

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2744

To provide grants to transit operators and airports for human trafficking awareness, education, and prevention efforts, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide grants to transit operators and airports for human trafficking awareness, education, and prevention efforts, 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 “Reduce Human Traf-
5 ficking through Transportation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HUMAN TRAF-**
7 **FICKING PREVENTION GRANTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
9 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall estab-

1 lish within the Office of the Secretary a grant program
2 to provide grants to transit operators and airports to ad-
3 dress human trafficking awareness, education, and pre-
4 vention efforts.

5 (b) TRANSIT OPERATOR GRANTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made avail-
7 able for each fiscal year under subsection (d), the
8 Secretary shall set aside \$10,000,000 to provide
9 grants to entities described in paragraph (2)(A) to
10 address human trafficking awareness, education, and
11 prevention efforts, including by—

12 (A) coordinating human trafficking preven-
13 tion efforts across multimodal transportation
14 operations within a community; and

15 (B) accomplishing the best practices and
16 recommendations provided by the Department
17 of Transportation Advisory Committee on
18 Human Trafficking.

19 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
21 distribute amounts set aside under paragraph

22 (1) to—

23 (i) the 75 transit operators in the
24 United States with the highest annual rid-

1 ership, based on the most recent data
2 available; and

3 (ii) as the Secretary determines to be
4 appropriate, a transit operator not de-
5 scribed in clause (i) that serves an area
6 with a high prevalence of human traf-
7 ficking, on application of the transit oper-
8 ator.

9 (B) PRIORITY; CONSIDERATIONS.—In dis-
10 tributing the amounts set aside under para-
11 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

12 (i) give priority in grant amounts to
13 entities referred to in subparagraph (A)
14 that serve regions with a higher prevalence
15 of human trafficking; and

16 (ii) take into consideration the effect
17 the amounts would have on surrounding
18 areas.

19 (C) CONSULTATION.—In distributing the
20 amounts set aside under paragraph (1), the
21 Secretary shall consult with the Department of
22 Transportation Advisory Committee on Human
23 Trafficking in determining the amounts to be
24 distributed to each recipient to ensure the best
25 use of the funds.

1 (c) AIRPORT GRANTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made avail-
3 able for each fiscal year under subsection (d), the
4 Secretary shall set aside \$10,000,000 to provide
5 grants to entities described in paragraph (2)(A) to
6 address human trafficking awareness, education, and
7 prevention efforts, including by—

8 (A) coordinating human trafficking preven-
9 tion efforts across multimodal transportation
10 operations within a community; and

11 (B) accomplishing the best practices and
12 recommendations provided by the Department
13 of Transportation Advisory Committee on
14 Human Trafficking.

15 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
17 distribute amounts set aside under paragraph
18 (1) to—

19 (i) the 75 airports in the United
20 States with the highest number of pas-
21 senger enplanements annually, based on
22 the most recent data available; and

23 (ii) as the Secretary determines to be
24 appropriate, an airport not described in
25 clause (i) that serves an area with a high

1 prevalence of human trafficking, on appli-
2 cation of the airport.

3 (B) PRIORITY; CONSIDERATIONS.—In dis-
4 tributing the amounts set aside under para-
5 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

6 (i) give priority in grant amounts to
7 entities referred to in subparagraph (A)
8 that serve regions with a higher prevalence
9 of human trafficking; and

10 (ii) take into consideration the effect
11 the amounts would have on surrounding
12 areas.

13 (C) CONSULTATION.—In distributing the
14 amounts set aside under paragraph (1), the
15 Secretary shall consult with the Department of
16 Transportation Advisory Committee on Human
17 Trafficking in determining the amounts to be
18 distributed to each recipient to ensure the best
19 use of the funds.

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the Office of the Sec-
22 retary to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of
23 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

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