

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7592

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2020

Mr. MCADAMS (for himself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on trafficking, 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 “Stopping Trafficking,
5 Illicit Flows, Laundering, and Exploitation Act of 2020”
6 or the “STIFLE Act of 2020”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Trafficking is a national-security threat and
10 an economic drain of our resources.

1 (2) As the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s
2 recently released “2020 National Strategy for Com-
3 bating Terrorist and Other Illicit Financing” con-
4 cludes, “While money laundering, terrorism financ-
5 ing, and WMD proliferation financing differ quali-
6 tatively and quantitatively, the illicit actors engaging
7 in these activities can exploit the same vulnerabilities
8 and financial channels.”.

9 (3) Among those are bad actors engaged in
10 trafficking, whether they trade in drugs, arms, cul-
11 tural property, wildlife, natural resources, counter-
12 feit goods, organs, or, even, other humans.

13 (4) Their illegal (or “dark”) markets use simi-
14 lar and sometimes related or overlapping methods
15 and means to acquire, move, and profit from their
16 crimes.

17 (5) In a March 2017, report from Global Fi-
18 nancial Integrity, “Transnational Crime and the De-
19 veloping World”, the global business of transnational
20 crime was valued at \$1.6 trillion to \$2.2 trillion an-
21 nually, resulting in crime, violence, terrorism, insta-
22 bility, corruption, and lost tax revenues worldwide.

23 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

24 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
25 States shall carry out a study on—

1 (1) the major trafficking routes used by
2 transnational criminal organizations, terrorists, and
3 others, and to what extent the trafficking routes for
4 people (including children), drugs, weapons, cash,
5 child sexual exploitation materials, or other illicit
6 goods are similar, related, or cooperative;

7 (2) commonly used methods to launder and
8 move the proceeds of trafficking;

9 (3) the types of suspicious financial activity
10 that are associated with illicit trafficking networks,
11 and how financial institutions identify and report
12 such activity;

13 (4) the nexus between the identities and fi-
14 nances of trafficked persons and fraud;

15 (5) the tools, guidance, training, partnerships,
16 supervision, or other mechanisms that Federal agen-
17 cies, including the Department of the Treasury's Fi-
18 nancial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Federal
19 financial regulators, and law enforcement, provide to
20 help financial institutions identify techniques and
21 patterns of transactions that may involve the pro-
22 ceeds of trafficking;

23 (6) what steps financial institutions are taking
24 to detect and prevent bad actors who are laundering
25 the proceeds of illicit trafficking, including data

1 analysis, policies, training procedures, rules, and
2 guidance;

3 (7) what role gatekeepers, such as lawyers, no-
4 taries, accountants, investment advisors, logistics
5 agents, and trust and company service providers,
6 play in facilitating trafficking networks and the
7 laundering of illicit proceeds; and

8 (8) the role that emerging technologies, includ-
9 ing artificial intelligence, digital identity tech-
10 nologies, blockchain technologies, virtual assets, and
11 related exchanges and online marketplaces, and
12 other innovative technologies, can play in both as-
13 sisting with and potentially enabling the laundering
14 of proceeds from trafficking.

15 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study re-
16 quired under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
17 solicit feedback and perspectives to the extent practicable
18 from survivor and victim advocacy organizations, law en-
19 forcement, research organizations, private-sector organiza-
20 tions (including financial institutions and data and tech-
21 nology companies), and any other organization or entity
22 that the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

23 (c) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall issue
24 one or more reports to the Congress containing the results
25 of the study required under subsection (a). The first re-

1 port shall be issued not later than the end of the 15-month
2 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 The reports shall contain—

4 (1) all findings and determinations made in car-
5 rying out the study required under subsection (a);
6 and

7 (2) recommendations for any legislative or regu-
8 latory changes necessary to combat trafficking or
9 the laundering of proceeds from trafficking.

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