

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To include findings and express the sense of Congress relating to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1494

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to protect alien minors and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end abuse of the asylum system and establish refugee application and processing centers outside the United States, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by
_____ to the amendment (No.
_____) proposed by _____

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. ____ . FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING**

3 **TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (re-
7 ferred to in this subsection as “CBP”) is charged

1 with protecting the borders of the United States and
2 facilitating travel and trade.

3 (2) The Southern border of the United States
4 is experiencing unprecedented numbers of vulnerable
5 individuals attempting to enter the country.

6 (3) In June 2019, 104,344 individuals were ap-
7 prehended at the Southern border, which is an in-
8 crease of more than 140 percent, as compared to
9 June 2018.

10 (4) As of June 2019, the number of individuals
11 apprehended or determined to be inadmissible by
12 CBP at the Southern border in fiscal year 2019 is
13 780,638, already surpassing the fiscal year 2014
14 total of 569,287, which was the highest such number
15 in the preceding 5 years.

16 (5) The Homeland Security Advisory Council
17 expects Southwest border migration numbers to ap-
18 proach or exceed 1,000,000 individuals in fiscal year
19 2019 unless immediate action is taken.

20 (6) Historically, the majority of individuals ar-
21 riving at the Southern border have been single adult
22 males from Mexico, but by May 2019, 72 percent of
23 all border enforcement actions were associated with
24 unaccompanied children and family units.

1 (7) Due to the constant and increasing flow of
2 migrants crossing the Southern border between
3 ports of entry, financial and human resources are
4 being diverted from the security and law enforce-
5 ment duties of CBP, resulting in—

6 (A) fewer seizures of narcotics and illicit
7 currency; and

8 (B) increased wait times at ports of entry,
9 leading to warnings of possible produce short-
10 ages and interruptions in supply chains.

11 (8) More than 40 percent of CBP resources are
12 currently being absorbed by the humanitarian crisis
13 at the Southern border.

14 (9) The final emergency interim report pub-
15 lished by the Homeland Security Advisory Council
16 on April 16, 2019, notes that a substantial number
17 of individuals who are apprehended by CBP require
18 significant personal and medical care that exceeds
19 the ability and capacity of CBP, despite creative and
20 humane attempts by CBP to care for such individ-
21 uals in CBP custody.

22 (10) CBP officers and personnel have raised
23 concerns that overcrowding poses immediate risks
24 to—

1 (A) the health and safety of the migrants;

2 and

3 (B) CBP officers;

4 (11) CBP officers are experiencing both phys-
5 ical illness and severe mental and emotional distress
6 as a result of the crisis at the Southern border.

7 (12) In May 2019, the Commissioner of CBP
8 requested an additional \$2,100,000 for the Em-
9 ployee Assistance Program of CBP in order to offer
10 additional counseling services to CBP officers and
11 personnel to respond to “unanticipated critical inci-
12 dents and other emerging crises, such as the unex-
13 pected response required for migrant caravans, em-
14 ployee suicides, and the need for a financial wellness
15 program”.

16 (13) In the face of the most difficult cir-
17 cumstances, CBP officers and personnel continue—

18 (A) to work undaunted to protect the
19 Southern border; and

20 (B) to care for the migrants in CBP cus-
21 tody.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that—

24 (1) the men and women of U.S. Customs and
25 Border Protection, including Border Patrol per-

1 sonnel, Office of Field Operations personnel, Air and
2 Marine Operations personnel, Office of Trade per-
3 sonnel, and all support personnel and their allies
4 should be commended for their continued honorable
5 service during the challenging humanitarian crisis at
6 the Southern border; and

7 (2) Congress will continue to support U.S. Cus-
8 toms and Border Protection officers and their ef-
9 forts to manage the increasing flow of migrants at-
10 tempting to enter the United States.