition for the term “C-TIP Integrated Development Programs”, which shall at a minimum include any programming to address health, economic development, education, democracy and governance, food security and humanitarian assistance that the Administrator determines includes a sufficient counter-trafficking in persons element integrated in the program design or delivery;

(2) encourage that any program design or delivery that may directly serve victims of trafficking in persons is age-appropriate, linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, and survivor- and trauma-informed, and provides opportunities for anonymous and voluntary feedback from the beneficiaries receiving such services;

(3) encourage that each USAID mission integrates a counter-trafficking in persons perspective and specific approaches into development programs, project design, and methods for program monitoring and evaluation, when addressing a range of development issues, including—

- (A) health;
- (B) economic development;
- (C) education;
- (D) democracy and governance;
- (E) food security; and
- (F) humanitarian assistance;

(4) implement robust training and disseminate tools around the integration of a counter-trafficking perspective and awareness in the day-to-day work of development professionals; and

(5) encourage subsequent Country Development Cooperation Strategies include a counter-trafficking in persons analytic component to guide future project design and promote the inclusion of counter-trafficking elements in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation required for Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3 countries (as such terms are defined for purposes of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), as amended).

SEC. 204. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRISIS IN UKRAINE.

It is the sense of Congress that Russia's aggression in Ukraine targeting civilians and non-military infrastructure has led to millions to flee their homes—90 percent of them being women and children according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—creating a humanitarian and human trafficking crisis, as Russian President Putin continues to wage the largest and most lethal war in Europe since World War II.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 113 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2018 through 2021, \$13,822,000” and inserting “2022 through 2026, \$16,000,000”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “To carry out the purposes of sections 106(b) and 107(b),” and inserting “To carry out the purposes of sections 106(b) and 107(b) of this Act and sections 101 and 102 of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022,”; and

(B) by striking “\$19,500,000” and all that follows, and inserting “\$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026, of which \$5,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated in each fiscal year for the National Human Trafficking Hotline and for cybersecurity and public education campaigns, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, for identifying and responding as needed to cases of human trafficking.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2018 through 2021, \$65,000,000” and inserting “2022 through 2026, \$89,500,000”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) to fund programs to end modern slavery, in an amount not to exceed \$37,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”; and

(4) in subsection (d) in paragraph (1), by striking “2018 through 2021” and inserting “2022 through 2026, of which \$35,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for the Office of Victims of Crime Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW.

Section 11 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (34 U.S.C. 21509) is amended by striking “2018 through 2021” and inserting “2022 through 2026”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6552, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6552, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022.

I thank the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights, Representative CHRIS SMITH, who I have worked closely with for many years to develop this bill. This joint effort has served as a daily reminder that collaboration in Congress is both imperative and far from finished when it comes to combating and eliminating human trafficking.

This legislation is the overdue reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Act of 2000, which expired last September. To continue this essential fight to end global human trafficking, this measure must be passed by the House today so that more than 20 years of work is not undone.

This bill is especially important in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, when virtual K-12 education made it harder for teachers to identify and report human trafficking, prosecutions of traffickers were delayed as courts closed, and the demand for social services for survivors increased as many of them lost their jobs and homes.

Critically, this reauthorization strengthens provisions in the original bill that protect and support trafficking victims while reauthorizing \$1 billion to fund programs across the De-

partments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services that are dedicated to addressing human trafficking and aiding victims.

This funding includes \$35 million in housing assistant grants for the victims of human trafficking, which offer temporary housing that provides trafficking survivors with meaningful alternatives to living with their abusers. It also funds education programs on trafficking warning signs for educators and law enforcement personnel who may otherwise unknowingly encounter trafficking victims. It further requires greater accountability measures to protect people who are trafficked while appropriately punishing traffickers.

In the U.S., the populations most vulnerable to human trafficking include migrant laborers, minorities, people with disabilities, those in the LGBTQ community, and especially runaway and homeless youth and those in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In regard to sex trafficking, which is where the child welfare system comes in, the average age of the victim is 12 years old.

