The prevention and protection programs authorized by the bill are fundamental to effectively safeguard communities from human trafficking, as well as to uniquely support and help empower survivors on their paths toward healing. H.R. 6552 reauthorizes $1 billion in funding to support these efforts, without which survivors will not be afforded quality equitable care.

H.R. 6552, which properly renames the trafficking prevention education grants as the “Frederick Douglass Prevention Education grants,” will secure, for the first time, $35 million for housing assistance grants, to prevent human trafficking and protect survivors from becoming vulnerable again to traffickers. It will ensure linguistically accessible prevention programming, wrap-around social services, and a trauma-informed approach for all stakeholders working with survivors.

Equally important, it strengthens federal government accountability for survivor-informed policy through a ten-year extension of the survivor-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking while also securing a competitive award process for the Program to End Modern Slavery.

Together, the Douglass Leadership Institute and the Fredrick Douglass Foundation along with over 800 anti-trafficking and advocacy organizations and survivors (including the NAHT) signed letters to House Leadership—including Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) —urging them to allow a House vote on the bipartisan bill authored by Reps. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) and Karen Bass (D-Calif.).

The NAHT asks Iowa’s anti-trafficking advocates to contact your iowa congressional representation to vote in favor of this reauthorization. More than ever we need unity and bipartisan support for the issues most affecting our country and marginalized communities. Combatting the scourge of human trafficking should be a win-win for everybody that claims to care about the hurting, survivors of injustice, and bringing accountability to perpetrators. The NAHT hopes there will be no more delay in getting this critical legislation passed unanimously and as soon as possible to assure that survivors are afforded the care and respect they deserve.