

Human Trafficking Awareness Training Recognition Act

Background: In 2023, the DHS arrested more than 2,500 individuals for human trafficking-related offenses and assisted over 700 human trafficking victims. While these numbers are significant, they likely only represent a fraction of all instances of human trafficking, as many cases go unreported. The Blue Campaign, housed within the DHS' Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), aims to equip the public, law enforcement, and the private sector with awareness trainings and resources to reduce human trafficking crimes nationwide. While the Blue Campaign offers tools to help combat trafficking, it currently lacks an initiative for recognizing businesses that have trained their employees to recognize and respond to suspected human trafficking.

Summary: This legislation establishes an annual certification program under the Blue Campaign at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for employers in covered industries who have trained their employees to recognize and respond to suspected human trafficking. Human trafficking crimes occur across the United States and in various industries including entertainment, hospitality, and transportation. Employees in these fields often serve as the first line of defense in detecting and combatting such crimes. The *Human Trafficking Awareness Training Recognition Act of 2024* would recognize eligible businesses with a certificate of completion by the DHS.

The Human Trafficking Awareness Training Recognition Act:

- Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Blue Campaign Certification Program to incentivize employers in covered industries to encourage employees to complete human trafficking awareness training. The Blue Campaign would provide eligible employers with a certificate of completion to display for one year.
- Requires a report to be submitted to the appropriate committees within two years after the enactment of this Act.
- Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by requiring the Blue Campaign to increase coordination with experts from the private sector, academic institutions, and other covered industries.

Supporting Organizations: American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA), American Gaming Association (AGA)