As a former healthcare professional and chair of the subcommittee, I have been a champion of child welfare issues throughout my time in Congress. I have seen too many instances of human rights violations against children and other vulnerable populations falling victim to the abuses of human trafficking, both in the U.S. and around the world. We must take this issue seriously and continue taking a whole-of-government approach to addressing it.

Sometimes, however, we focus on the international and forget that this is a problem right here in many cities around our Nation. The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act adds several new provisions to the original legislation that will substantially improve our efforts against trafficking here at home while only slightly modifying existing provisions that have been successful throughout its passage.

One important example is the modifications made to existing HHS grants that would train elementary and secondary school teachers, children, guardians, and trainers in the recognition and response to child trafficking. Child trafficking in the U.S. is not labor trafficking, but it is sex trafficking. This section now focuses authorities to ensure that grantees will use proven best practices, trains personnel with equitable approaches, and identifies service gaps, among other things.

It also calls on State child welfare agencies to prioritize the implementation of protocols to report information on missing and abducted children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and law enforcement.

Additionally, the bill requires States to submit annual reports on child sex

trafficking victims to Health and Human Services, which is one of the many steps that we can take to trace, track, and find those missing and, hopefully, create a system that prevents further disappearance of our youth. It is our job to protect those in this country who cannot protect themselves, especially children in the child welfare system. When we remove them from their parents and from their homes, then we the government become the parents, and we cannot be guilty of neglect.

H.R. 6552 strengthens anti-trafficking efforts abroad. Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry worldwide, with more than 25 million people, women and girls being the largest identified demographic. These numbers are alarming, and I am humbled to be part of a measure that will focus on expanding prevention efforts at USAID by taking steps to further integrate counter-trafficking in persons activities into already existing international development programs.

This bill moves not only to support those who have already fallen victim but also to prevent further trafficking and bring perpetrators to justice. We must swiftly pass this bipartisan measure to protect those who are the most vulnerable among us. It is our duty to stop this heinous crime whenever and wherever it is discovered, whether it be here in the United States or abroad.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2022.

Hon. GREGORY MEEKS,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEKS: This letter is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 6552, the "Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 6552, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2022.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 6552, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022, as amended. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 6552 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction.

I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2022.

Hon. GREGORY MEEKS,
Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR MEEKS: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 6552, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 6552.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2022.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 6552, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022, as amend-

ed. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 6552 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction.

I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward and will support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to convey my special thanks to Chairwoman KAREN BASS for her exceptional leadership, partnership, and friendship.

For years, we have worked together to combat the unspeakable crime and abject cruelty of sex and labor trafficking.

□ 1415

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act is just the latest bold initiative in our mutual commitment to end modern-day slavery.

I want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, and especially Chairman MEEKS and Ranking Member MCCAUL for having favorably reported the bill from the Foreign Affairs Committee on February 9.

Majority Leader HOYER was especially helpful and has ensured timely consideration during this month of July, just in time to commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

As my colleagues know—we have all been through this—but in this case there were five full committee referrals for this bill. It can be very challenging getting the committee chairmen and ranking members to agree, and I am grateful to them for their good faith in coming together for this important human rights cause and making sure that this legislation was brought to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I have been working on human trafficking since 1995. I have chaired more than 35 hearings and written five anti-trafficking laws including the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Many in the United States—and I'm grateful that this is so bipartisan—and many around the world have rallied to stop

this hideous abuse, yet it couldn't be clearer that much more needs to be done.

Traffickers never take a holiday, nor can we. Because traffickers and the nefarious networks that they lead always find new ways to exploit the vulnerable, we must aggressively strengthen our laws, and we must be equally aggressive in the implementation of those laws.

