

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2991

AN ACT

To establish a Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Countering Human
3 Trafficking Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) the victim-centered approach must become
7 universally understood, adopted, and practiced;

8 (2) criminal justice efforts must increase the
9 focus on, and adeptness at, investigating and pros-
10 ecuting forced labor cases;

11 (3) corporations must eradicate forced labor
12 from their supply chains;

13 (4) the Department of Homeland Security must
14 lead by example—

15 (A) by ensuring that its government supply
16 chain of contracts and procurement are not
17 tainted by forced labor; and

18 (B) by leveraging all of its authorities
19 against the importation of goods produced with
20 forced labor; and

21 (5) human trafficking training, awareness, iden-
22 tification, and screening efforts—

23 (A) are a necessary first step for preven-
24 tion, protection, and enforcement; and

25 (B) should be evidence-based to be most
26 effective.

1 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER**
2 **FOR COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
5 Security shall operate, within U.S. Immigration and
6 Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Inves-
7 tigation, the Center for Countering Human Traf-
8 ficking (referred to in this Act as “CCHT”).

9 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of CCHT shall be
10 to serve at the forefront of the Department of
11 Homeland Security’s unified global efforts to
12 counter human trafficking through law enforcement
13 operations and victim protection, prevention, and
14 awareness programs.

15 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—Homeland Security In-
16 vestigation shall—

17 (A) maintain a concept of operations that
18 identifies CCHT participants, funding, core
19 functions, and personnel; and

20 (B) update such concept of operations, as
21 needed, to accommodate its mission and the
22 threats to such mission.

23 (4) PERSONNEL.—

24 (A) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Home-
25 land Security shall appoint a CCHT Director,
26 who shall—

1 (i) be a member of the Senior Execu-
2 tive Service; and

3 (ii) serve as the Department of Home-
4 land Security's representative on human
5 trafficking.

6 (B) MINIMUM CORE PERSONNEL REQUIRE-
7 MENTS.—Subject to appropriations, the Sec-
8 retary of Homeland Security shall ensure that
9 CCHT is staffed with at least 45 employees in
10 order to maintain continuity of effort, subject
11 matter expertise, and necessary support to the
12 Department of Homeland Security, including—

13 (i) employees who are responsible for
14 the Continued Presence Program and
15 other victim protection duties;

16 (ii) employees who are responsible for
17 training, including curriculum develop-
18 ment, and public awareness and education;

19 (iii) employees who are responsible for
20 stakeholder engagement, Federal inter-
21 agency coordination, multilateral partner-
22 ships, and policy;

23 (iv) employees who are responsible for
24 public relations, human resources, evalua-

tion, data analysis and reporting, and information technology;

(v) special agents and criminal analysts necessary to accomplish its mission of combating human trafficking and the importation of goods produced with forced labor; and

(vi) managers.

(b) OPERATIONS UNIT.—The CCHT Director shall operate, within CCHT, an Operations Unit, which shall, at a minimum—

(1) support criminal investigations of human trafficking (including sex trafficking and forced labor)—

(A) by developing, tracking, and coordinating leads; and

(B) by providing subject matter expertise;

(2) augment the enforcement of the prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labor through civil and criminal authorities;

(3) coordinate a Department-wide effort to conduct procurement audits and enforcement actions, including suspension and debarment, in order to mitigate the risk of human trafficking throughout Department acquisitions and contracts; and

1 (4) support all CCHT enforcement efforts with
2 intelligence by conducting lead development, lead
3 validation, case support, strategic analysis, and data
4 analytics.

