

This bill will give these individuals the time that they need to do the proper work safely, rather than the short time of 29 days, to have an extended period of time to respond is both, in this climate, an economic boost, a recognition of fairness in the immigration process, and to recognize the importance of the hard work that the lighters do.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Congresswoman GARCIA, Members of the other body, and Senator CORNYN for the work that is going to shine a light on better productivity and a better economic aspect of this work.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation makes a modest but important technical change to the immigration laws that would improve the efficiency of our agencies and of a critical domestic industry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 5168.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## RESPECT FOR CHILD SURVIVORS ACT

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4926) to amend chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, to require appropriate use of multidisciplinary teams for investigations of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4926

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Respect for Child Survivors Act”.

### SEC. 2. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 540D. Multidisciplinary teams

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘child sexual abuse material’ means a visual depiction described in section 2256(8)(A) of title 18;

“(2) the term ‘covered investigation’ means any investigation of child sexual exploi-

tation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(3) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(4) the term ‘multidisciplinary team’ means a multidisciplinary team established or used under subsection (b)(2);

“(5) the term ‘relevant children’s advocacy center personnel’ means children’s advocacy center staff that regularly participate in multidisciplinary child support settings, including the director of the children’s advocacy center, the coordinator of a multidisciplinary team, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, forensic medical evaluators, physicians, sexual assault nurse examiners, and mental health clinicians; and

“(6) the term ‘victim advocate’ means a person, whether paid or serving as a volunteer, who provides services to victims under the auspices or supervision of a victim services program.

“(b) FBI VICTIM SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the functions described in subsection (c) in connection with each covered investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director shall, unless unavailable or otherwise inconsistent with applicable Federal law—

“(A) use a multidisciplinary team; and

“(B) in accordance with paragraph (3), use—

“(i) a trained Federal Bureau of Investigation child adolescent forensic interviewer; or

“(ii) in the absence of a trained Federal Bureau of Investigation child adolescent forensic interviewer, a trained forensic interviewer at a children’s advocacy center.

“(2) USE AND COORDINATION.—The Director shall use and coordinate with children’s advocacy center-based multidisciplinary teams as necessary to carry out paragraph (1).

“(3) CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—The Director—

“(A) may work with children’s advocacy centers to implement a multidisciplinary team approaches for purposes of covered investigations; and

“(B) shall allow, facilitate, and encourage multidisciplinary teams to collaborate with a children’s advocacy center with regard to availability, provision, and use of services to and by victims and families that are participants in or affected by the actions at issue in a covered investigation.

“(4) REPORT.—The Director shall submit to the Attorney General an annual report identifying any interview of a victim reporting child sexual abuse material or child trafficking that took place—

“(A) without the use of—

“(i) a multidisciplinary approach;

“(ii) a trained forensic interviewer; or

“(iii) either the use of a multidisciplinary approach or a trained forensic interviewer; and

“(B) for each interview identified under subparagraph (A), describing the exigent circumstances that existed with respect to the interview, in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(5) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director shall seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a reputable national accrediting organization for children’s advocacy centers—

“(A) under which—

“(i) the children’s advocacy services of the national organization are made available to field offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States; and

“(ii) special agents and other employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are made aware of the existence of such memoranda and its purposes; and

“(B) which shall reflect a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach and provide for case review.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions described in this subsection are the following:

“(1) To provide for the sharing of information among the members of a multidisciplinary team, when such a team is used, and with other appropriate personnel regarding the progress of a covered investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(2) To provide for and enhance collaborative efforts among the members of a multidisciplinary team, when such a team is used, and other appropriate personnel regarding a covered investigation.

“(3) To enhance the social services available to victims in connection with a covered investigation, including through the enhancement of cooperation among specialists and other personnel providing such services in connection with a covered investigation.

“(4) To carry out other duties regarding the response to investigations of child sexual abuse or trafficking.

“(d) PERSONNEL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each multidisciplinary team shall be composed of the following:

“(A) Appropriate investigative personnel.

“(B) Appropriate mental health professionals.

“(C) Appropriate medical personnel.

