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HR. 357 Human Trafficking Prevention Act Policy Brief

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HR. 357 POLICY BRIEF

Human Trafficking Prevention Act

This bill extends the amount of training on human trafficking required for federal government personnel. It also serves as a preventative measure by providing annual updates and initial briefings for ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before they depart for their posts.

Supported Areas of the Bill:

- Specifies the kind of training required
- Expands the amount of personnel required to be trained
- Requires initial briefings and trainings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before departing for their posts
- Provides annual updates to all diplomatic or state personnel on key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in their jurisdictions

Vulnerable & At-Risk Populations:

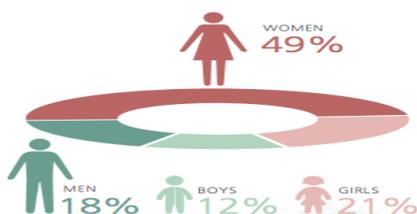
- An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year.
- Since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, only about 4,775 people have been deemed victims of trafficking (U.S. Department of Justice, 2010).
- Human Trafficking earns about \$9.5 billion a year and victimizes an estimated 35.8 million people globally.
- The most vulnerable population at risk are those who are deceived into coming to the United States in hope of a better life only to be sold into trafficking. (Report on Trafficking Persons, n.d.).

Best Practices / Research:

- The Department of Homeland Security recognizes that “the first step to combating [human trafficking] is to identify victims.”
- Because of its relative affluence, America will continue to be a major point of destination for trafficking victims.

Core Values:

- **Dignity and worth of a person:** every victim of human trafficking is valuable and worthy to be recognized.
- **Competence:** government personnel and law enforcement will be adequately trained, competent, and held accountable to recognize the signs of trafficking victims attempting to be brought into the United States.
- **Social Justice:** through the passing of this bill, the number of sex trafficking cases will be significantly lessened and this population will receive the justice that they deserve.



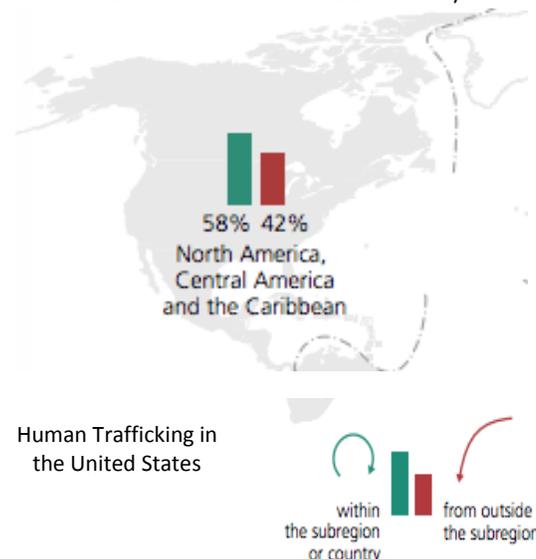
Demographics of Human Trafficking

Strengths:

- Specifies the kind of training that officials would be receiving rather than simply mandating training
- Would necessitate no additional taxpayer dollars
- Assures at least the minimum amount of training and awareness for all personnel

Limitations:

- Identifies the source of human trafficking as the point at which victims are attempting to immigrate into America rather than acknowledging the push factors driving people out of their countries and into slavery in the first place.



Human Trafficking in the United States

Recommendations:

1. Expand national mandated training and education to local law enforcement and government officials.
2. Include procedures to prosecute traffickers and support victim integration back into their communities.
3. Each country to discuss specific preventative methods regarding human trafficking.