

1 in these activities can exploit the same vulnerabilities
2 and financial channels.”.

3 (3) Among those are bad actors engaged in
4 trafficking, whether they trade in drugs, arms, cul-
5 tural property, wildlife, natural resources, counter-
6 feit goods, organs, or, even, other humans.

7 (4) Their illegal (or “dark”) markets use simi-
8 lar and sometimes related or overlapping methods
9 and means to acquire, move, and profit from their
10 crimes.

11 (5) In a March 2017, report from Global Fi-
12 nancial Integrity, “Transnational Crime and the De-
13 veloping World”, the global business of transnational
14 crime was valued at \$1.6 trillion to \$2.2 trillion an-
15 nually, resulting in crime, violence, terrorism, insta-
16 bility, corruption, and lost tax revenues worldwide.

17 **SEC. 6003. GAO STUDY.**

18 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
19 States shall carry out a study on—

20 (1) the major trafficking routes used by
21 transnational criminal organizations, terrorists, and
22 others, and to what extent the trafficking routes for
23 people (including children), drugs, weapons, cash,
24 child sexual exploitation materials, or other illicit
25 goods are similar, related, or cooperative;

1 (2) commonly used methods to launder and
2 move the proceeds of trafficking;

3 (3) the types of suspicious financial activity
4 that are associated with illicit trafficking networks,
5 and how financial institutions identify and report
6 such activity;

7 (4) the nexus between the identities and fi-
8 nances of trafficked persons and fraud;

9 (5) the tools, guidance, training, partnerships,
10 supervision, or other mechanisms that Federal agen-
11 cies, including the Department of the Treasury's Fi-
12 nancial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Federal
13 financial regulators, and law enforcement, provide to
14 help financial institutions identify techniques and
15 patterns of transactions that may involve the pro-
16 ceeds of trafficking;

17 (6) what steps financial institutions are taking
18 to detect and prevent bad actors who are laundering
19 the proceeds of illicit trafficking, including data
20 analysis, policies, training procedures, rules, and
21 guidance;

22 (7) what role gatekeepers, such as lawyers, no-
23 taries, accountants, investment advisors, logistics
24 agents, and trust and company service providers,

1 play in facilitating trafficking networks and the
2 laundering of illicit proceeds; and

3 (8) the role that emerging technologies, includ-
4 ing artificial intelligence, digital identity tech-
5 nologies, blockchain technologies, virtual assets, and
6 related exchanges and online marketplaces, and
7 other innovative technologies, can play in both as-
8 sisting with and potentially enabling the laundering
9 of proceeds from trafficking.

10 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study re-
11 quired under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
12 solicit feedback and perspectives to the extent practicable
13 from survivor and victim advocacy organizations, law en-
14 forcement, research organizations, private-sector organiza-
15 tions (including financial institutions and data and tech-
16 nology companies), and any other organization or entity
17 that the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

18 (c) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall issue
19 one or more reports to the Congress containing the results
20 of the study required under subsection (a). The first re-
21 port shall be issued not later than the end of the 15-month
22 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.
23 The reports shall contain—

- 1 (1) all findings and determinations made in car-
2 rying out the study required under subsection (a);
3 and
4 (2) recommendations for any legislative or regu-
5 latory changes necessary to combat trafficking or
6 the laundering of proceeds from trafficking.

