



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM

September 9, 2014

To: Members, Subcommittee on Health

From: Majority Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Examining H.R. ____, Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2014”

On September 11, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Examining H.R. ____, the Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2014.” The Subcommittee will convene at 9:15 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building.

I. WITNESSES¹

Panel 1

- Katherine Chon, Administration for children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Panel 2

- Laura J. Lederer, Director, the Bastian Center for the Study of Human Trafficking at Indiana Wesleyan University;
- Ken Miller, Ph.D. , President of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners;
- Vednita Carter, Founder and Executive Director, Breaking Free; and,
- Hanni Stoklasa, M.D., Emergency Physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

II. BACKGROUND

Human trafficking is a crime and a violation of human rights. As defined by Federal law, victims of human trafficking include children involved in the sex trade, adults age 18 or over who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts, and anyone forced into different forms of

¹ Additional Witnesses may be added.

“labor or services.”² The individuals in all of these situations are victims of force, fraud, or coercion.

While it is difficult to quantify the number victims due to the secrecy surrounding the problem, it is estimated that 50,000 people are trafficked each year and around 400,000 domestic minors are involved in trafficking in the United States.³ The United States is one of the largest markets for trafficking with profits in the billions of dollars.

Health care providers are among the few professionals to interact with trafficked women and girls. One study found that 28% of trafficked women saw a health care professional while being held captive.⁴ Placed in this unique and critical position, health care workers require heightened skills to help these women and girls.

H.R. ____, the “Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act,” authored by Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC), would develop evidence-based best practices for health care workers to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. The bill would provide for the development of best practices for health care workers and a pilot project to ensure that the best practices are effective.

III. STAFF CONTACTS

Should you have any questions regarding the hearing, please contact Brenda Destro or Katie Novaria at (202) 225-2927.

² <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview>

³ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3125713/>

⁴ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3125713/>