

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 4538

To amend section 248 of title 18, United States Code, to provide adequate penalties and remedies for attacks on facilities providing counseling about abortion alternatives and attacks on places of religious worship.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2022

Mr. HAWLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend section 248 of title 18, United States Code, to provide adequate penalties and remedies for attacks on facilities providing counseling about abortion alternatives and attacks on places of religious worship.

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 “Pregnancy Resource
5 Center Defense Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ATTACKS ON FACILITIES PROVIDING COUNSELING**
2 **ABOUT ABORTION ALTERNATIVES AND**
3 **PLACES OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.**

4 (a) **CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**—Section 248(b)(1) of
5 title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “,
6 except that for a first offense, if the conduct involved a
7 facility described in subsection (a)(3) that exclusively pro-
8 vides abortion-alternative services or involved a place of
9 religious worship and did not involve exclusively a non-
10 violent physical obstruction, the length of imprisonment
11 shall be not more than 3 years” after “or both”.

12 (b) **CIVIL REMEDIES.**—Section 248(c) of title 18,
13 United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), in the second sentence,
15 by inserting “, or \$20,000 per violation for conduct
16 involving a facility described in subsection (a)(3)
17 that exclusively provides abortion-alternative services
18 or involving a place of religious worship” after “per
19 violation”; and

20 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by inserting “,
21 \$25,000 for a first violation, if the violation involved
22 a facility described in subsection (a)(3) that exclu-
23 sively provides abortion-alternative services or in-
24 volved a place of religious worship and did not in-
25 volve exclusively a nonviolent physical obstruction,”
26 after “physical obstruction”.

1 **SEC. 3. DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS, VEHICLES, AND**
2 **PROPERTY.**

3 Section 844(i) of title 18, United States Code, is
4 amended by inserting “or if the building is a facility de-
5 scribed in section 248(a)(3) that exclusively provides abor-
6 tion-alternative services or is a place of religious worship,”
7 before “shall be imprisoned for not less than 7 years”.

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