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**Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization  
Act of 2017—HR 2200**

*Excerpts of Remarks by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)  
Prime Sponsor HR 2200, during Floor debate of HR 2200  
July 12, 2017*

Mr. Speaker, ever since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TPVA) became law in 2000, combatting human trafficking has been a major priority in the United States—and globally.

Over the last 17 years, police and civil society organizations, many of them faith-based, have identified and rescued more than 250,000 trafficking victims worldwide, and national governments have written or updated more than 300 laws to fight trafficking.

In the United States, we have trained nearly 100,000 members of law enforcement to identify and rescue victims. Prosecution of traffickers in the U.S. has increased more than 500%—but our task is far from accomplished.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), nearly 21 million people in the world are enslaved—most of them women and children. That's unconscionable.

Every human life is of infinite value. We have a duty to protect the weakest and most vulnerable from harm.

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017—HR 2200— is comprehensive, bipartisan legislation designed to strengthen, expand, and create new initiatives to protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and prevent this cruelty and exploitation from happening in the first place.

- Title I focuses on combatting trafficking in the United States
- Title II focuses on the world
- Title III authorizes appropriations of more than half a billion dollars over 4 years including reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TPVA) of 2000, the TPVA of 2003, the TPVA of 2005, and International Megan’s Law—all laws I previously authored.

The legislation is named in honor of the incomparable Frederick Douglass on the eve of his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Born a slave in 1818, he escaped when he was 20 and heroically dedicated his entire life to abolishing slavery and, after emancipation, to ending Jim Crow laws in order to achieve full equality for African American citizens. A gifted orator, author, editor, statesman, and Republican, he died in 1895.

I want to especially thank Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McCarthy, Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers, and the leadership of the 8 full committees to which it was referred—including the distinguished Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee Ed Royce and Ranking Member Elliot Engel.

A special thanks to Congresswoman Karen Bass, the lead Democrat on the bill for her exceptional leadership and collaboration.

Among its numerous provisions, and of special interest to the Frederick Douglass Family Initiative, HR 2200 authorizes Health and Human Services (HHS) grant money to “establish, expand and support programs” to provide age appropriate information to students to avoid becoming victims of sex and labor trafficking as well as educate school staff to recognize and respond to signs of trafficking.

HR 2200 adopts best practices, such as encouraging hotels to put policies and training in place so that the hotels are less likely to be used by human traffickers to exploit children. Many U.S. and international hotel chains, such as Carlson, Accor Hotels, and Hilton Worldwide, have already taken decisive steps to ensure that their hotels are safe for all.

To the extent practicable, the U.S. Government will direct U.S. Government travelers to use hotels that have taken affirmative steps to end trafficking within their walls.

One provision “requires that all domestic air carriers who contract with the General Services Administration report annually on the number of flight attendants trained, the number of notifications of potential trafficking received from staff or passengers, and whether and when such notifications were passed to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.”

The new bill strengthens the credibility of the Trafficking in Persons Report, produced annually by the State Department pursuant to the original TPVA, to hold countries accountable for any lack of progress in the fight against human trafficking.

This report scrutinizes more than 190 countries, and carries with it the credible threat of serious sanction for egregious violators branded Tier 3.

This year's report – the first of the new Trump Administration – saw improvement by finally holding China accountable as a Tier 3 violator.

The Frederick Douglass Act will further ensure that countries complicit in trafficking are held accountable by:

- Limiting the amount of time a country can stay on the warning, Tier 2 Watch List, inspiring countries to take action against trafficking today, not in four years when their warnings are up.
- Removing from current law the presumption that countries failing to quantify convictions and identify victims somehow deserve passing grades.
- Ensuring that countries still using child soldiers, such as Afghanistan, where boys are on the front lines fighting the Taliban by day and being used as sex slaves at night, stop this obscene practice before being allowed to partner with the U.S. military—something Green Beret Sergeant First Class Charles Martland tried to do at great personal cost.
- Keeping goods made by child trafficking victims out of the United States by ensuring that the Department of Labor report accurately on slave-made goods.
- Helping businesses avoid using suppliers involved with trafficking by clarifying what products incorporate slave-made goods. That same report will help inform our Customs officers of what products to keep out of U.S. ports of entry, depriving traffickers of profits.

**\$180 million** over four years to the Department of State for their work to:

- Support the training of U.S. and foreign law enforcement officials to better combat human trafficking
- Write the Trafficking in Persons Report
- Engage diplomatically with countries to help them improve their trafficking laws and implementation
- Help countries develop better referral and assistance programs for rescued sex and labor trafficking victims
- Improve coordination of government and civil society efforts abroad to fight child trafficking
- Convene the President's Interagency Task Force and Coordinate the efforts of various USG Agencies to fight human trafficking at home and abroad

**\$94 million** over four years to Department of Health and Human Services to:

- Provide US Citizen and LPR victims with
  - Short and Long-term housing options
  - Substance abuse treatment
  - Mental health counseling
  - Educational opportunities
  - Job training and skills development
  - Legal advocacy
  - Financial advocacy and counseling
- Provide foreign victims found in the U.S.
  - Case management
  - Emergency assistance
  - Housing
  - Employability services
  - Mental health screening and therapy
  - Medical care
  - Legal services

**\$44 million** over four years for the Department of Homeland Security to:

- Investigate and dismantle international trafficking rings
- Investigate U.S. citizens who abuse trafficking victims abroad

**\$161 million** over four years for the Department of Justice to:

- Buttress state and local law enforcement for anti-trafficking programs, including combatting child sex trafficking
- Help U.S., LPR and foreign victims with emergency assistance get back on their feet in the U.S., with the potential to assist in the prosecution of their traffickers
- Prosecute and convict traffickers
- Support FBI investigations into trafficking

**\$20 million** over four years to the Department of Labor to:

- Assist labor trafficking victims

**\$18 million** over three years to DHS and DOJ to fund International Megan's Law.

**\$1 million** over four years to train airport personnel, flight attendants, and pilots to recognize and report to law enforcement potential trafficking victims in transit.