

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 898

Recognizing the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children on its
40th anniversary.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the National Center for Missing & Exploited
Children on its 40th anniversary.

Whereas 40 years ago John and Revé Walsh, along with other advocates for children, founded the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, whose mission is to serve as the leading nonprofit organization in the United States to help locate missing children and combat child sexual exploitation;

Whereas John and Revé Walsh's son Adam was tragically murdered following an unconscionable abduction, leading them to a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of missing and exploited children;

Whereas, as a result of the tireless advocacy of the Walshes and countless others, in 1984, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was established to serve as

the clearinghouse for information relating to missing and exploited children in the United States and as a resource for parents, children, and law enforcement;

Whereas, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.), establishing a national resource center and clearinghouse for missing children, a role that the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was designated to fulfill;

Whereas the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, in coordination with Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies, provides a critical response to help in locating missing children, responds to reports of child sexual exploitation, and distributes posters of missing children to the public;

Whereas, over the last 40 years, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has assisted law enforcement in the recovery of over 448,000 children and has received 200,000,000 reports relating to suspected child sexual exploitation;

Whereas, since its founding, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has received more than 5,600,000 calls to its 24-hour call center;

Whereas, following an increase in reports relating to the online sexual exploitation of children, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children established its CyberTipline, which provides an online mechanism for members of the public and electronic service providers to report incidents of suspected online sexual exploitation;

Whereas, since its inception in 1998, the CyberTipline has received 200,000,000 reports of child sexual exploitation,

which the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children reviews and makes available to international, Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, including the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, for their review and handling;

Whereas, in 2023, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children launched its “Take It Down” tool, a groundbreaking program that helps victims of online child sexual exploitation remove from the internet nude or sexually explicit photos and videos taken of them while under the age of 18;

Whereas, with the passage of the Missing Children’s Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–65; 138 Stat. 1439), on June 17, 2024, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was reauthorized to perform 16 programs of work, including—

- (1) helping to locate and recover missing children;
- (2) responding to reports of child sexual exploitation and working to identify children depicted in sexually abusive imagery;
- (3) conducting analytical services, including on child sex trafficking cases;
- (4) offering community safety education for child-serving professionals; and
- (5) providing family crisis and mental health assistance; and

Whereas, for over 40 years, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has been essential to combating the sexual exploitation of children in the United States and has served as a critical resource to children, parents, and law enforcement: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) recognizes the National Center for Missing
2 & Exploited Children on the 40th anniversary of its
3 founding;

4 (2) commends the tremendous work that the
5 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
6 undertakes to assist and protect children in the
7 United States;

8 (3) supports the continued mission of the Na-
9 tional Center for Missing & Exploited Children to
10 help find missing children, reduce child sexual ex-
11 ploitation, and prevent child victimization; and

12 (4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of
13 the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolu-
14 tion to the National Center for Missing & Exploited
15 Children.

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