Supporting Transportation Operations that Prevent (STOP) Human Trafficking Act

Sens. Cortez Masto (D-NV), Blackburn (R-TN),
Klobuchar (D-MN), and Cornyn (R-TX)

Summary of the Issue:

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for illegal labor or commercial sex. In the United States, thousands of cases of human trafficking are reported every year, with children and adults being exploited across every state and territory, and in urban, rural and tribal areas. Additionally, Human trafficking is not confined within a city, state or country, as many victims are frequently transported across state lines and borders to different areas of exploitation.

Analysis of over 80,000 individuals subjected to human trafficking from 171 countries indicates that nearly 80% of international human trafficking cases crossed official border entry points, including approximately 34% by bus, 33% by train, 20% by airplanes, 11% by car, and 1% by boat. Unofficial border entry methods included 28% by car, 26% by bus, 15% by train, and 12% by boat.[1]

The transportation sector serves as a critical connector that can both facilitate and prevent human trafficking. That is why the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) currently convenes a human trafficking advisory committee, supports model-by-model awareness campaigns, and coordinates on interagency task forces with entities such as the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and State. This bill reflects recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking's 2024 Report, "Preventing and Addressing Human Trafficking in the Transportation Sector," to increase our effectiveness in detecting and preventing human trafficking activities in our transportation sectors.

Bill summary:

- ➢ **Human Trafficking Research:**
  - o Continues engagement with the Transportation Research Board on counter-trafficking research.
- ➢ **Counter-Trafficking Information Sharing:**
  - o Requires USDOT to collect and share available counter-trafficking resources and policies from public and private stakeholders for transportation organizations to adopt in their practices.
- ➢ **Supports Counter-Trafficking Awareness:**
  - o Authorizes funding for USDOT to update and expand its multimodal counter-trafficking public awareness campaigns and materials.
  - o Requires USDOT and Department of Homeland Security to build off the success of the aviation-specific Blue Lightning Initiative and submit a report to Congress with a plan to create additional mode specific trainings and partnerships.
- ➢ **Public Awareness Campaign:**
  - o Establishes an ongoing public awareness campaign to encourage increased awareness regarding combating human trafficking along vulnerable routes, cities, and locations during major events.
  - o Authorizes $10 million annually for the awareness campaign and all other previous USDOT efforts.
- ➢ **Department of Transportation Human Trafficking Prevention Grants:**
  - o Authorizes $10 million annually through the Secretary of Transportation towards multimodal efforts to train transportation and security staff to identify signs of trafficking, engage in public awareness campaigns, and provide support to victims and survivors.

If you have questions or are interested in supporting this legislation, please email
Trevor Dean at Trevor_Dean@CortezMasto.Senate.gov.

---

[1] International Organization for Migration's Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative's 2020 https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/#no-back