

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5664

To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2020

Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human 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 “Leveraging Informa-
5 tion on Foreign Traffickers Act” or the “LIFT Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the annual Trafficking In Persons Report
9 prepared by the Department of State pursuant to
10 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (the
11 “TIP Report”) remains one of the most comprehen-
12 sive, timely, and important sources of information on
13 human trafficking in the world, and currently in-
14 cludes 187 individual country narratives;

15 (2) in January 2019, the statute mandating the
16 TIP Report was amended to require that each report
17 must cover efforts and activities occurring within the
18 period from April 1 of the prior year through March
19 31 of the current year, which necessarily requires
20 the collection and transmission of information after
21 March 31;

22 (3) ensuring that the Department of State has
23 adequate time to receive, analyze, and incorporate
24 trafficking-related information into its annual Traf-

1 ficking In Persons Report is important to the quality
2 and comprehensiveness of that report;

3 (4) information regarding prevalence and pat-
4 terns of human trafficking is important for under-
5 standing the scourge of modern slavery and making
6 effective decisions about where and how to combat
7 it; and

8 (5) United States officials responsible for moni-
9 toring and combating trafficking in persons around
10 the world should receive available information re-
11 garding where and how often United States diplo-
12 matic and consular officials encounter persons who
13 are responsible for, or who knowingly benefit from,
14 severe forms of trafficking in persons.

15 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL DEADLINE FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**
16 **REPORT.**

17 Section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
18 tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) is amended by
19 striking “June 1” and inserting “June 30”.

20 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HUMAN**
21 **TRAFFICKING.**

22 Section 115(h) of the Justice for Victims of Traf-
23 ficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 243)
24 is amended by striking “September 30, 2021” and insert-
25 ing “September 30, 2025”.

1 **SEC. 5. TIMELY PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE OF-**
2 **FICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAF-**
3 **FICKING IN PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT**
4 **OF STATE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Trafficking
6 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(1) INFORMATION REGARDING HUMAN TRAF-
10 FICKING-RELATED VISA DENIALS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State
12 shall ensure that the Office to Monitor and Combat
13 Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplo-
14 matic Security of the Department of State receive
15 timely and regular information regarding United
16 States visa denials based, in whole or in part, on
17 grounds related to human trafficking.

18 “(2) DECISIONS REGARDING ALLOCATION.—
19 The Secretary of State shall ensure that decisions
20 regarding the allocation of resources of the Depart-
21 ment of State related to combating human traf-
22 ficking and to law enforcement presence at United
23 States diplomatic and consular posts appropriately
24 take into account—

25 “(A) the information described in para-
26 graph (1); and

1 “(B) the information included in the most
2 recent report submitted in accordance with sec-
3 tion 110(b).”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of the
5 Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
6 7102) is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraphs:

8 “(18) GROUNDS RELATED TO HUMAN TRAF-
9 FICKING.—The term ‘grounds related to human traf-
10 ficking’ means grounds related to the criteria for in-
11 admissibility to the United States described in sub-
12 section (a)(2)(H) of section 212 of the Immigration
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182).”.

14 **SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

15 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
17 State shall provide to the relevant congressional commit-
18 tees a report that—

19 (1) describes the actions that have been taken
20 and that are planned to implement subsection (l) of
21 section 106 of the Trafficking Victims Protection
22 Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104), as added by section
23 5 of this Act; and

24 (2) identifies by country and by United States
25 diplomatic and consular post the number of visa ap-

1 plications denied during the previous calendar year
2 with respect to which the basis for such denial, in-
3 cluded grounds related to human trafficking (as
4 such term is defined in section 103 of the Traf-
5 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
6 7102) (as amended by section 5(b))).

7 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning with the first an-
8 nual anti-trafficking report required under subsection
9 (b)(1) of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection
10 Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107; enacted as division A of
11 the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of
12 2000) that is submitted after the date of the enactment
13 of this Act and concurrent with each such subsequent sub-
14 mission for the following seven years, the Secretary of
15 State shall submit to the relevant congressional commit-
16 tees a report that contains information relating to the
17 number and the locations of United States visa denials
18 based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human
19 trafficking (as such term is defined in section 103 of the
20 Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
21 7102) (as amended by section 5(b))) during the period
22 covered by each such annual anti-trafficking report.

23 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) LOCATIONS OF UNITED STATES VISA DENI-
2 ALS.—The term “location of United States visa de-
3 nials” means—

4 (A) the United States diplomatic or con-
5 sular post at which a denied United States visa
6 application was adjudicated; and

7 (B) the city or locality of residence of the
8 applicant whose visa application was so denied.

9 (2) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
10 TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-
11 tees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
13 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
14 Representatives; and

15 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
16 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
17 ate.

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