



# Freedom Network USA

## FNUSA Legislative Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

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### 1. Ensure Appropriate and Well-Funded Services for Survivors

Current services are not effectively and efficiently provided to survivors, leaving them vulnerable to ongoing abuse and exploitation.

- a. Reauthorize TVPA funding for the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services that meets or exceeds the amounts appropriated for FY23 (\$95M for DOJ and \$32M for HHS).
- b. Eliminate the match requirement from DOJ and HHS services funding.
- c. Restrict TVPA funds to only victim-centered, survivor-informed, trauma-informed, and voluntary services.

### 2. Expand Legal Protections for Survivors

Survivors are denied financial compensation from traffickers who threaten or retaliate against them, and taxes on civil damages reduce the amount survivors actually receive.

- a. Add protection from retaliation, witness tampering, and intimidation to civil claims.
- b. Prevent forced or coerced arbitration of civil human trafficking claims.
- c. Exempt restitution and civil damages for trafficking from income taxes.

### 3. Ensure Survivors Can Access Criminal Record Relief

There is no way for survivors to expunge or vacate federal criminal records related to their trafficking. These charges, arrests, and convictions prevent survivors from accessing safe housing, jobs, and education.

- a. Add expansive federal expungement and vacatur for human trafficking survivors.

### 4. Expand Protections for Immigrant Survivors

Current protections are insufficient to meet the needs of all survivors and are unused (in part) due to unnecessary eligibility limitations.

- a. Order a Government Accountability Office study on the number of T Visas compared to CP requests by jurisdiction to determine where law enforcement is not responding to the full need.

### 5. Strengthen Funding for Human Trafficking Research

- a. Create funding for primary prevention research and development at CDC.
- b. Add specific authorizations for human trafficking research to the TVPA.