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act is a bipartisan, survivor-informed bill. KAREN and I first introduced the bill nearly 11 months ago on Frederick Douglass' 183rd anniversary of his self-emancipation, and we were joined at the introduction by Kenneth Morris—Frederick Douglass' great-great-grandson. Ken has been a tremendous friend and ally in this human rights struggle and helped us write the bill.

Born a slave—as I think many people know—back in 1818, Frederick Douglass disguised himself as a sailor and traveled from Baltimore to New York. A renowned abolitionist and statesman—and a Republican—he continued to lead the fight to end slavery, Jim Crow laws, and advance respect and equality.

The Frederick Douglass TVPRA honors this great man by significantly enhancing programs, strengthening our laws and adding new ones, and adding accountability for programs at the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and State to combat human trafficking and to offer sustainable solutions, solutions that work.

This bill ensures robust prevention through trafficking prevention education—situational awareness for our children, their teachers, and parents—stabilization of survivors once they are no longer in the hands of traffickers, and long-term solutions that facilitate healing and survivor empowerment.

Frederick Douglass once said: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

We want to prevent trafficking from occurring in the first place. That is why we have authored this legislation. We create an age-appropriate, scalable program to train the trainers, use proven and tested best practices, and include training parents and guardians in trafficking prevention education. This bill also properly designates these grants as the Frederick Douglass Prevention Education Grants.

I know all of my colleagues are aware of Megan's Law which protects children domestically. In 2008 I introduced International Megan's Law. It passed the House three times and almost died in the Senate until the third iteration of it. It was signed into law in 2016, and now it is being reauthorized in this bill as well.

Megan Kanka was from my former hometown of Hamilton. She was just 7 years old when she was kidnapped, raped, and brutally murdered in 1994. Her assailant lived right across the

street. Unbeknownst to her family and other residents in the neighborhood, he was a convicted, repeat child sex offender. Her parents, Maureen and Richard Kanka, are heartbroken to this day. They have been amazingly effective, courageous, and heroic in successfully pushing every State in the Union to enact Megan's Law.

So why International Megan's Law?

We know from law enforcement, academia, and media documentation that Americans on the U.S. sex offender registries are frequently caught abusing children all over the world: Asia, Central and South America, and Europe—as I said, everywhere.

Under International Megan's Law, convicted child sex offenders who travel abroad must provide notice to the U.S. Government through the Angel Watch Center prior to departure of all planned destinations. Failure to do so carries a significant jail term. Upon receipt of the travel itinerary, the U.S. Government informs the destination country or countries of those plans.

In just a few years of working—and that is with people not traveling as much during Covid-19, the pandemic—the U.S. Government has notified foreign governments of the planned travel of 19,000 covered child sex offenders, and more than 7,000 individuals who were convicted of crimes against children were denied entry to these nations.

The Douglass bill, Madam Speaker, also requires international programs to focus on best practices in their integration of counter-trafficking efforts into their development portfolios. This way we can make the best use of our foreign assistance at the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The bill realigns efforts to meet fundamental needs of survivors through wrap-around social services with case management, including assistance with obtaining housing, life-skills training, and mental health care, while also providing long-term solutions through job coaching and training, and assistance with obtaining employment and higher education. This approach is fundamental to meeting survivors' needs on their continuum of healing.

As Frederick Douglass, again, once said: "Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave."

Rather than quick fixes that can leave survivors vulnerable to re-trafficking, the Frederick Douglass bill invests wisely in systemic and dignified solutions by providing survivors opportunities for the education and jobs they need to become self-reliant and even leaders.

It provides, for the first-time, \$35 million for Housing Assistance Grants For Victims of Human Trafficking. The number of people without housing in the U.S. continues to climb, while trafficking victims are extraordinarily vulnerable if they don't have a place to live.

We cannot forget what is happening in Ukraine. There is good language in

the bill calling to our attention all of those who have been so horribly mistreated and trafficked. I thank Chairwoman BASS for really bringing a focus to foster care and the fact that so many of our foster care children have been trafficked. It is a place of extreme vulnerability. She has very good language that she has put into this bill—we worked together—but it was her initiative on that issue.

