

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3975

To reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 31, 2022

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990,
and for other purposes.

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 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF**
7 **CHILD ABUSE CASES.**

8 The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C.
9 20301 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 211 (34 U.S.C. 20301)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by striking “3,300,000” and in-
4 serting “3,400,000”; and

5 (ii) by striking “, and drug abuse is
6 associated with a significant portion of
7 these”;

8 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
9 through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), re-
10 spectively;

11 (C) by inserting afer paragraph (2) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(3) a key to a child victim healing from abuse
14 is access to supportive and healthy families and com-
15 munities;”; and

16 (D) in paragraph (9)(B), as so redesign-
17 nated, by inserting “, and operations of cen-
18 ters” before the period at the end;

19 (2) in section 212 (34 U.S.C. 20302)—

20 (A) in paragraph (5), by inserting “coordi-
21 nated team” before “response”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (8), by inserting “organi-
23 zational capacity” before “support”;

24 (3) in section 213 (34 U.S.C. 20303)—

25 (A) in subsection (a)—

1 (i) in the heading, by inserting “AND
2 MAINTENANCE” after “ESTABLISHMENT”;

3 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph
4 (1)—

5 (I) by striking “, in coordination
6 with the Director of the Office of Vic-
7 tims of Crime,”; and

8 (II) by inserting “and maintain”
9 after “establish”;

10 (iii) in paragraph (3)—

11 (I) by striking “and victim advo-
12 cates” and inserting “victim advo-
13 cates, multidisciplinary team leader-
14 ship, and children’s advocacy center
15 staff”; and

16 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

17 (iv) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
18 paragraph (5);

19 (v) by inserting after paragraph (3)
20 the following:

21 “(4) provide technical assistance, training, co-
22 ordination, and organizational capacity support for
23 State chapters; and”; and

24 (vi) in paragraph (5), as so redesign-
25 nated, by striking “and oversight to” and

1 inserting “organizational capacity support,
2 and oversight of”;

3 (B) in subsection (b)—

4 (i) in paragraph (1)—

5 (I) in subparagraph (A), by in-
6 serting “and maintain” after “estab-
7 lish”; and

8 (II) in the matter following sub-
9 paragraph (B), by striking “and tech-
10 nical assistance to aid communities in
11 establishing” and inserting “training
12 and technical assistance to aid com-
13 munities in establishing and maintain-
14 ing”; and

15 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

16 (I) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (aa) in clause (ii), by insert-
18 ing “Center” after “Advocacy”;
19 and

20 (bb) in clause (iii), by strik-
21 ing “of, assessment of, and inter-
22 vention in” and inserting “and
23 intervention in child”; and

24 (II) in subparagraph (B), by
25 striking “centers and interested com-

1 communities” and inserting “centers, in-
2 terested communities, and chapters”;
3 and

4 (C) in subsection (c)—

5 (i) in paragraph (2)—

6 (I) in subparagraph (B), by
7 striking “evaluation, intervention, evi-
8 dence gathering, and counseling” and
9 inserting “investigation and interven-
10 tion in child abuse”; and

11 (II) in subparagraph (E), by
12 striking “judicial handling of child
13 abuse and neglect” and inserting
14 “multidisciplinary response to child
15 abuse”;

16 (ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking
17 “so that communities can establish multi-
18 disciplinary programs that respond to child
19 abuse” and inserting “and chapters so that
20 communities can establish and maintain
21 multidisciplinary programs that respond to
22 child abuse and chapters can establish and
23 maintain children’s advocacy centers in
24 their State”;

25 (iii) in paragraph (4)(B)—

1 (I) in clause (iii), by striking
 2 “and” at the end;

3 (II) in by redesignating clause
 4 (iv) as clause (v); and

5 (III) by inserting after clause
 6 (iii) the following:

7 “(iv) best result in supporting chap-
 8 ters in each State; and”; and

9 (iv) in paragraph (6), by inserting
 10 “under this Act” after “recipients”;

