

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5955

To reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MESSER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Victims of Child Abuse
5 Act Reauthorization Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 211 of the Victims of Child
3 Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2,000,000”
5 and inserting “3,300,000”;

6 (2) in paragraph (6)—

7 (A) by inserting “improve positive out-
8 comes for the child,” before “and increase”;
9 and

10 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a
11 semicolon;

12 (3) in paragraph (7), by striking “could be du-
13 plicated in many jurisdictions throughout the coun-
14 try.” and inserting “have expanded dramatically
15 throughout the United States; and”;

16 (4) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(8) State chapters of children’s advocacy cen-
18 ter networks are needed to—

19 “(A) assist local communities in coordi-
20 nating their multidisciplinary child abuse inves-
21 tigation, prosecution, and intervention services;
22 and

23 “(B) provide oversight of, and training and
24 technical assistance in, the effective delivery of
25 evidence-informed programming.”.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 212 of the Victims of
2 Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20302) is amended—

3 (1) by striking paragraphs (3) and (6);

4 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (7),
5 (8), and (9) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and
6 (7), respectively;

7 (3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by
8 striking “and” at the end;

9 (4) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by
10 striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
11 and

12 (5) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(8) the term ‘State chapter’ means a member-
14 ship organization that provides technical assistance,
15 training, coordination, grant administration, over-
16 sight, and support to local children’s advocacy cen-
17 ters, multidisciplinary teams, and communities work-
18 ing to implement a multidisciplinary response to
19 child abuse in the provision of evidence-informed ini-
20 tiatives, including mental health counseling, forensic
21 interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination,
22 and victim advocacy.”.

23 (c) REGIONAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—
24 Section 213 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990
25 (34 U.S.C. 20303) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
3 by striking “with the Director and”;

4 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

5 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
6 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

7 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
8 by striking “and” at the end;

9 (E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

10 (i) by inserting after “mental health
11 care professionals” the following: “, law
12 enforcement officers, child protective serv-
13 ice workers, forensic interviewers, prosecu-
14 tors, and victim advocates,”;

15 (ii) by striking “medical” each place
16 that term appears; and

17 (iii) by striking the period at the end
18 and inserting “; and”; and

19 (F) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) collaborate with State chapters to provide
21 training, technical assistance, coordination, and
22 oversight to—

23 “(A) local children’s advocacy centers; and

24 “(B) communities that want to develop
25 local children’s advocacy centers.”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
4 graph (A), by striking “, in coordination
5 with the Director,”;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
7 “and” at the end;

8 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “the prevention, judicial handling, and
10 treatment of child abuse and neglect; and”
11 and inserting “multidisciplinary team in-
12 vestigation, trauma-informed interventions,
13 and evidence-informed treatment.”; and

14 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C); and
15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (I) in the matter preceding clause
18 (i), by striking “communities” and in-
19 serting “communities, local children’s
20 advocacy centers, multidisciplinary
21 teams, and State chapters”;

22 (II) in clause (i), by inserting
23 “and expanding” after “developing”;

1 (III) by redesignating clauses (ii)
2 through (x) as clauses (iii) through
3 (xi), respectively;

4 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)
5 the following:

6 “(ii) in promoting the effective deliv-
7 ery of the evidence-informed Children’s Ad-
8 vocacy Model and the multidisciplinary re-
9 sponse to child abuse, including best prac-
10 tices in—

11 “(I) organizational support and
12 development;

13 “(II) programmatic evaluation;
14 and

15 “(III) financial oversight of Fed-
16 eral funding;”;

17 (V) in clause (iii), as so redesign-
18 nated, by striking “a freestanding fa-
19 cility where interviews of and services
20 for abused children can be provided”
21 and inserting “child-friendly facilities
22 for the investigation of, assessment of,
23 and intervention in abuse”; and

1 (VI) in clause (iv), as so redesignig-
2 nated, by striking “multiple” and in-
3 serting “duplicative”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
5 “and interested communities” after “advocacy
6 centers”;

7 (3) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “re-
9 medial counseling to” and inserting “evidence-
10 informed services for”;

11 (B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking
12 “multidisciplinary child abuse program” and in-
13 serting “children’s advocacy center”; and

14 (C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
16 by striking “, in coordination with the Di-
17 rector,”;

18 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

19 (iii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and
20 (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

21 (4) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in co-
23 ordination with the Director,”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
2 ceeding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the
3 Director”; and
4 (5) by striking subsections (e) and (f).

5 (d) LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—Sec-
6 tion 214 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34
7 U.S.C. 20304) is amended—

8 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordina-
11 tion with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,
12 shall make grants to—

13 “(1) develop and enhance multidisciplinary
14 child abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecu-
15 tion; and

16 “(2) promote the effective delivery of the evi-
17 dence-informed Children’s Advocacy Model and the
18 multidisciplinary response to child abuse, including
19 best practices in programmatic evaluation and finan-
20 cial oversight of Federal funding.”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
23 “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND” before “CHILD
24 PORNOGRAPHY”;

1 (B) by striking “with the Director and”;

2 and

3 (C) by inserting “human trafficking and”

4 before “child pornography”;

5 (3) in subsection (c)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
8 ing “Administrator”; and

