From: Sent: To: Subject:

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:24 PM Fr. David Nestler Urge Your U.S. Senators to Pass Bipartisan Anti-Trafficking Legislation



## **Urge Your Senators to Pass Bipartisan Anti-Trafficking Legislation**

JFI Colleagues and Supporters:

On July 26, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives passed <u>H.R. 6552</u>, the <u>Frederick Douglass</u> <u>Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022</u>, in a vote of 401 to 20. Three months have passed, but the Senate has so far failed to act on this bipartisan bill.

H.R. 6552 would do a number of things to combat the scourge of human trafficking, including:

- Reauthorize various programs under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 through Fiscal Year 2026 (which lapsed September 30, 2021), with more than \$1.1 billion in funding;
- Reauthorize the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking through Fiscal Year 2031;
- Authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Human
  Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program to prevent the reexploitation of eligible individuals with services that help them to attain life skills,
  employment, and education necessary to achieve self-sufficiency;
- Authorize grants for programs that prevent and detect trafficking of school-age children in a "linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed fashion"; and
- Require the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to encourage integration of activities to counter human trafficking into broader programs.

As Bishop Mario Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, said in a <u>letter</u> with other Catholic leaders last month, "this legislation is critical for continuing and bolstering our nation's efforts to eradicate human trafficking and assist human trafficking survivors."

Stand with survivors of human trafficking by completing this action alert in support of H.R. 6552 and send this message to Congress:

## Please Pass H.R. 6552 to Combat Human Trafficking and Support Survivors

As a Catholic and your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 6552, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022, which was passed by a broad, bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives this past July.

This bill would reauthorize important programs under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, provide more than \$1.1 billion in funding for anti-trafficking measures, reauthorize the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, authorize the creation of a Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program, support grants for programs that prevent and detect trafficking of school-age children, require that USAID encourage integration of activities to counter human trafficking in programs under its purview, and more.

It is critical that our country continues to combat what Pope Francis has referred to as a "crime against humanity." Please work with your colleagues in the Senate to take up and pass H.R. 6552 before the end of the 117th Congress.

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