

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7566

AN ACT

To amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, 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 “No Trafficking Zones
3 Act” or the “NTZ Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Child sex trafficking can have devastating
7 immediate and long-term consequences, including
8 health impacts, psychological and physical trauma,
9 and even death.

10 (2) While any child can be targeted by a traf-
11 ficker, research, data, survivors’ lived experiences,
12 and expertise have revealed that traffickers often
13 target vulnerable youth who lack strong support net-
14 works, supervision, care, or basic necessities, have
15 low self-esteem, have experienced violence in the
16 past, are experiencing homelessness, are experi-
17 encing academic difficulties, or are marginalized by
18 society, and lure them into forced labor and pros-
19 titution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Traf-
20 fickers are masters of manipulation and prey upon
21 vulnerabilities using psychological pressure, intimi-
22 dation, and drugs to control and sexually exploit the
23 child for their benefit.

24 (3) The National Center for Missing and Ex-
25 ploited Children (NCMEC) has received reports of
26 child sex trafficking in all 50 States, the District of

1 Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These reports include
2 incidents occurring in every type of community, in-
3 cluding suburban, rural, urban, and Tribal lands. In
4 2021, NCMEC received more than 17,200 reports of
5 possible child sex trafficking.

6 (4) Of 22,326 trafficking victims and survivors
7 identified through contacts with the National
8 Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019, at least 5,359
9 were under age 18.

10 (5) Many underage victims of sex trafficking
11 are students in the United States school system. No
12 community, school, socioeconomic group, or student
13 demographic is immune.

14 (6) While the internet and social media make
15 up the majority of first encounters, traffickers regu-
16 larly find young people in shopping malls, through
17 friends, at bus stops, and at schools. Specifically,
18 traffickers systematically target vulnerable children
19 and youth by frequenting locations where young peo-
20 ple congregate, including schools. They also use
21 peers or classmates, who befriend the target and
22 slowly groom them for the trafficker by bringing the
23 young person along to parties and other activities.

24 (7) A 2018 survey reported that 55 percent of
25 young sex trafficking survivors in Texas were traf-

1 ficked while at school or school activities and 60 per-
2 cent of trafficked adults say they were first groomed
3 and solicited for trafficking on school campuses.

4 (8) Schools can and should be safe havens for
5 students. Schools are best positioned to identify and
6 report suspected trafficking and connect affected
7 students to critical services. Students are more likely
8 to report instances of sex trafficking, attempted sex
9 trafficking, or grooming for the purposes of sex traf-
10 ficking where they feel most safe from harm and
11 threats.

12 **SEC. 3. INCREASED PUNISHMENT FOR HUMAN TRAF-**
13 **FICKING IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

14 Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is
15 amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
17 section (f); and

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(e)(1) Whoever violates subsection (a) in a school
21 zone, or on, or within 1,000 feet of, a premises on which
22 a school-sponsored activity is taking place, or on, or within
23 1,000 feet of a premises owned by an institution of higher
24 education, shall, in addition to the punishment otherwise

1 provided under this section, be imprisoned for not more
2 than 5 years.

3 “(2) In this subsection:

4 “(A) The term ‘school zone’ has the meaning
5 given such term in section 921.

6 “(B) The term ‘school-sponsored activity’
7 means any activity that is produced, financed, ar-
8 ranged, supervised, or coordinated by a school or a
9 State educational agency or local educational agency
10 or is under the jurisdiction of a State educational
11 agency or local educational agency.

12 “(C) The terms ‘State educational agency’ and
13 ‘local educational agency’ have the meanings given
14 those terms under section 8101 of the Elementary
15 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

16 “(D) The term ‘institution of higher education’
17 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of
18 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 1001).”.

20 **SEC. 4. INCREASED PUNISHMENT FOR COERCION AND EN-**
21 **TICEMENT IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

22 Section 2422 of title 18, United States Code, is
23 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “individual
2 who has not attained the age of 18 years” and in-
3 serting “minor”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(c)(1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) know-
6 ing, or having reasonable cause to believe, that the viola-
7 tion is committed against a minor who is enrolled in school
8 and is, at the time of the violation, in a school zone or
9 on, or within 1,000 feet of, a premises on which a school-
10 sponsored activity is taking place, or against a person who
11 is enrolled in an institution of higher education and is,
12 at the time of the violation on or within 1,000 feet of a
13 premises owned by the institution of higher education,
14 shall, in addition to the punishment otherwise provided
15 under this section, be imprisoned for not more than 5
16 years.

17 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in a case in which
18 a minor’s presence on, or within 1,000 feet of, the prem-
19 ises on which a school-sponsored activity is taking place
20 is not related to such school-sponsored activity, or the per-
21 son’s presence on or within 1,000 feet of the premises
22 owned by the institution of higher education is not related
23 to their enrollment at such institution.

24 “(d) In this section:

1 “(1) The term ‘minor’ means an individual who
2 has not attained 18 years of age.

3 “(2) The term ‘school’ means a public, paro-
4 chial, or private school that provides elementary or
5 secondary education.

6 “(3) The term ‘school zone’ has the meaning
7 given such term in section 921.

8 “(4) The term ‘school-sponsored activity’ means
9 any activity that is produced, financed, arranged, su-
10 pervised, or coordinated by a school or a State edu-
11 cational agency or local educational agency or is
12 under the jurisdiction of a State educational agency
13 or local educational agency.

14 “(5) The terms ‘State educational agency’ and
15 ‘local educational agency’ have the meanings given
16 those terms under section 8101 of the Elementary
17 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

18 “(6) The term ‘institution of higher education’
19 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of

1 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 1001).”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 19,
2022.

Attest:

Clerk.

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