

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8974

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Blue Campaign Certification Program to encourage employers in covered industries to encourage employees to complete training to recognize and respond to suspected human trafficking, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2024

Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Blue Campaign Certification Program to encourage employers in covered industries to encourage employees to complete training to recognize and respond to suspected human 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 “Human Trafficking  
5 Awareness Training Recognition Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. AWARD.**

2 The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231  
3 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 434 the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 434A. BLUE CAMPAIGN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Not later than one  
7 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
8 Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a Blue  
9 Campaign Certification Program (in this section referred  
10 to as the ‘Program’) to encourage efforts by employers  
11 in covered industries to encourage employees to complete  
12 training to recognize and respond to suspected human  
13 trafficking. The Secretary shall provide a certificate of  
14 completion to eligible employers.

15 “(b) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

16 “(1) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—During  
17 each year in which the Secretary provides a certifi-  
18 cate of completion, the Secretary shall solicit appli-  
19 cations, beginning not later than January 31 and  
20 ending not earlier than April 30, from employers to  
21 consider whether such employers should receive such  
22 certificate.

23 “(2) REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-  
24 retary, in consultation with the Director of Home-  
25 land Security Investigations, shall review each appli-  
26 cation received in a year.

1           “(3) CONTENTS OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-  
2           retary shall require each employer who submits an  
3           application to provide in such application—

4                   “(A) information about the training to rec-  
5                   ognize and respond to suspected human traf-  
6                   ficking that such employer provided to the em-  
7                   ployees of such employer; and

8                   “(B) any other information the Secretary  
9                   determines appropriate.

10          “(c) RECOGNITION OF RECIPIENTS.—

11                   “(1) ISSUANCE OF AWARDS.—The Secretary  
12                   shall provide a certificate of completion to each em-  
13                   ployer whom the Secretary determines is eligible.  
14                   The certificate of completion shall state that the re-  
15                   cipient may display such certificate for a 1-year pe-  
16                   riod beginning on the date on which such certificate  
17                   is provided.

18                   “(2) NOTICE IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—The  
19                   Secretary shall recognize each such recipient  
20                   through publication in the Federal Register.

21          “(d) PROHIBITED DISPLAY.—It is prohibited for any  
22                   employer to publicly display a Blue Campaign Certifi-  
23                   cation of Completion—

24                   “(1) for the purpose of conveying, or in a man-  
25                   ner reasonably calculated to convey, a false impres-

1 sion that the employer completed the Blue Cam-  
2 paign Certification Program, if such employer did  
3 not complete such Program; or

4 “(2) for the purpose of conveying, or in a man-  
5 ner reasonably calculated to convey, a false impres-  
6 sion that the employer received a certificate of com-  
7 pletion through the Blue Campaign Certification  
8 Program for a year for which such employer did not  
9 receive such certificate.

10 “(e) REPORTS.—During each year beginning not  
11 later than two years after the date of the enactment of  
12 this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
13 on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives  
14 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
15 mental Affairs of the Senate, a report on the Program,  
16 including—

17 “(1) the number of employers who submitted an  
18 application for Blue Campaign Certification in the  
19 prior year;

20 “(2) the fees collected under subsection (f) from  
21 such employers, and any changes in fees to be pro-  
22 posed in the present year;

23 “(3) the number of Blue Campaign Certifi-  
24 cations of Completion provided in the prior year, in-

1 including the name of each employer to whom a Blue  
2 Campaign Certification of Completion was awarded;

3 “(4) the cost of administering the Program in  
4 the prior year; and

5 “(5) any other matter the Secretary determines  
6 appropriate.

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPLICATION FEES.—The  
8 Secretary is authorized to establish a reasonable fee to be  
9 imposed on employers submitting applications for a Blue  
10 Campaign Certification of Completion to cover the cost of  
11 carrying out the Program.

12 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) COVERED INDUSTRY.—The term ‘covered  
14 industry’ means any industry that the Secretary has  
15 determined—

16 “(A) has a relatively high prevalence of  
17 human trafficking; and

18 “(B) that human trafficking awareness  
19 training could have a significant impact.

20 “(2) EMPLOYER.—The term ‘employer’ has the  
21 meaning given such term in section 3 of the Fair  
22 Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203), ex-  
23 cept that such term does not include a public agency  
24 (as defined in such section 3).

1           “(3) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term ‘human  
2           trafficking’ has the meaning given the term ‘severe  
3           forms of trafficking in person’ in section 103 of the  
4           Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22  
5           U.S.C. 7102).

6           “(4) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—  
7           The term ‘Secretary of Homeland Security’ means  
8           the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through  
9           the Director of the Blue Campaign.

10           “(5) TRAINING.—The term ‘training’ means the  
11           training to recognize and respond to suspected  
12           human trafficking.”.

13 **SEC. 3. BLUE CAMPAIGN.**

14           Section 434(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
15           (6 U.S.C. 242(e)) is amended—

16           (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the  
17           end;

18           (2) by redesignating paragraph (8) as para-  
19           graph (9); and

20           (3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-  
21           lowing:

22           “(8) increased coordination with experts from  
23           the private sector, academic institutions, and other

1 covered industries (as such term is defined in section  
2 434A).”.

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