



Legislative Bulletin.....January 26, 2015

Contents:

- H.R. 468 - Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims for Youth Trafficking Act of 2015**
- H.R. 469 - Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015**
- H.R. 246 - To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking**
- H.R. 514 — Human Trafficking Prioritization Act**
- H.R. 515 — International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking**
- H.R. 357 — Human Trafficking Prevention Act**

H.R. 468 - Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims for Youth Trafficking Act of 2015 — (Heck, R- NV)

Order of Business: [H.R. 468](#) is scheduled for consideration on January 26, 2015, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill would amend the [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act](#) to allow for grants to states, localities, and private entities (and combinations of such entities) to carry out research and projects to increase knowledge and improve services for those who have been trafficked. It would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give priority in awarding grants to entities that have staff training in (1) the behavioral and emotional effects of trafficking; (2) responding to youth who are showing effects of trafficking; (3) and agency-wide strategies for working with runaway and homeless youth who have been victims of trafficking. Finally, the Secretary may award grants for sexual abuse prevention programs to nonprofit private agencies for the purpose of providing street-based services to those who have been victims of severe forms of human trafficking or sex trafficking.

In this bill “[severe forms of trafficking in persons](#)” is defined as:

1. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
2. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation was Before the House: In the 113th Congress, [H.R. 5076](#), the Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth

Trafficking Act of 2014, passed the House on July 23, 2014, by voice vote. H.R. 468 mirrors the language passed in the 113th Congress.

Read the RSC legislative bulletin, [here](#).

Additional Background: It is [estimated](#) 30,000 youth become the victims of sex trafficking, drug trafficking or forced into hard labor each year while [300,000](#) are at risk. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimate one out of six runaway youth are likely victims of sex trafficking.

Committee Action: This bill was introduced by Representative Heck on January 22, 2015, and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, where it awaits further action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available at this time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the [sponsor](#), “Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.”

RSC Staff Contact: Rebekah Armstrong, Rebekah.Armstrong@mail.house.gov, 202-226-0678

***H.R. 469 - Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015 —
(Bass, D-CA)***

Order of Business: [H.R. 469](#) is scheduled for consideration on January 26, 2015, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill would amend the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act](#) to require states to include the following provisions in their grant applications for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs:

- Provisions and procedures relating to training representatives on identifying children who may be trafficking victims;

- Identifying and assessing reports involving children who are trafficking victims; and,
- Information on how to identify services for appropriate referral to address the needs of children who are trafficking victims.

This bill would also require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report on the specific type and prevalence of child trafficking a summary of the practices used by states to identify and serve children who are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, and barriers in federal laws that may prevent the identification of children who are victims of trafficking.

In this bill “[severe forms of trafficking in persons](#)” is defined as:

1. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
2. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

This bill would define “sex trafficking” as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation was Before the House: The 113th Congress voted on [H.R. 5081](#), the Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2014, on July 25, 2014, which passed the House by a vote of [399-0](#). H.R. 469 mirrors the bill that passed the House last Congress.

Read the RSC legislative bulletin, [here](#).

Additional Background: According to the [Education and Workforce committee](#), 68 percent of likely sex trafficking victims were at one time in the child welfare system. Unfortunately, researchers at [Loyola University Chicago](#) found child protective service workers were not properly trained in handling cases that involved trafficking, and as a result, many victims slipped through the cracks.

Committee Action: This bill was introduced by Representative Bass on January 22, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where it awaits further action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available at this time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the [sponsor](#), “This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1. Article. I. Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.”

RSC Staff Contact: Rebekah Armstrong, Rebekah.Armstrong@mail.house.gov, 202-226-0678

H.R. 246 - To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking — (Beatty, D-OH)

Order of Business: [H.R. 246](#) is scheduled for consideration on January 26, 2015, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill would amend the [Missing Children's Assistance Act](#).

