



The Trafficking Survivors Housing Act:

Safe and supportive housing is critical for preventing human trafficking and helping survivors, who often face homelessness before, during, or after their trafficking experience. Youth aging out of foster care and other vulnerable or marginalized youth populations, including LGBTQ youth and youth of color, are at greater risk of experiencing homelessness,¹ exponentially increasing their risk of trafficking victimization and concomitantly, increasing their risk of criminal justice involvement which creates further barriers to obtaining safe and affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing and limited funding for housing services leaves survivors vulnerable to re-victimization, ongoing economic instability, and impedes the healing process. The Trafficking Survivors Housing Act would bring together expertise and data from federal agencies, field experts and survivors to aid in the development of best practices and programs that better meet the needs of survivors of trafficking.

The bill would require the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to coordinate with the following stakeholders to study the availability *and* accessibility of housing and services for trafficking survivors or persons at risk of trafficking who experience homelessness or housing insecurity:

- Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking
- the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services
- the Attorney General

It would also require the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to consult with:

- the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States
- survivors of human trafficking
- human trafficking and housing advocates and service providers

One year following enactment, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness will be required to submit a report to Congress detailing evaluation of assessments and outreach for housing needs, a review of available services, a review of policies that limit accessibility to services, and best practices for meeting housing and service needs. The Interagency Council will also be required to report on the effectiveness of housing and service-delivery models specific to survivors of human trafficking, including child sex trafficking victims.

¹ https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall_VoYC_NationalReport_Final.pdf



Why is this bill important?

According to a study conducted by the Polaris Project:²

- **47%** of crisis needs reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline consist of emergency shelter requests
- **40%** of survivors reported seeking shelter during their trafficking

According to a study by Covenant House³ on the prevalence of human trafficking among youth experiencing homelessness:

- **20%** were victims of human trafficking, including **17%** who were victims of sex trafficking and **6%** who were victims of labor trafficking.

History:

The Trafficking Victims Housing Act was originally introduced in the Senate in the 115th Congress in 2017.⁴ In the 116th Congress, The Trafficking Victims Housing Act of 2019 was introduced.⁵

Now titled The Trafficking Survivors Housing Act, the bill is due to be reintroduced in the 117th Congress by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) in the Senate and Congresswoman Beatty Joyce Beatty (D-OH 3rd District) in the House of Representatives. The current Act would “require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking.” This study is a critical step toward identifying housing related needs and housing instability risks of trafficking survivors and will provide a roadmap for developing safe and supportive housing services that meet the unique needs of this victim population.

² <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Disrupt-Human-Trafficking-Housing-and-Homelessness-Systems.pdf>

³ <https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/6230-R10-Field-Center-Full-Report-Web.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2305>

⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/508/all-actions?s=1&r=5>



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