



July 28, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Scott Saiki
Speaker of the House
Hawaii
President, NCSL

**Joseph James
"J.J." Gentry, Esq.**
Counsel
Senate Ethics Comm
South Carolina
Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
NCSL

RE: Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victim's Prevention and Protection Act of 2022

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

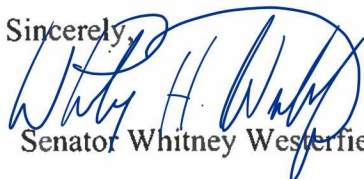
On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, we write to express our strong support for the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victim's Prevention and Protection Act of 2022 as passed by the House and urge the Senate's bipartisan support and quick passage of the bill.

Since 2000, the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act (TVPA) and subsequent reauthorizations have guided the federal government's response to human trafficking. The programs created by TVPA have provided essential services for trafficking victims through grant funding and technical assistance for service providers at the state and local level. In addition, the TVPA's investment in law enforcement training has imbued police, prosecutors, and other law enforcement personnel with the ability to focus on ending the demand side of human trafficking while being victim-centered and trauma-informed.

The reauthorization of the TVPA is integral to continuing the fight against human trafficking in the United States. Because of the TVPA, states were able to provide adequate services to trafficking victims. State law enforcement had resources to arrest and prosecute traffickers. Victims have been incentivized to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers due to the removal of financial, safety related, and immigration status related barriers to cooperation. When the TVPA was allowed to expire in 2021, these crucial elements of the fight against human trafficking were put in jeopardy. Passage of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victim's Prevention and Protection Act would ensure that states have the resources to combat trafficking and trafficking victims have access to the services they need and deserve.

We urge the Senate to pass the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victim's Prevention and Protection Act of 2022 as passed by the House and show the same commitment to the safety and healing of trafficking victims around the country. NCSL welcomes any opportunity to collaborate with your offices on this important matter. Feel free to contact Susan Parnas Frederick (susan.frederick@ncsl.org) or Nicole Ezeh (nicole.ezeh@ncsl.org) for any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,



Senator Whitney Westfield



Senator Gerald Malloy

NCSL Law, Criminal Justice, and Public Safety
Committee Co-Chair
Kentucky State Senate

NCSL Law, Criminal Justice, and Public Safety
Committee Co-Chair
Georgia State Senate

Cc: Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations