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Rep. Lloyd Doggett on Altering of Malaysia's Human Trafficking Report Card

Washington, D.C.— As a senior Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Doggett sought to address human trafficking in the Committee markup of trade legislation, in direct questions to USTR Ambassador Michael Froman and Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Tom Malinowski, as well as during House floor debate. Today he reacted to a report by [Reuters](#) that the U.S. Trafficking in Persons report will alter Malaysia's status as one of the world's worst countries for human trafficking:

“This alarming report indicates that once again trade is being prioritized over trafficking enforcement. Bending the standards to reward a country that accepts trade in women, children and forced laborers is wrong. Malaysia adopting some new provision that will not be consistently enforced is no substitute for effective prosecution. Where is the evidence that during the past year Malaysia has successfully prosecuted traffickers? Apparently, the [U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia](#) found no such evidence as recently as three months ago. It is easier to lower the standard than to insist that Malaysia protect trafficking victims. Like the happy talk about human rights with Vietnam earlier this week, this report is another indication that the Trans-Pacific Partnership is not being used to bring about meaningful change on critical issues.”

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