The ILO says that there are nearly 25 million people in the world who are enslaved and that most are women and children. That is unconscionable. Every human life is of infinite value. We as lawmakers have a duty to protect the weakest and most vulnerable from harm.

I yield such time as he may consume to gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I just want to speak up in favor of, not necessarily the bill because I need to review the bill, but the legislation's purpose and the intent of the authors to approach this issue of human trafficking because it is so critically important. I am glad that we are working on a bipartisan basis to do that.

I am going to demand the yeas and nays in a minute because of other issues involving the floor I am not going to get into right now, about time to review bills and other things we are discussing with the majority, and that is why we are making decisions on the floor to force votes.

But on the substance, human trafficking is absolutely devastating. It is devastating to the people of Texas, it is devastating to the people of the district I represent, it is devastating to young children, people whom I have met when I have gone to various centers in Texas where they are dealing with these, mainly children, but also adults in trafficking.

Also trafficking goes well beyond, obviously, the sex trafficking trade and goes to the slave labor that exists in the United States of America today and that is absolutely unconscionable.

I appreciate the bipartisan work on this topic. I am certainly delighted to work with both Members on it. I just didn't want the fact that I am going to demand the yeas and nays to be an indication of not supporting the purpose of this bill. There are other factors that are in play involving the floor and spending and other stuff. I appreciate it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas for his very fine statement, and I look forward to a recorded vote.

I also want to say very clearly that we have a very, very broad bipartisan group of stakeholders who are for this, including, as I mentioned a moment ago, Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, the Douglass Leadership Institute, Frederick Douglass Foundation,

along with 300 anti-trafficking and human trafficking organizations, over 500 advocates and survivors, and they have worked tirelessly with us over the last 18 months, with both KAREN BASS and me in crafting this legislation. We even had more. Some of them did drop out, but we will come back some day in the future to get some of that. But it is a good solid bill.

Survivor leaders like Bella Hanoukey and Robert Lung provided valuable insights and expertise for this bill. As I said, Kenneth Morris was outstanding in the work that he provided for us.

As a matter of fact, as the special representative for human trafficking for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, a couple of years ago, I brought him into one of our big parliamentary assembly meetings, and there were at least 100-plus lawmakers from the European space that heard him speak about the importance of prevention. If young people know what is out there and what is waiting—particularly run-aways—they will be forewarned and forewarned and, hopefully, can mitigate the possibility of being trafficked themselves. He hit it out of the park, and he has been a great friend on this.

We also have 3Strands Global Foundation; the Safe House Project; America First Policy Institute; End Child Prostitution and Trafficking USA; ECPAT, with whom we work very closely; the American Hotel and Lodging Association; the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, that is known as ATEST. They have a great group and consortium of groups.

We have the International Justice Mission, IJM; World Vision; United States Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking; Shared Hope International; Hope for Justice; National Child Protection Task Force; Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, also known as RAINN; the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, who also worked with us closely on it; the National Center on Sexual Exploitation; and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

They all provided valuable insights, as I mentioned a moment ago.

I want to thank Mark Iozzi and Jamie Jackson from the majority leader's office for working closely with Chairwoman BASS and me and who helped bring this to the floor today; Chris Bien and Will Dunham from the minority leader's office; Janice Kaguyutan—I want to thank her for her help as she has done before on trafficking and legislation; and Doug Anderson.

I want to thank Mary Vigil who is sitting right behind me. For the last 18 months she has been meeting with all the groups working and drafting this legislation. She has done an amazing job. I want to thank her for her leadership. She used to work at USAID. She has got a heart for vulnerable people, and I can't thank her enough for that.

I thank Piero Tozzi, our chief counsel for the Lantos Commission on the Re-

publican side and Mary Noonan, my Chief of Staff, Tomekah Burl and Meghann Galloway, KAREN BASS' staff who were also outstanding.

It was a full court press and a great deal of collaboration. I thank them and my distinguished staff and all the Members who got together behind this.

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

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6552, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Protection and Reauthorization Act, as amended, should be supported by every Member participating in today's vote. This overdue reauthorization strengthens laws that not only support those who have already fallen victim but also prevents the future risk of trafficking both at home here in the U.S. and abroad.

We must supply housing for victims so that they can have a safe place to go when they leave their abusers. We also must ensure that child welfare and foster children are prioritized, particularly young women, girls, and those in the LGBTQ community are protected and aided with resources. Without housing these children often have no choice but to return to their pimps, their traffickers.

Our departments must have the funding they need so they can offer the best training and personnel to respond to this crisis. It is our duty as public servants to protect the vulnerable and stop this heinous crime when and where it is discovered. Human trafficking is a heinous violation of human rights, and we must do everything in our power to combat it, and that includes passing this bill.

Again, I thank the staff who have worked very hard on this. I especially thank the ranking member, as we have worked together for 12 years. As my time in Congress draws to a close, I am very happy that this is one of the last pieces of legislation that we can move forward on together.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6552, the "Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022."

H.R. 6552 is a bipartisan initiative to bolster programs and provide critical funding to combat human trafficking.

I would like to thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH, for authoring today's legislation, and Congresswoman KAREN BASS, for co-leading this initiative to take important steps in preventing trafficking and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

This bill will effectively reauthorize the historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 6552 will provide more than \$1 billion over five years to support education, restorative care, and other programs that protect victims of human trafficking.

This includes strengthening the Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Edu-

cation Grants created in the Frederick Douglass Act of 2018.

Frederick Douglass Prevention Education grants work to prevent online grooming and trafficking of children through trauma-informed approaches and programs.

H.R. 6552 will also authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program to prevent the re-exploitation of eligible individuals who have been victims of trafficking.

The program will provide job-related skills training, life-skill training programs, assistance with enrollment in college or technical school, and other programs and services to help individuals achieve self-sufficiency.

H.R. 6552 commits to fighting human trafficking both domestically and internationally.

Today's bill will also reauthorize "International Megan's Law" to track convicted sex offenders living abroad and returning to the U.S. after living in foreign countries. It goes further by adding accountability for U.S. Federal and foreign governments, hotels, and airlines with anti-trafficking training and codes of conduct.

My record in Congress reflects my long-standing, deep commitment to fighting human trafficking.

While drafting the major update of the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), I added human trafficking provisions that address more resources and tools to aid local law enforcement and advocacy groups to assist victims and seek justice for them.

I also introduced H.R. 128, the RAISE Act, which directs the Attorney General to create a pilot youth diversion program for youth that have been the victims of abuse, sex or drug trafficking, or other violent conduct, and for whom the criminal conduct is due in whole or in part to that victimization.

Texas has the second-highest number of reported cases of human trafficking in the nation. In 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reported a total of 987 human trafficking cases in Texas.

This statistic is only a fraction of the actual number of cases since human trafficking is difficult to detect and measure. Researchers from the University of Texas have found that more than 300,000 people are victims of some sort of human trafficking each year in Texas.

The Department of Justice declared Houston as one of the largest hubs in the nation for human trafficking.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and a global problem.

Today's legislation provides the necessary additional support to victims of human trafficking. It goes further by enforcing preventative measures to help ensure victims are not trafficked again.

H.R. 6552 programs are dedicated to education and offer innovative practices to help survivors navigate the pathway to self-sufficiency and recovery.

Too often women and girls who are victims of trafficking are arrested for crimes associated with their victimization, but they are treated as criminals and not victims in need of services.

I find these practices to be heinous, disgusting, and unconscionable.