“(D) Victim advocates or victim specialists.

“(E) Relevant children’s advocacy center personnel, with respect to covered investigations in which the children’s advocacy center or personnel of the children’s advocacy center were used in the course of the covered investigation.

“(F) Prosecutors, as appropriate.

“(2) EXPERTISE AND TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual assigned to a multidisciplinary team shall possess such expertise, and shall undertake such training as is required to maintain such expertise, in order to ensure that members of the team remain appropriately qualified to carry out the functions of the team under this section.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The training and expertise required under subparagraph (A) shall include training and expertise on special victims’ crimes, including child sexual abuse.

“(e) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—

“(1) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), relevant children’s advocacy center personnel who are assigned to work on a covered investigation under this section shall be granted access to the case information necessary to perform their role conducting forensic interviews and providing mental health treatment, medical care, and victim advocacy for Federal Bureau of Investigation cases.

“(B) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—The case information described in subparagraph (A) to which relevant children’s advocacy center personnel shall be granted access includes—

“(i) case outcome of forensic interviews;

“(ii) medical evaluation outcomes;

“(iii) mental health treatment referrals and treatment completion;

“(iv) safety planning and child protection issues;

“(v) victim service needs and referrals addressed by the victim advocate;

“(vi) case disposition;

“(vii) case outcomes; and

“(viii) any other information required for a children’s advocacy centers as a part of the standards of practice of the children’s advocacy center; and

“(C) EXEMPT INFORMATION.—The case information described in subparagraph (A) does not include—

“(i) classified information;  
 “(ii) the identity of confidential informants; or  
 “(iii) other investigative information not included as a part of the standards of practice of the children’s advocacy center.”

“(2) SHARING INFORMATION WITH FBI.—Children’s advocacy centers shall provide the Federal Bureau of Investigation with forensic interview recordings and documentation, medical reports, and other case information on Federal Bureau of Investigation-related cases.

“(3) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation may provide security clearances to relevant children’s advocacy center personnel for purposes of case review by multidisciplinary teams, if it is determined that those personnel are eligible and possess a need-to-know specific classified information to perform or assist in a lawful and authorized government function.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out subparagraph (A).

“(f) USE OF TEAMS.—Multidisciplinary teams used under this section shall be made available to victims reporting child sexual abuse or child trafficking in covered investigations, regardless of the age of the victim making the report.

“(g) CASE REVIEW BY MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM.—Throughout a covered investigation, a multidisciplinary team supporting an investigation under this section shall, at regularly scheduled times, convene to—

“(1) share information about case progress;  
 “(2) address any investigative or prosecutorial barriers; and  
 “(3) ensure that victims receive support and needed treatment.

“(h) AVAILABILITY OF ADVOCATES.—The Director shall make advocates available to each victim who reports child sexual abuse or child trafficking in connection with an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to augment any existing investigative authority of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or to expand the jurisdiction of any Federal law enforcement agency.

“(2) PROTECTING INVESTIGATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the legal obligations of the Director under any other provision of law, including section 552a of title 5 (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’), or require the sharing of classified information with unauthorized persons.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 540C the following:

“540D. Multidisciplinary teams.”

### SEC. 3. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

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

(1) in section 211 (34 U.S.C. 20301)—  
 (A) in paragraph (1)—  
 (i) by striking “3,300,000” and inserting “3,400,000”; and

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

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) a key to a child victim healing from abuse is access to supportive and healthy families and communities;”;

(D) in paragraph (9)(B), as so redesignated, by inserting “, and operations of centers” before the period at the end;

(2) in section 212 (34 U.S.C. 20302)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by inserting “coordinated team” before “response”; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by inserting “organizational capacity” before “support”;

(3) in section 213 (34 U.S.C. 20303)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

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

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

(I) by striking “, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,”; and

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

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking “and victim advocates” and inserting “victim advocates, multidisciplinary team leadership, and children’s advocacy center staff”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

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

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

“(4) provide technical assistance, training, coordination, and organizational capacity support for State chapters; and”; and

(vi) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking “and oversight to” and inserting “organizational capacity support, and oversight of”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and maintain” after “establish”; and

(II) in the matter following subparagraph (B), by striking “and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing” and inserting “training and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing and maintaining”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A)—

(aa) in clause (ii), by inserting “Center” after “Advocacy”; and

(bb) in clause (iii), by striking “of, assessment of, and intervention in” and inserting “and intervention in child”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking “centers and interested communities” and inserting “centers, interested communities, and chapters”; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by striking “evaluation, intervention, evidence gathering, and counseling” and inserting “investigation and intervention in child abuse”; and

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

(iii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking “so that communities can establish multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse” and inserting “and chapters so that communities can establish and maintain multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse and chapters can establish and maintain children’s advocacy centers in their State”;

(iii) in paragraph (4)(B)—

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

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

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

“(iv) best result in supporting chapters in each State; and”; and

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

(4) in section 214 (34 U.S.C. 20304)—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

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

“(1) establish and maintain a network of care for child abuse victims where investigation, prosecutions, and interventions are continually occurring and coordinating activities within local children’s advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

“(2) develop, enhance, and coordinate multidisciplinary child abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecution activities;

“(3) promote the effective delivery of the evidence-based, trauma-informed Children’s Advocacy Center Model and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse; and

“(4) develop and disseminate practice standards for care and best practices in programmatic evaluation, and support State chapter organizational capacity and local children’s advocacy center organizational capacity and operations in order to meet such practice standards and best practices.”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,”;

(C) in subsection (c)(2)—

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

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

“(D) Forensic interviews of child victims by trained personnel that are used by law enforcement, health, and child protective service agencies to interview suspected abuse victims about allegations of abuse.

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

“(F) A requirement that, to the extent practicable, all interviews and meetings with a child victim occur at the children’s advocacy center or an agency with which there is a linkage agreement regarding the delivery of multidisciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecution, and intervention services.

“(G) Coordination of each step of the investigation process to eliminate duplicative forensic interviews with a child victim.

“(H) Designation of a director for the children’s advocacy center.

“(I) Designation of a multidisciplinary team coordinator.

“(J) Assignment of a volunteer or staff advocate to each child in order to assist the child and, when appropriate, the child’s family, throughout each step of intervention and judicial proceedings.

“(K) Coordination with State chapters to assist and provide oversight, and organizational capacity that supports local children’s advocacy centers, multidisciplinary teams, and communities working to implement a multidisciplinary response to child abuse in the provision of evidence-informed initiatives, including mental health counseling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination, and victim advocacy.

“(L) Such other criteria as the Administrator shall establish by regulation.”; and

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

“(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State chapters to enable State chapters to provide oversight, training, and technical assistance to local centers on evidence-informed initiatives including mental health, counseling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination, and victim advocacy.”;

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

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “attorneys and other allied” and inserting “prosecutors and other attorneys and allied”; and

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

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) a significant connection to prosecutors who handle child abuse cases in State courts, such as a membership organization or support service providers; and”;

(6) by striking 214B (34 U.S.C. 20306) and inserting the following:

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4926.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY**

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, how many people are necessary to stand up to get a roll call vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The yeas and nays can be supported by one-fifth of those Members present.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4926, the Respect for Child Survivors Act is bipartisan legislation that responds to the testimony of Olympian McKayla Maroney, who bravely shared her story with Congress, alongside her fellow gymnasts, Simone Biles, Maggie Nichols, and Aly Raisman. They told Congress about the abuse they faced at the hands of Larry Nassar, and the failures of so many people to stop that abuse sooner.

Maroney testified that she was interviewed by an FBI agent in 2015. She testified that she spoke to the agent over the phone for nearly 3 hours, recounting numerous molestations and answering every question, trusting that sharing this information would lead to action and to protecting other young women.

“I began crying at the memory over the phone, and there was just dead silence,” Maroney testified. She said, “I was so shocked at the agent’s silence and disregard for my trauma.” Unfortunately, it was not until 17 months later that the agent even documented the interview. Unsurprisingly, it did not accurately describe Maroney’s ac-

count of the abuse that she experienced.

