

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 5226

To amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, 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 “No Trafficking Zones  
5 Act” or the “NTZ Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Child sex trafficking can have devastating  
9 immediate and long-term consequences, including

1 health impacts, psychological and physical trauma,  
2 and even death.

3 (2) While any child can be targeted by a traf-  
4 ficker, research, data, survivors' lived experiences,  
5 and expertise have revealed that traffickers often  
6 target vulnerable youth who lack strong support net-  
7 works, supervision, care, or basic necessities, have  
8 low self-esteem, have experienced violence in the  
9 past, are experiencing homelessness, are experi-  
10 encing academic difficulties, or are marginalized by  
11 society, and lure them into forced labor and pros-  
12 titution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Traf-  
13 fickers are masters of manipulation and prey upon  
14 vulnerabilities using psychological pressure, intimi-  
15 dation, and drugs to control and sexually exploit the  
16 child for their benefit.

17 (3) The National Center for Missing and Ex-  
18 ploited Children (NCMEC) has received reports of  
19 child sex trafficking in all 50 States, the District of  
20 Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These reports include  
21 incidents occurring in every type of community, in-  
22 cluding suburban, rural, urban, and Tribal lands. In  
23 2021, NCMEC received more than 17,200 reports of  
24 possible child sex trafficking.

1           (4) Of 22,326 trafficking victims and survivors  
2 identified through contacts with the National  
3 Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019, at least 5,359  
4 were under age 18.

5           (5) Many underage victims of sex trafficking  
6 are students in the United States school system. No  
7 community, school, socioeconomic group, or student  
8 demographic is immune.

9           (6) While the internet and social media make  
10 up the majority of first encounters, traffickers regu-  
11 larly find young people in shopping malls, through  
12 friends, at bus stops, and at schools. Specifically,  
13 traffickers systematically target vulnerable children  
14 and youth by frequenting locations where young peo-  
15 ple congregate, including schools. They also use  
16 peers or classmates, who befriend the target and  
17 slowly groom them for the trafficker by bringing the  
18 young person along to parties and other activities.

19           (7) A 2018 survey reported that 55 percent of  
20 young sex trafficking survivors in Texas were traf-  
21 ficked while at school or school activities and 60 per-  
22 cent of trafficked adults say they were first groomed  
23 and solicited for trafficking on school campuses.

24           (8) Schools can and should be safe havens for  
25 students. Schools are best positioned to identify and

1 report suspected trafficking and connect affected  
2 students to critical services. Students are more likely  
3 to report instances of sex trafficking, attempted sex  
4 trafficking, or grooming for the purposes of sex traf-  
5 ficking where they feel most safe from harm and  
6 threats.

7 **SEC. 3. INCREASED PUNISHMENT FOR HUMAN TRAF-**  
8 **FICKING IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

9 Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is  
10 amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
12 section (f); and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 “(e)(1) Whoever violates subsection (a) in a school  
16 zone, or on, or within 1,000 feet of, a premises on which  
17 a school-sponsored activity is taking place, or on, or within  
18 1,000 feet of a premises owned by an institution of higher  
19 education, shall, in addition to the punishment otherwise  
20 provided under this section, be imprisoned for not more  
21 than 5 years.

22 “(2) In this subsection:

23 “(A) The term ‘school zone’ has the meaning  
24 given such term in section 921.

1           “(B) The term ‘school-sponsored activity’  
2 means any activity that is produced, financed, ar-  
3 ranged, supervised, or coordinated by a school or a  
4 State educational agency or local educational agency  
5 or is under the jurisdiction of a State educational  
6 agency or local educational agency.

7           “(C) The terms ‘State educational agency’ and  
8 ‘local educational agency’ have the meanings given  
9 those terms under section 8101 of the Elementary  
10 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

11           “(D) The term ‘institution of higher education’  
12 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of  
13 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
14 1001).”.

15 **SEC. 4. INCREASED PUNISHMENT FOR COERCION AND EN-**  
16 **TICEMENT IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

17 Section 2422 of title 18, United States Code, is  
18 amended—

19           (1) in subsection (b), by striking “individual  
20 who has not attained the age of 18 years” and in-  
21 sserting “minor”; and

22           (2) by adding at the end the following:

23           “(c)(1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) know-  
24 ing, or having reasonable cause to believe, that the viola-  
25 tion is committed against a minor who is enrolled in school

1 and is, at the time of the violation, in a school zone or  
2 on, or within 1,000 feet of, a premises on which a school-  
3 sponsored activity is taking place, or against a person who  
4 is enrolled in an institution of higher education and is,  
5 at the time of the violation on or within 1,000 feet of a  
6 premises owned by the institution of higher education,  
7 shall, in addition to the punishment otherwise provided  
8 under this section, be imprisoned for not more than 5  
9 years.

10 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in a case in which  
11 a minor’s presence on, or within 1,000 feet of, the prem-  
12 ises on which a school-sponsored activity is taking place  
13 is not related to such school-sponsored activity, or the per-  
14 son’s presence on or within 1,000 feet of the premises  
15 owned by the institution of higher education is not related  
16 to their enrollment at such institution.

17 “(d) In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘minor’ means an individual who  
19 has not attained 18 years of age.

20 “(2) The term ‘school’ means a public, paro-  
21 chial, or private school that provides elementary or  
22 secondary education.

23 “(3) The term ‘school zone’ has the meaning  
24 given such term in section 921.

1           “(4) The term ‘school-sponsored activity’ means  
2           any activity that is produced, financed, arranged, su-  
3           pervised, or coordinated by a school or a State edu-  
4           cational agency or local educational agency or is  
5           under the jurisdiction of a State educational agency  
6           or local educational agency.

7           “(5) The terms ‘State educational agency’ and  
8           ‘local educational agency’ have the meanings given  
9           those terms under section 8101 of the Elementary  
10          and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

11          “(6) The term ‘institution of higher education’  
12          has the meaning given such term in section 101 of  
13          the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
14          1001).”.

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