As a condition of the grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Center is required maintain a cyber tip line to provide online users and Internet service providers an effective means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation. This bill would replace the phrase “child prostitution” with “child sex trafficking, including child prostitution” as an area in which users are to report incidents.

Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation was Before the House: In the 113th Congress, [H.R. 5111](#), To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking, passed the House on July, 24, 2014, by a vote of [409-0](#). H.R. 246 mirrors the bill that passed the House.

Read the RSC legislative bulletin, [here](#).

Additional Background: In 2014, the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) received more than 2.3 million reports of suspected sexual exploitation through the cyber tip line. The Center is then able to assist law enforcement through the analytical services through the Child Sex Trafficking Team.

Committee Action: This bill was introduced by Representative Beatty on January 9, 2015, and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where it awaits further action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available at this time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the [sponsor](#), “Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S Constitution.”

RSC Staff Contact: Rebekah Armstrong, Rebekah.Armstrong@mail.house.gov, 202-226-0678

H.R. 514 – Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (Rep. Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 26, 2015, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: [H.R. 514](#) would express a sense of Congress that the [Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking](#) will be more effective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress in the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#) if the Office status is changed to that of a Bureau within the Department hierarchy. The bill would express a sense of Congress that:

- The change in status from Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to a Bureau can be accomplished without increasing the number of personnel or the budget of the current office;
- A Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking would be more effective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 if the Bureau were headed by an Assistant Secretary with direct access to the Secretary of State, rather than an Ambassador-at-Large; and
- The Secretary of State should review the current use of the 24 Assistant Secretary positions authorized by section 1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 ([22 United States Code 2651a\(c\)\(1\)](#)) and make appropriate revisions, consolidations, and eliminations to ensure that those positions reflect the highest Departmental needs and foreign policy priorities of the United States, including efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

Section 4 of H.R. 514 would amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to change the status of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to that of the Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Section 5 of the bill would mandate that the Secretary of State report to Congress detailing for each current Assistant Secretary of State position:

- The title of that Assistant Secretary of State;
- How long that particular Assistant Secretary designation has been in existence; and
- Whether that particular Assistant Secretary designation was legislatively mandated or authorized and, if so, the relevant statutory citation for such mandate or authorization; and whether the Secretary intends to designate one of the Assistant Secretary of State positions as the Assistant Secretary of State to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking produces an [annual report](#) categorizing countries based on their efforts to comply with certain standards and reduce trafficking. Countries that do not comply are placed on a watch list. Section 6 of the bill would amend of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by mandating that countries that have been downgraded and subsequently returned to the watch list would have only one year (rather than the four years under current law) to show sustained improvement, before being once again subject to penalties. Section 7 stipulates that no additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for Diplomatic and Consular Programs to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Additional Information: According to the findings of H.R. 514, the [International Labor Organization](#) estimates that nearly 21,000,000 people are subjected to modern slavery around the world at any given time and that the majority of the enslaved are women and girls. In response, Congress authorized the creation of a Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 ([division A of Public Law 106–386](#)) in order to directly assist the Secretary of State in his or her effort to coordinate a United States Government interagency response to domestic and international human trafficking. The [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#) monitors trafficking worldwide and produces the online and printed versions of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

An identical bill ([H.R. 2283](#)) was introduced in the 113th Congress on June 6, 2014, and passed by the House by voice vote on July 23, 2014. The RSC's legislative bulletin for H.R. 2283 can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on January 22, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available. The CBO estimate for H.R. 2283 can be found [here](#).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO estimate is available.

Constitutional Authority: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18, as this bill better equips the Executive Branch to properly carry out the powers vested in it by the Constitution, as well as ensures that Congress is accurately informed of a foreign nations' trafficking record and tier ranking when Congress considers regulation of commerce with foreign nations.