11 (4) in section 214 (34 U.S.C. 20304)—

12 (A) by striking subsection (a) and insert-
 13 ing the following:

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall make
 15 grants to—

16 “(1) establish and maintain a network of care
 17 for child abuse victims where investigation, prosecu-
 18 tions, and interventions are continually occurring
 19 and coordinating activities within local children’s ad-
 20 vocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

21 “(2) develop, enhance, and coordinate multi-
 22 disciplinary child abuse investigations, intervention,
 23 and prosecution activities;

24 “(3) promote the effective delivery of the evi-
 25 dence-based, trauma-informed Children’s Advocacy

1 Center Model and the multidisciplinary response to
2 child abuse; and

3 “(4) develop and disseminate practice standards
4 for care and best practices in programmatic evalua-
5 tion, and support State chapter organizational ca-
6 pacity and local children’s advocacy center organiza-
7 tional capacity and operations in order to meet such
8 practice standards and best practices.”;

9 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “, in co-
10 ordination with the Director of the Office of
11 Victims of Crime,”;

12 (C) in subsection (c)(2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
14 “to the greatest extent practicable, but in
15 no case later than 72 hours,” after
16 “hours”; and

17 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (D)
18 through (I) and inserting the following:

19 “(D) Forensic interviews of child victims
20 by trained personnel that are used by law en-
21 forcement, health, and child protective service
22 agencies to interview suspected abuse victims
23 about allegations of abuse.

1 “(E) Provision of needed follow up services
2 such as medical care, mental healthcare, and
3 victims advocacy services.

4 “(F) A requirement that, to the extent
5 practicable, all interviews and meetings with a
6 child victim occur at the children’s advocacy
7 center or an agency with which there is a link-
8 age agreement regarding the delivery of multi-
9 disciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecu-
10 tion, and intervention services.

11 “(G) Coordination of each step of the in-
12 vestigation process to eliminate duplicative fo-
13 rensic interviews with a child victim.

14 “(H) Designation of a director for the chil-
15 dren’s advocacy center.

16 “(I) Designation of a multidisciplinary
17 team coordinator.

18 “(J) Assignment of a volunteer or staff ad-
19 vocate to each child in order to assist the child
20 and, when appropriate, the child’s family,
21 throughout each step of intervention and judi-
22 cial proceedings.

23 “(K) Coordination with State chapters to
24 assist and provide oversight, and organizational
25 capacity that supports local children’s advocacy

1 centers, multidisciplinary teams, and commu-
 2 nities working to implement a multidisciplinary
 3 response to child abuse in the provision of evi-
 4 dence-informed initiatives, including mental
 5 health counseling, forensic interviewing, multi-
 6 disciplinary team coordination, and victim advo-
 7 cacy.

8 “(L) Such other criteria as the Adminis-
 9 trator shall establish by regulation.”; and

10 (D) by striking subsection (f) and inserting
 11 the following:

12 “(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE
 13 TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In award-
 14 ing grants under this section, the Administrator shall en-
 15 sure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State
 16 chapters to enable State chapters to provide oversight,
 17 training, and technical assistance to local centers on evi-
 18 dence-informed initiatives including mental health, coun-
 19 seling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team co-
 20 ordination, and victim advocacy.”;

21 (5) in section 214A (34 U.S.C. 20305)—

22 (A) in subsection (a)—

23 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “at-
 24 torneys and other allied” and inserting

1 “prosecutors and other attorneys and al-
 2 lied”; and

3 (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting
 4 “Center” after “Advocacy”; and

5 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking sub-
 6 paragraph (A) and inserting the following:

7 “(A) a significant connection to prosecu-
 8 tors who handle child abuse cases in State
 9 courts, such as a membership organization or
 10 support service providers; and”; and

11 (6) by striking 214B (34 U.S.C. 20306) and in-
 12 serting the following:

13 **“SEC. 214B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 15 sections 213, 214, and 214A, \$40,000,000 for each of fis-
 16 cal years 2022 through 2028.”.

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