



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 7, 2004

### **H.R. 2620** **Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003**

*As cleared by the Congress on December 9, 2003,  
and signed by the President on December 19, 2003*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2620 (Public Law 108-193) reauthorizes several programs within the Departments of State, Labor, Justice, and Health and Human Services, and within other agencies that combat trafficking in persons. It expands the federal prohibitions against such trafficking and makes more victims of trafficking and their relatives eligible to enter and remain in the United States. CBO estimates that this legislation will have an insignificant effect on direct spending and revenues.

#### **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

**Medicaid and Other Entitlement Benefits.** Individuals certified as trafficking victims are eligible to receive benefits from federal entitlement programs such as Medicaid and Food Stamps. Under H.R. 2620, certain dependents of those victims—such as spouses and minor children—will also become eligible for benefits. However, fewer than 15 individuals per month have been certified as trafficking victims since the program began early in fiscal year 2001. Only a minority of persons certified in 2001 applied for benefits in that year—the only year for which such data are available—and fewer still actually received Medicaid, Food Stamps, or other entitlement benefits. As a result, CBO expects that the changes made by H.R. 2620 will have little effect on the number of people receiving benefits from these programs, and that any resulting increase in direct spending will not be significant.

**Immigration Status for Certain Victims.** The act will make it easier for more victims of trafficking and their relatives to enter and remain in the United States. Costs to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services for adjudicating such cases will be funded from fees collected by the agency. CBO estimates that any such costs will not be significant because of the relatively small number of trafficking victims likely to be involved.

**Civil and Criminal Fines.** The act will expand the list of federal crimes relating to trafficking in persons. Because those prosecuted and convicted under the act will be subject to civil and criminal fines, the government may collect additional fines. Collections of civil fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues) and are deposited in the general fund. Collections of criminal fines are also recorded as receipts and are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending will not be significant.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES**

CBO prepared cost estimates for two previous versions of this legislation. On August 13, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2620, as ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations on July 23, 2003; and on September 26, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2620, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 24, 2003. Provisions in H.R. 2620, as cleared by the Congress, are similar or identical to provisions in the earlier versions of the legislation and have similar or identical estimated costs.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Immigration and Department of Justice: Mark Grabowicz (226-2860)

Medicaid: Eric Rollins (226-9010)

Other Programs: Paul R. Cullinan (226-2820)

## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis