

Federal Legislation Related to Trafficking – Summer 2016

- **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)** to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to include a definition of “recruitment fees” in the section on combating trafficking in persons. Per the 2015 amendments, the FAR prohibits federal contractors from charging workers these fees.
 - NPRM: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FAR_FRDOC_0001-1143.
 - Interested parties can submit comments on or before July 11, 2016.
 - See specific questions of interest in Section II (B)-(C).

- Last week, the Senate passed its version of the **National Defense Authorization Act (S. 2943)**, which included a handful of provisions relating to trafficking:
 - Includes a significantly modified and slimmed-down version of S. 553, the End Modern Slavery Initiative Act of 2015, which was introduced by Sen. Corker (R-TN).
 - Authorizes the Secretary of State to make grants of funding to provide support for programs that seek to achieve a measurable reduction of the prevalence of modern slavery in targeted populations within partner countries.
 - Permits funds to be distributed to the End Modern Slavery Initiative Foundation, a nonprofit established under the laws of the District of Columbia.
 - Requires the Secretary of Defense to implement policies to ensure that Armed Forces personnel receive education and training on human slavery and the appropriate role of the Armed Forces in combating human trafficking.
 - Requires the GAO to submit a report on the effectiveness of anti-trafficking programs conducted by the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Treasury and requires the appropriate committees of Congress to take the report into consideration when funding the programs.
 - The next step will be for this bill to go to conference to resolve differences with the House-passed version.

- The House **Homeland Security Appropriations Act** was marked up in the full House Appropriations Committee this morning.
 - The subcommittee’s report contained language that encouraged:
 - DHS to work with NGOs to provide trafficking training to personnel from the relevant DHS branches;
 - CBP and ICE participation in the Blue Campaign;
 - Efforts to work with NGOs and victim service providers to “improve officer and agent training on identifying human trafficking victims, providing appropriate referrals to victim service organizations, and the use of an overall victim centered approach”; and
 - Wide use of Continued Presence requests by ICE for victims who are potential witnesses in trafficking investigations.