9 (ii) by striking “this section” and in-
10 sserting “subsections (a) and (b)”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
13 “social service” and inserting “child pro-
14 tective service”;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 “the ‘counseling center’” and inserting “a
17 ‘children’s advocacy center’”;

18 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
19 “sexual and serious physical abuse and ne-
20 glect cases to the counseling center” and
21 inserting “child abuse cases that meet des-
22 ignated referral criteria to the children’s
23 advocacy center”;

24 (iv) in subparagraph (D)—

1 (I) by striking “investigative”
2 and inserting “forensic”; and

3 (II) by striking “social service”
4 and inserting “child protective serv-
5 ice”;

6 (v) by striking subparagraph (E);

7 (vi) by redesignating subparagraphs
8 (F) through (J) as subparagraphs (E)
9 through (I), respectively;

10 (vii) in subparagraph (E), as so reded-
11 icated, by striking “counseling center”
12 and inserting “children’s advocacy center
13 or an agency with which there is a linkage
14 agreement regarding the delivery of multi-
15 disciplinary child abuse investigation, pros-
16 ecution, and intervention services”;

17 (viii) in subparagraph (F), as so re-
18 icated, by striking “minimize the
19 number of interviews that a child victim
20 must attend” and inserting “eliminate du-
21 plicative forensic interviews with a child
22 victim”;

23 (ix) in subparagraph (G), as so reded-
24 icated, by striking “multidisciplinary pro-

1 gram” and inserting “children’s advocacy
2 center”;

3 (x) in subparagraph (H), as so reded-
4 ignated, by inserting “intervention and”
5 before “judicial proceedings”; and

6 (xi) in subparagraph (I), as so reded-
7 ignated, by striking “Director” and insert-
8 ing “Administrator”;

9 (4) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) by striking “the Director” and insert-
11 ing “the Administrator”; and

12 (B) by striking “both large and small
13 States” and inserting “all States that are eligi-
14 ble for such grants, including large and small
15 States,”; and

16 (5) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE
18 TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In award-
19 ing grants under this section, the Administrator shall en-
20 sure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State
21 chapters to enable State chapters to provide technical as-
22 sistance, training, coordination, and oversight to other re-
23 cipients of grants under this section in providing evidence-
24 informed initiatives, including mental health counseling,

1 forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination,
2 and victim advocacy.”.

3 (e) GRANTS FOR SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSIST-
4 ANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 214A of the
5 Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20305)
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “to attorneys”
8 and all that follows and inserting the following:
9 “to—

10 “(1) attorneys and other allied professionals in-
11 strumental to the criminal prosecution of child abuse
12 cases in State or Federal courts, for the purpose of
13 improving the quality of criminal prosecution of such
14 cases; and

15 “(2) child abuse professionals instrumental to
16 the protection of children, intervention in child abuse
17 cases, and treatment of victims of child abuse, for
18 the purpose of—

19 “(A) improving the quality of such protec-
20 tion, intervention, and treatment; and

21 “(B) promoting the effective delivery of the
22 evidence-informed Children’s Advocacy Model
23 and the multidisciplinary response to child
24 abuse, including best practices in programmatic

1 evaluation and financial oversight of Federal
2 funding.”;

3 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(b) GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS.—

6 “(1) PROSECUTORS.—An organization to which
7 a grant is made for specific training and technical
8 assistance for prosecutors under subsection (a)(1)
9 shall be one that has—

10 “(A) a broad representation of attorneys
11 who prosecute criminal cases in State courts;
12 and

13 “(B) demonstrated experience in providing
14 training and technical assistance for prosecu-
15 tors.

16 “(2) CHILD ABUSE PROFESSIONALS.—An orga-
17 nization to which a grant is made for specific train-
18 ing and technical assistance for child abuse profes-
19 sionals under subsection (a)(2) shall be one that
20 has—

21 “(A) a diverse portfolio of training and
22 technical resources for the diverse professionals
23 responding to child abuse, including a digital li-
24 brary to promote evidence-informed practice;
25 and

1 “(B) demonstrated experience in providing
2 training and technical assistance for child abuse
3 professionals, especially law enforcement offi-
4 cers, child protective service workers, prosecu-
5 tors, forensic interviewers, medical profes-
6 sionals, victim advocates, and mental health
7 professionals.”; and

8 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting after
9 “shall require” the following: “, in the case of a
10 grant made under subsection (a)(1),”.

11 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
12 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34
13 U.S.C. 20306) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “sections 213
15 and 214” and all that follows and inserting the fol-
16 lowing: “sections 213 and 214, \$19,000,000 for each
17 of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “section
19 214A” and all that follows and inserting the fol-
20 lowing: “section 214A, \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal
21 years 2019 through 2023.”.

22 (g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS
23 RELATING TO TITLE 34, UNITED STATES CODE.—The
24 Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301 et
25 seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 212(1) (34 U.S.C. 20302), by
2 striking “(42 U.S.C. 5611(b))” and inserting “(34
3 U.S.C. 11111(b))”;

4 (2) in section 214(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.
5 20304(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”
6 and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

7 (3) in section 214A(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.
8 20305(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”
9 and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

10 (4) in section 217(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.
11 20323(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”
12 and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

13 (5) in section 223(c) (34 U.S.C. 20333(c)), by
14 striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)” and inserting
15 “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”.

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