5 (c) PROTECTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS
6 UNIT.—The CCHT Director shall operate, within CCHT,
7 a Protection and Awareness Programs Unit, which shall—

8 (1) incorporate a victim-centered approach
9 throughout Department of Homeland Security poli-
10 cies, training, and practices;

11 (2) operate a comprehensive Continued Pres-
12 ence program;

13 (3) conduct, review, and assist with Department
14 of Homeland Security human trafficking training,
15 screening, and identification tools and efforts;

16 (4) operate the Blue Campaign’s nationwide
17 public awareness effort and any other awareness ef-
18 forts needed to encourage victim identification and
19 reporting to law enforcement and to prevent human
20 trafficking; and

21 (5) coordinate external engagement, including
22 training and events, regarding human trafficking
23 with critical partners, including survivors, non-
24 governmental organizations, corporations, multilat-

1 eral entities, law enforcement agencies, and other in-
 2 terested parties.

3 **SEC. 4. SPECIALIZED INITIATIVES.**

4 (a) HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION MOD-
 5 ERNIZATION INITIATIVE.—The CCHT Director, in con-
 6 junction with the Science and Technology Directorate Of-
 7 fice of Science and Engineering, shall develop a strategy
 8 and proposal to modify systems and processes throughout
 9 the Department of Homeland Security that are related to
 10 CCHT's mission in order to—

11 (1) decrease the response time to access victim
 12 protections;

13 (2) accelerate lead development;

14 (3) advance the identification of human traf-
 15 ficking characteristics and trends;

16 (4) fortify the security and protection of sen-
 17 sitive information;

18 (5) apply analytics to automate manual proc-
 19 esses; and

20 (6) provide artificial intelligence and machine
 21 learning to increase system capabilities and enhance
 22 data availability, reliability, comparability, and
 23 verifiability.

24 (b) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Upon the completion of
 25 the strategy and proposal under subsection (a), the Sec-

1 retary of Homeland Security shall submit a summary of
 2 the strategy and plan for executing the strategy to—

3 (1) the Committee on Homeland Security and
 4 Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

5 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security of the
 6 House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

8 (a) INFORMATION SHARING TO FACILITATE RE-
 9 PORTS AND ANALYSIS.—Each subagency of the Depart-
 10 ment of Homeland Security shall share with CCHT—

11 (1) any information needed by CCHT to de-
 12 velop the strategy and proposal required under sec-
 13 tion 4(a); and

14 (2) any additional data analysis to help CCHT
 15 better understand the issues surrounding human
 16 trafficking.

17 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
 18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the CCHT
 19 Director shall submit a report to Congress that identifies
 20 any legislation that is needed to facilitate the Department
 21 of Homeland Security’s mission to end human trafficking.

22 (c) ANNUAL REPORT ON POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAF-
 23 FICKING VICTIMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 24 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the

1 Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to
2 Congress that includes—

3 (1) the numbers of screened and identified po-
4 tential victims of trafficking (as defined in section
5 103(17) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
6 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(17))) at or near the inter-
7 national border between the United States and Mex-
8 ico, including a summary of the age ranges of such
9 victims and their countries of origin; and

10 (2) an update on the Department of Homeland
11 Security’s efforts to establish protocols and methods
12 for personnel to report human trafficking, pursuant
13 to the Department of Homeland Security Strategy
14 to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of
15 Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sex-
16 ual Exploitation, published in January 2020.

17 **SEC. 6. TRANSFER OF OTHER FUNCTIONS RELATED TO**
18 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

19 (a) BLUE CAMPAIGN.—The functions and resources
20 of the Blue Campaign located within the Office of Part-
21 nership and Engagement on the day before the date of
22 the enactment of this Act are hereby transferred to
23 CCHT.

24 (b) OTHER TRANSFER.—

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Homeland Security may transfer the func-
4 tions and resources of any component, directorate,
5 or other office of the Department of Homeland Se-
6 curity related to combating human trafficking to the
7 CCHT.

8 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days be-
9 fore executing any transfer authorized under para-
10 graph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
11 notify the Committee on Homeland Security and
12 Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
13 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives of such planned transfer.

15 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-
17 propriated, there is authorized to be appropriated to the
18 Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out this Act
19 \$14,000,000, which shall remain available until expended.

Passed the Senate April 6, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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