



## **May 2025 AMWA-PATH Position Statement Supporting the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2025 (HR 1379)**

AMWA-PATH (American Medical Women's Association - Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans) strongly urges the 119th Congress to pass the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2025 (HR 1379) into law, which would allow survivors and victims of human trafficking to vacate convictions and expunge arrests of certain federal offenses from their records.

This act focuses on "Level A offenses," which are non-violent Federal crimes. Victim-survivors of human trafficking endure many risks, including the possibility that their exploitation can lead to arrests and convictions. Trafficking survivors can endure lifelong criminal records that can create problems when trying to regain their independence in society, even affecting job and housing acquisition. According to the Polaris 2023 National Survivor Study survey, 90% of criminal records of trafficking victim-survivors were connected to their exploitation.

In addition, this act will provide other benefits to survivors while filing for criminal vacation or expungement, such as allowing licensed anti-human trafficking service providers or clinicians to serve as supporting evidence of trafficking. It can be challenging for survivors to gather and provide evidence of their trafficking situation due to the nature of the crime and the potential for trauma to affect recall and memory. The opportunity for providers to testify on the survivor's experience plays a crucial role in the ability of survivors to prove their trafficking in court. It will also offer financial assistance, including the opportunity to waive any fees associated with filing a motion or to use grant money from the Office of Justice Programs or the Office on Violence Against Women for legal representation during the motion and hearing.

The members of AMWA-PATH are deeply committed to advancing policies that improve care and support for victim-survivors of human trafficking. This legislation fills some gaps in the legal and financial support critical for survivor recovery. We commend Congress for acknowledging the complex reality and consequences of involvement in the criminal justice system that survivors of human trafficking face. This is an important anti-trafficking measure to reduce additional trauma and the risk of repeat exploitation to survivors of this serious human rights violation.

**AMWA-PATH stands in support of H.R. 1379 - we urge members of Congress to listen to anti-trafficking experts and survivors with lived experience of trafficking and vote YES.**

If you would like to learn more or help fund our anti-trafficking efforts in education, advocacy, and research, please visit [www.amwa-doc.org/ourwork/initiatives/human-trafficking](http://www.amwa-doc.org/ourwork/initiatives/human-trafficking).

Thank you,

AMWA-PATH Advocacy Committee

American Medical Women's Association - Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans