

**HELP PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY INCREASING  
TRANSPARENCY IN BUSINESS SUPPLY CHAINS**

**Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015  
(H.R. 3226/S.1968)**

The US is the world's largest importer and today the public is increasingly demanding information about the human rights impact of products in the US market. Reauthorizations of the Trafficking in Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2003 and 2005, Executive Orders 13126 and 13627, and the 2015 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report have also affirmed that business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights and that States have a duty to ensure these rights are protected.

**What would the proposed legislation accomplish?**

- Require companies with a minimum of \$100 million in worldwide gross receipts annually to report transparently to the Securities and Exchange Commission and on their websites about their efforts to address slavery and child labor within their business operations, including ***any policy prohibiting the commercial sexual exploitation of children.***
- Create competition to improve practices to end slavery by providing the public and the market with information about companies that are – and that are not – taking real steps to address slavery.
- Help businesses by establishing clear federal transparency requirements that put all businesses on an even playing field, so they do not have to comply with a patchwork of state laws in an area of clear federal jurisdiction.
- Would NOT require companies to take any specific action to combat slavery within their business. This is a pure transparency measure.

**Why should your office support business transparency legislation?**

- Unknown to most Americans, many goods they use every day have passed through the hands of a slave at some point. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor identified 136 goods from 74 countries, made by forced and child labor.
- The Trafficking in Persons Report of the U.S. Department of State in July 2015 acknowledged the importance of eradicating slavery from business supply chains and the role of government in adopting policies that support transparency and reporting.
- Companies can and should play a role in preventing the commercial sexual exploitation of children; being transparent about policies condemning this form of exploitation is an important step in the right direction.
- The current legislative and regulatory framework to prevent such goods from entering the US is inadequate; the U.S. legal prohibition on importation of slave-made goods has resulted in only 40 enforcement actions on record in 80 years.
- Passage of this provision would help fight human trafficking, forced labor, slavery and the worst forms of child labor, and demonstrate the commitment of the U.S. to freedom throughout the world.
- The law would raise awareness of an issue that is being largely ignored by companies doing business in parts of the world where slavery is prevalent.

**Please support legislation requiring business transparency in supply chains**

ECPAT-USA supports the federal Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015 (H.R. 3226/S.1968). You can read the full bill and a summary of its provisions here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3226/text>

Here is a sample letter of support you can use to send to your member of Congress.

[Date]

[Name and Address of Your Member of Congress]

Dear Representative [Your member of Congress]:

I am writing to ask that you support the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015 (H.R. 3226/S.1968), by signing on as a co-sponsor.

This bill would require companies with over \$100 million in worldwide gross receipts to disclose to the Security and Exchange Commission steps they have taken to identify and address the risks of human trafficking and the worst forms of child labor throughout their supply chains. The bill also has a provision that would require companies to report on whether they have a policy that prohibits employees from engaging in commercial sex acts with a child. I know that companies can play a big role in protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation, and reporting on these policies is an important first step that will force companies to think more about what role they can play in the prevention of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

The Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, introduced by Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in the House and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), in the Senate, is a bipartisan piece of legislation that also has broad support among the anti-trafficking field, with over 100 anti-trafficking organizations signing letters of support. The faith-based community and the investor community have also joined together in their support of H.R. 3226/S.1968. In fact, 112 faith-based investors, representing over \$1 trillion in assets under management, have joined the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Christian Brothers Investment Services, and Calvert Investments in endorsing this important legislation.

Millions of children around the world are victims of human trafficking. The U.S. has a responsibility, as the world's largest economy, to ensure that the goods and services we consumer are humanely produced. This legislation does not burden business as it does not require companies to take any additional steps outside of reporting, yet it is still important as openness and transparency is crucial to making strides towards ending modern day slavery. Similar reporting measures have already passed in California and recently in the United Kingdom. Now is the time to act and call upon American business to look into their supply chains to protect vulnerable children. Given your commitment to protecting child victims of trafficking, I urge you to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]