



ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 7, 2024

**VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL**

The Honorable Russell Fry  
1626 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
SC07RFFryRussell@mail.house.gov

Dear Congressman Fry,

As the Attorney General of South Carolina, I am joined by the Attorneys General of the undersigned states in supporting the “Trafficking Survivors Relief Act.”

Human trafficking is a growing evil in America. According to U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics, the number of persons investigated and prosecuted for a human trafficking offense increased 49% from 2011 to 2021.<sup>1</sup> Human trafficking victims span a range of ages and genders,<sup>2</sup> and most human trafficking victims are exploited and trafficked by people they know.<sup>3</sup> Many victims do not even realize they are being trafficked due to the control exerted over them by their traffickers.<sup>4</sup>

The efforts of many organizations to eliminate human trafficking and support victims, including those of tough-on-crime prosecutors, have increased awareness, reporting, and prosecution of human traffickers across the country. These are steps in the right direction toward holding the guilty accountable and supporting survivors of human trafficking. But there is more to be done.

As State Attorneys General, we want to ensure survivors of human trafficking have all the resources they need to succeed in their communities throughout their recovery. That is why we commend the efforts of Members of Congress who have authored the “Trafficking Survivors Relief Act” and join multiple organizations in endorsing this bill to allow human trafficking victims a pathway to clear their records of non-violent criminal offenses committed as a direct result of being trafficked.

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, *Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2023*, at 3, Oct. 2023 (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/htdca23.pdf>)

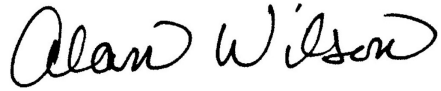
<sup>2</sup> NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE, *2021 National Report*, Nov. 15, 2022, (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics>)

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION, *Family Members are Involved in Nearly Half of Child Trafficking Cases*, Aug. 12, 2017 (<http://tinyurl.com/yszbd76k>) (indicating that 66% of children trafficking victims are recruited by a relative, intimate partner, or friend).

<sup>4</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Navigating the Unique Complexities in Familial Trafficking*, Jul. 1, 2021 (<http://tinyurl.com/2zh9u2st>).

This bill would give survivors of human trafficking a much-needed opportunity to further their education, obtain employment, and contribute to their communities. It is an important way to assist them as they continue to heal.

Respectfully,



Alan Wilson  
Attorney General of South Carolina



John Formella  
Attorney General of New Hampshire



Tim Griffin  
Attorney General of Arkansas



Dave Yost  
Attorney General of Ohio



Chris Carr  
Attorney General of Georgia



Gentner Drummond  
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Todd Rokita  
Attorney General of Indiana



Marty Jackley  
Attorney General of South Dakota



Lynn Fitch  
Attorney General of Mississippi



Jonathan Skrmetti  
Attorney General of Tennessee



Austin Knudsen  
Attorney General of Montana



Sean Reyes  
Attorney General of Utah