

S.3815/H.R.7467 VIRGINIA'S LAW



Virginia's Law is named in honor of the late **Virginia Roberts Giuffre**, a courageous survivor who was trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell. Despite immense risk and personal harm, Virginia chose to speak out, helping expose a system of abuse that had long operated in silence. Introduced in her honor, Virginia's Law ensures that her legacy will endure—advancing accountability and expanding access to justice for survivors everywhere.

"We need to make it easier to punish those who victimize others. I want to eliminate laws that limit the period in which survivors can seek justice for their abuser."

WHAT DOES S.3815/H.R.7467 DO?

S.3815/H.R.7467 Virginia's Law eliminates the statute of limitations for federal civil claims by adult survivors of trafficking and exploitation, creating new civil legal avenues to pursue justice and ensuring accountability does not expire.

For far too long, statutes of limitations have kept survivors out of the courtroom—shielding abusers and the institutions that enabled them. Trafficking is rarely a single incident; it is a prolonged, coercive, and deeply traumatizing experience. Survivors are often threatened, manipulated, financially controlled, and psychologically entrapped, leaving many unable to fully understand what happened to them—or even recognize it as abuse—until years later. In fact, many survivors do not disclose their abuse until around the age of 40, well after the current legal deadlines have passed.

VIRGINIA'S LAW WILL AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE US CODE TO:

1. CREATE NEW FEDERAL CIVIL CAUSES OF ACTION:

The bill allows survivors of certain federal sex crimes to file civil lawsuits directly against the perpetrator, and anyone who knowingly benefited financially or otherwise from the abuse or trafficking venture. Survivors can seek damages and attorneys' fees in federal court. This applies to: federal sexual abuse crimes, transportation for illegal sexual activity and related offenses, forced labor, trafficking, and sex trafficking violations.

2. ELIMINATE STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS FOR THE MOST SERIOUS OFFENSES:

For major federal crimes (including trafficking and certain sexual abuse offenses), the bill removes time limits entirely—meaning survivors can sue at any time.

3. EXPAND WHERE SURVIVORS CAN FILE:

The bill clarifies that survivors may sue in any federal district court that could hear a related criminal case, helping address jurisdictional barriers.

4. INCLUDE A ONE-YEAR "LOOK-BACK WINDOW":

Survivors whose claims were previously time-barred—including cases dismissed because of expired deadlines—may re-file during a one-year period after enactment.