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July 5, 2005

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Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

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Dear Friends,

As the Ranking Democrat on the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I am helping to host a session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) this week in Washington, D.C. I have been a Commissioner on the U.S. Helsinki Commission since 1993, and I consider the work we have done to address many serious human rights violations to be very important.

Most recently, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-NJ, and I sponsored legislation to deal with the growing problem of human trafficking. The U.S. Department of State estimates that annually 800,000 individuals – mostly women and children – are trafficked across borders. In the United States, between 14,500 and 17,500 individuals fall victim to forced labor and sexual exploitation.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, HR 972, would focus governmental efforts, particularly by the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Defense, on developing effective trafficking prevention strategies for post-conflict and humanitarian emergency situations.

Human trafficking robs people of their dignity and self respect and it's a problem that we must find a better way to combat.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



CARDIN CHAIRS INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN VIENNA

Congressman Cardin (center) chairs the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly session in Vienna. The OSCE consists of 55 countries, including the United States, and is committed to promoting democracy, protecting human rights and encouraging the development of free-market economies. The Vienna OSCE meeting focused on ways to fight corruption in OSCE countries and the status of tsunami relief efforts. The Congressman also is the top Democrat on the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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Previous Survey Results

Would you support automatic enrollment into a 401(k) plan unless you specifically opt out as a way to help save for retirement?

Answer	Percent
Yes	66.9%
No	33.01%
Total	100%

New Survey Question

Should Congress create an independent commission to investigate allegations of abuse at U.S. detention facilities?

Yes

No

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