

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5549

To establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare forensic interviews with children and adults, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare forensic interviews with children and adults, 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 “Generate Recordings
5 of All Child protective Interviews Everywhere Act” or the
6 “GRACIE Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE INTERVIEW RECORD-**
2 **ING GRANTS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) CHILD WELFARE FORENSIC INTERVIEW.—

5 The term “child welfare forensic interview” means a
6 documented interview with all relevant parties, in-
7 cluding a child and an adult, conducted by a child
8 protective services agency of a State in order to elic-
9 it information regarding concerns of abuse, neglect,
10 or exposure to violence.

11 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
12 the Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and
13 Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Jus-
14 tice.

15 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
16 ty” means a child protective services agency of a
17 State that has in effect a statute, ordinance, policy,
18 or practice that requires—

19 (A) any child welfare forensic interview
20 conducted by a child protective services agency
21 of the State to be recorded through—

22 (i) electronic audio recording;

23 (ii) body camera video; or

24 (iii) any other reasonable means of re-
25 cording; and

1 (B) the retention and storage of a record-
2 ing described in subparagraph (A)—

3 (i) for not less than 5 years; and

4 (ii) in a manner consistent with the
5 protocols established by the State for such
6 recordings, which shall include that—

7 (I) a copy of such a recording—

8 (aa) may only be released to
9 those investigating an allegation;
10 and

11 (bb) may not be released to
12 a caregiver or guardian;

13 (II) a penalty is imposed for a
14 violation of a limitation described in
15 subclause (I); and

16 (III) the retention systems of the
17 child protective services agency se-
18 curely manage the storage and dis-
19 tribution of such a recording with ac-
20 cess controls and role-based permis-
21 sion management.

22 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

23 (A) each of the several States;

24 (B) the District of Columbia;

1 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
2 and

3 (D) any territory or possession of the
4 United States.

5 (b) GRANTS.—The Director may award a grant to
6 an eligible entity for the purpose of recording and storing
7 all child welfare forensic interviews conducted by the eligi-
8 ble entity.

9 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant
10 under this section shall submit to the Director an applica-
11 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
12 information as the Director may require.

13 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a
14 grant under this section shall be used exclusively for costs
15 directly associated with conducting and retaining for 5
16 years the recording of all child welfare forensic interviews
17 by a child protective services agency of a State, including
18 initial interviews conducted during a family assessment.

19 (e) FUNDING.—The Director shall carry out this sec-
20 tion using amounts otherwise available to the Director.

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