

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Protection and Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2017. H.R. 2200 Bill Summary

Most significant Congressional legislation comes with a sunset date to encourage the Congress to review and amend the law to update it to current circumstances. The central Federal law to combat human trafficking is the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. It has been amended and reauthorized four times since it was initially signed into law. It is due for reauthorization this year.

Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and the lead Democratic sponsor, Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA) have introduced a comprehensive reauthorization of the TVPA entitled the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Protection and Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2017. Congressman Smith sponsored the first TVPA in 2000. It is named after Frederick Douglass in recognition of this present-day effort to abolish a modern form of slavery. This iteration of the law seeks to put a greater emphasis on the prevention of trafficking, which ECPAT-USA views as the emerging front in our efforts.

Provisions:

- All US diplomatic and consular posts will have a designated employee authorized to receive information regarding human trafficking which will then be relayed as appropriate to the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice and or the Department of Homeland Security.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services is to provide reintegration services for victims of trafficking, focused primarily on job training services.
- US air carriers will be required to undertake human trafficking education programs to assist their employees in identifying potential trafficking victims.
- US government contractors and US government procurements will be reviewed to ensure that no resources incidentally support human trafficking.
- A Department of Justice Labor Prosecutor will be identified to assist local governments with human trafficking for labor purposes.

- Provides censure for diplomats or their families members who have outstanding judgments for human trafficking and who refuse to waive diplomatic immunity or cooperate with US law enforcement.
- Requires the Secretary of Labor to provide a report on the Tariff Act of 1930 -- prohibiting child made or slave made goods from entering US markets.
- Requires an additional report by the Secretary of State concerning innovations in US government approaches to combating human trafficking.
- Penalizes governments who utilize child soldiers by restricting US military assistance.
- Extends the authorization of the existing law and appropriations to 2021.

Here is a link to the bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2200>

Write to Your Member of Congress to Support This Law. Here is a Sample Letter:

RE: H.R. 2200, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017

Dear *Your Member's Name*:

As your constituent, I am extremely concerned that modern day slavery continues to persist. No civilized country should tolerate it, so the U.S. should continue to combat it using every possible means.

I strongly urge you to support H.R. 2200, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017. This legislation, introduced by Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey and Congresswoman Karen Bass of California, reauthorizes and builds upon the United States' groundbreaking legislation, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. Congressman Smith also championed that bill through the House of Representatives, where it garnered bipartisan support, and ultimately the signature of President Bill Clinton. Congresswoman Bass, as the lead Democratic Cosponsor, has been an important voice for children's welfare in the Congress and spearheads the Foster Youth Caucus in the House of Representatives.

The bill provides a new focus on prevention, which is the next frontier to bring an end to this form of human slavery. It provides training and education efforts so that employees of the travel and hospitality industries can better recognize children and adults who may be trafficked. It also

provides a program for reintegration programs for the victims of trafficking. Furthermore, it expands existing legislative requirements that U.S. Government procurement does not in any way further human trafficking.

I believe this legislation is a necessary next step in the global effort to combat all forms of modern human slavery, and I encourage you to sponsor and vote for this law.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Address