

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3863

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to include sex trafficking victims in the transitional housing assistance grant program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. NOEM, and Ms. BORDALLO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to include sex trafficking victims in the transitional housing assistance grant program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Housing for Survivors  
5 of Sex Trafficking Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN TRAN-**  
2 **SITIONAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 40299 of the Violence  
4 Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13975) is amend-  
5 ed—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

8 (1)—

9 (i) by inserting “, sex trafficking,”  
10 after “and other organizations, including  
11 domestic violence”;

12 (ii) by inserting “, sex trafficking,”  
13 after “providers, domestic violence”; and

14 (iii) by inserting “sex trafficking,”  
15 after “dating violence, sexual assault,”;  
16 and

17 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “sex  
18 trafficking,” after “sexual assault,”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)(3)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
21 (A), by inserting “sex trafficking,” after “sex-  
22 ual assault,”; and

23 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “,  
24 except as provided in subsection (e)” after  
25 “shall be voluntary”;

1           (3) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by inserting “, ex-  
2           cept as provided in subsection (e)” after “the vic-  
3           tim’s housing”;

4           (4) by redesignating subsections (e), (f) and (g)  
5           as subsections (f), (g) and (h), respectively;

6           (5) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
7           lowing:

8           “(e) EXCEPTIONS.—A grant recipient under this sec-  
9           tion may condition the receipt of benefits or the provision  
10          of housing on a program participant’s participation in cer-  
11          tain programs, including counseling and evaluations, that  
12          are necessary to ensure the accurate placement of the vic-  
13          tim in the program, provided that any communication pro-  
14          vided in the course of such counseling or evaluation re-  
15          mains confidential.”;

16          (6) in subsection (g)(1), as so redesignated, by  
17          striking “under subsection (e)” and inserting “under  
18          subsection (f)”;

19          (7) in subsection (g)(3)(D)(iii), by inserting  
20          “sex trafficking,” after “sexual assault,”.

21          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading for sec-  
22          tion 40299 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994  
23          (42 U.S.C. 13975) is amended by inserting “**SEX TRAF-**  
24          **FICKING,**” after “**SEXUAL ASSAULT,**”.

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