

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 519

To prohibit individuals charged with or convicted of human trafficking or drug trafficking offenses committed near the border of the United States from receiving Federal benefits.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To prohibit individuals charged with or convicted of human trafficking or drug trafficking offenses committed near the border of the United States from receiving Federal benefits.

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. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR**  
4 **HUMAN TRAFFICKERS AND DRUG TRAF-**  
5 **FICKERS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1           (1) the term “covered trafficking offense”  
2 means a human trafficking offense or a drug traf-  
3 ficking offense for which any portion of the course  
4 of conduct constituting the human trafficking of-  
5 fense or drug trafficking offense occurred at an  
6 international border of the United States or within  
7 the territorial waters of the United States;

8           (2) the term “drug trafficking offense” means  
9 any Federal offense that includes as an element of  
10 the offense the distribution of a controlled substance  
11 (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Sub-  
12 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 802));

13           (3) the term “Federal benefit”—

14           (A) means the issuance of any grant, con-  
15 tract, loan, professional license, or commercial  
16 license provided by an agency of the United  
17 States or by appropriated funds of the United  
18 States; and

19           (B) includes any retirement, welfare, So-  
20 cial Security, health, disability, veterans, public  
21 housing, or other similar benefit; and

22           (4) the term “human trafficking offense”  
23 means an offense under—

1 (A) section 1581, 1583, 1584, 1589, 1590,  
2 1591, 2251A, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of title 18,  
3 United States Code; or

4 (B) section 274(a) of the Immigration and  
5 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)).

6 (b) PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.—An individual who  
7 is indicted for, charged in an information with, or con-  
8 victed of a covered trafficking offense shall be ineligible  
9 for any Federal benefit.

10 (c) TERMINATION OF PROHIBITION FOR INDIVID-  
11 UALS NOT CONVICTED.—If, for each covered trafficking  
12 offense with which an individual is charged, the charge  
13 is dismissed or the individual is found not guilty of the  
14 covered trafficking offense—

15 (1) the ineligibility of the individual for any  
16 Federal benefit under subsection (b) shall terminate;  
17 and

18 (2) the Federal Government shall pay to the in-  
19 dividual any pecuniary Federal benefit that was not  
20 paid to the individual because the individual was in-  
21 eligible for the Federal benefit under subsection (b).

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