

H.R. 443, Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act

Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) & Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-Northern Mariana Islands)



BACKGROUND

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that exists not only in foreign countries but in every state in the United States. This atrocious crime **involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to force victims into labor or commercial sexual exploitation.**

- The International Labor Organization estimated there were **27.6 million victims** of forced labor across the globe on any given day in 2022.
- In 2021, **10,360 trafficking cases** in the U.S. were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- According to the Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of international crime.
- Roughly **one in six endangered runaways** reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is likely a victim of child sex trafficking.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

More must be done to raise awareness of this unthinkable crime and protect the most vulnerable in our society. One step we can take is ensuring federal employees that are more likely to intercept cases of human trafficking have the knowledge to identify these crimes and the tools they need to respond. Department of Labor (DOL) employees are often on the frontlines of human trafficking as they investigate employment violations. However, many aren't prepared to identify trafficking of men, women, and children. Congress must take action to ensure DOL employees are educated to recognize patterns of human trafficking and refer cases to law enforcement.

THE SOLUTION

To help combat human trafficking and protect vulnerable adults and children, **Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)** and **Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-Northern Mariana Islands)** introduced the *Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act (H.R. 443)*. This bipartisan legislation would:

- Raise awareness of human trafficking by directing the Secretary of Labor to establish effective and timely curricula to educate DOL enforcement personnel on the issue.
- Ensure DOL personnel have the tools they need to detect cases of forced labor or sexual exploitation as they investigate employment law violations.
- Establish a clear framework for DOL employees to assist law enforcement in prosecution and prevention efforts.
- Require DOL to provide an annual report to Congress on its efforts to combat human trafficking, which will help guide the Committee's future oversight efforts.