RSC Staff Contact: Nicholas Rodman, nicholas.rodman@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

**H.R. 515 – International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking
(Rep. Smith, R-NJ)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 26, 2015, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: [H.R. 515](#) would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the Angel Watch Center within the Child Exploitation Investigations Unit of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) which shall:

- Receive information on travel by child sex offenders;
- Establish a system to maintain and archive all relevant information, including decisions not to transmit notification abroad and responses of destination countries to notifications;
- Establish an annual review process to ensure that the center is consistent in procedures regarding providing notification to destination countries; and

The United States Marshals Service’s National Sex Offender Targeting Office is required to make available to the center, information on travel by child-sex offenders in a timely manner. The bill would authorize the center notify a destination country of impending or current international travel of a child-sex offender to that country, and would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make reasonable efforts to provide constructive notice through electronic or telephonic communication to the child-sex offender prior to the child-sex offender’s arrival in the country or countries.

The Angel Watch Center is directed to seek to engage in ongoing consultations with:

- Nongovernmental organizations that have experience in identifying and preventing child sex tourism and rescuing and rehabilitating minor victims of international sexual exploitation and trafficking;

- The governments of countries interested in cooperating in the creation of an international sex offender travel notification system or that are primary destination or source countries for international sex tourism, and
- Internet service and software providers regarding technology to facilitate the implementation of an international sex offender travel notification system in the United States and in other countries.

The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State may provide technical assistance to foreign authorities in order to enable such authorities to participate more effectively in the notification program system established by the bill.

H.R. 515 would express a sense of Congress that the president should: (1) negotiate memoranda of understanding or other bilateral agreements with foreign governments to further the purposes of the bill; and (2) formally request foreign governments to notify the United States when a United States citizen has been arrested, convicted, sentenced, or completed a prison sentence for a child-sex offense in the foreign country.

The bill would also encourage the president to use authorities under the [Foreign Assistance Act of 1961](#) to provide assistance to foreign countries directly, or through nongovernmental and multilateral organizations, for programs, projects, and activities designed to establish systems to identify sex offenders and provide and receive notification of child sex offender international travel.

Additional Information: According to the findings of the bill, the commercial sexual exploitation of minors in child sex trafficking and pornography is a global phenomenon. The [International Labour Organization](#) has estimated that 1.8 million children worldwide are victims of child sex trafficking and pornography each year. According to research conducted by [The Protection Project](#) of The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, sex tourists from the United States who target children form a significant percentage of child sex tourists in some of the most significant destination countries for child sex tourism.

An identical bill ([H.R. 4573](#)) was introduced on May 6, 2014 in the 113th Congress, and passed in the House by voice vote on May 20, 2014. The RSC's legislative bulletin for H.R. 4573 can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on January 22, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and to the House Judiciary Committee.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO estimate is available.

Constitutional Authority: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, as sex offenders are traveling in foreign commerce.

RSC Staff Contact: Nicholas Rodman, nicholas.rodman@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.R. 357 – Human Trafficking Prevention Act (Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-NY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 26, 2015, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: [H.R. 357](#) would amend the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#) to require training for Federal Government personnel on methods of identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking to include:

- A distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State's obligations mandated by the legislation, targeted for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;
- Specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before they depart for their posts; and
- At least annual reminders to all such personnel, including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located, and appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.

Additional Information: The Department of State does have an additional mandate to combat human trafficking. The Department's [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#), established by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, is tasked with leading the United States' global effort to combat human trafficking by partnering with foreign governments and civil society. The Office is responsible for bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, targeted foreign assistance, and public engagement on trafficking in persons.

An identical bill ([H.R. 4449](#)) was introduced in the House on April 10, 2014 in the 113th Congress, and was passed in the House by voice vote on July 23, 2014. The RSC's legislative bulletin for H.R. 4449 can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on January 14, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available. The CBO estimate for H.R. 4449 can be found [here](#).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO estimate is available.

Constitutional Authority: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

RSC Staff Contact: Nicholas Rodman, nicholas.rodman@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*