A victim who has just been forced into the most vile, vicious, and vulnerable reality of being trafficked must not be treated as a criminal, just like the person who trafficked her.

It is almost inconceivable that this continues to occur in modern-day America. Yet, it is the actual reality for millions of trafficked women.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6552.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6552, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6845) to provide for transparent licensing of commercial remote sensing systems, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6845

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60121(c) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “120” and inserting “60”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60126(a)(1)(E) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “120” and inserting “60”.

(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—Section 60126(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 60122; and” and inserting “paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 60122(b);”.

(c) CONDITIONS.—Section 60126(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) all terms, conditions, or restrictions placed on licensees pursuant to section 60122; and”.

(d) TIERS.—Section 60126(a)(1) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) a list of all applications submitted and licenses granted in accordance therewith, listed by tier as defined in regulation, as well as the rationale for each tier categorization;”.

(e) SUNSET.—Section 60126 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2020” and inserting “September 30, 2030”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6845, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 6845, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2022. I thank Science Committee Ranking Member LUCAS for introducing this bipartisan bill, and Representative ED PERLMUTTER, a member of our Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics that I chair, for being an original co-sponsor.

This bill will provide increased transparency in the licensing of commercial remote sensing systems by requiring the regulatory agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide additional reporting on the licensing of commercial remote sensing systems.

The bill also amends the statute to ensure that the time required for issuing commercial remote sensing licenses aligns with updated regulations.

I am pleased that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology strengthened the bill in its consideration of the legislation. An amendment we sponsored added further annual reporting requirements on the applications for licenses submitted and licenses issued.

The amendment also sustained the sunset clause of annual reporting. The sunset date of 2030 will ensure that we go back, review the law, and stay responsive to changes in this rapidly growing commercial space sector.

Commercial remote sensing is a highly competitive global industry, with \$2.6 billion in revenue for 2020 alone, according to a report of the Satellite Industry Association.

Commercial remote sensing data are used in energy, agriculture, disaster monitoring, mapping, national security applications, and much more. This bill provides Congress with transparency in information that will benefit our oversight of the licensing and regulation of this important and growing industry.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 6845, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6845, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act. I introduced this bipartisan legislation along with my colleague, Representative PERLMUTTER, to update reporting requirements for NOAA’s Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs so that Congress can monitor how

regulations are impacting the growth and improvement of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Remote sensing uses data collected from satellites to produce images of the Earth. It has become a critical resource in fields like agriculture, finance, trade, and energy.

For instance, imagery and data from commercial remote sensing allows us to improve crop production by helping farmers more efficiently apply water and fertilizer. It informs future commodity prices by actively monitoring weather and crop health.

Commercial remote sensing also improves our ability to prepare for and to respond to natural disasters by informing flood plain mapping, tornado tracking, and drought monitoring, topics that are very important to the people of Oklahoma.

It can also be helpful in humanitarian relief efforts and monitoring treaty compliance, among other applications.

As you can see, commercial remote sensing provides us with critical information for many important applications. This technology is constantly evolving, and the industry is seeing tremendous growth.

To effectively support and manage remote sensing activities, it is critical that Congress receives timely and comprehensive reports so we can evaluate the state of the industry and how regulations are affecting its growth.

The Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 established a reporting requirement from the Department of Commerce on the status of commercial remote sensing licensing and regulation. That requirement expired in 2020.

H.R. 6845 will reinstate the reporting requirement and keep Congress informed of agency actions, their impact on licensees, and the state of the commercial remote sensing industry. These reports to Congress will give us the information we need to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in this important field.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6845 is a nonsense, bipartisan bill that will help ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in the commercial remote sensing industry.

I thank my friend, Representative PERLMUTTER, for working with me on this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time to speak at this time, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as may consume.

As I said before, commercial remote sensing provides us with critical information to a number of fields like agriculture, finance, trade, energy, and more. This, in turn, allows us to be better stewards of our resources.

H.R. 6845, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act, will help us