

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3942

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. NOEM) 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

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 (34 U.S.C. 12351) 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 (34 U.S.C. 12351) is amended by inserting “**SEX TRAF-**
24 **FICKING,**” after “**SEXUAL ASSAULT,**”.

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