The Respect for Child Survivors Act seeks to ensure that no one will experience what McKayla Maroney experienced when she trusted the FBI with her most personal traumatic memories.

This legislation requires the FBI to use multidisciplinary teams of experts when investigating cases of child sexual abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, and child trafficking. These experts must receive training on special victims’ crimes, including child sexual abuse, and they must provide trauma-informed care. The use of these multidisciplinary teams would prevent the re-traumatization of victims who come forward seeking justice.

The bill also requires the director of the FBI to annually report to the Attorney General about any interview of a victim reporting child sexual abuse material or child trafficking that took place without the use of a multidisciplinary approach or a trained forensic interviewer.

The bill also encourages the FBI to work with multidisciplinary teams at existing Children’s Advocacy Centers, as established by the Victims of Child Abuse Act. The bill ensures that the FBI gives Children’s Advocacy Center personnel access to critical case information so victims can get the medical, mental health, and advocacy services they need.

Finally, the bill requires that child sexual abuse and child trafficking cases are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team at regularly scheduled times so that the team can share information about case progress, address any investigative or prosecutorial barriers, and ensure that victims receive support and needed treatment.

This provision would ensure that none of these serious cases is neglected and that children are not endangered by a failure to investigate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senators CORNYN, COONS, GRASSLEY, and KLOBUCHAR for introducing this important legislation in the Senate. I thank Congressmen COSTA and GONZALES for championing it in the House. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4926, the Respect for Child Survivors Act requires the FBI to use multidisciplinary teams when investigating certain crimes involving children.

This requirement includes, for example, situations where the interviewed victim is no longer a child, but was the victim of a crime as a child. The multidisciplinary teams would consist of a variety of professionals trained to work with children who had been victims of a crime. The goal of using these multidisciplinary teams is to prevent re-traumatizing victims.

S. 4926 also contains provisions related to information-sharing and case review for crimes involving children. These provisions would hopefully ensure that these cases are not forgotten or simply dropped without review.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the manager of this bill.

I display this picture for everyone to see because a picture is worth a thousand words. This is McKayla and a constituent of mine, Simone Biles. As indicated, these women have spent years investing in their sport and rising to the level of excellence, and they are victims that should not have been victimized.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Respect for Child Survivors Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the article titled: “Senators Propose New Bill Following USA Gymnastics Scandal.”

[From NBC Los Angeles, September 22, 2022]

**SENATORS PROPOSE NEW BILL FOLLOWING  
USA GYMNASTICS SCANDAL**

(By Kristen Conti)

A group of senators have decided to roll out a bill to adjust the intricacies of the USA Gymnastics scandal with the implementation of The Respect for Child Survivors Act, following the Larry Nassar incident.

The intentions of the act are to improve the way the FBI interacts with underage witnesses and victims in sex abuse and human trafficking cases.

The catalyst for this endeavor surrounds the FBI’s previous failures in handling the Nassar investigation from 2015. Nassar is currently facing decades in prison for abusing underage athletes on the USA Gymnastics team.

The FBI failed to act, despite being notified of the allegations in 2015. It took them over a year to take action, leaving Nassar many more months to prey on the girls.

Olympic gymnasts Simone Biles, Aly Raisman and Maroney are among the over 100 alleged victims of Nassar.

**WHAT IS THE RESPECT FOR CHILD SURVIVORS  
ACT?**

The Respect for Child Survivors Act, which primarily aims to handle the interactions between the FBI and abuse victims, is a parallel to two other acts—The Adult Survivors Act and The Child Victims Act (CVA).

The act, which has officially been introduced as a bill, will soon be assigned to a committee whose members will discuss and implement the necessary and proper changes to the bill. Next, the bill will be put before the chamber and be voted on, which will determine whether it will become a law.

The timeline for this process has yet to be determined.

**WHEN WILL THE ADULT SURVIVORS ACT GO INTO  
EFFECT?**

The Adult Survivors Act will go into effect in November 2022. The bill, which is sponsored by Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Linda B. Rosenthal, was framed to resemble The Child Victims Act.

The CVA, previously passed in 2019 and extended in 2021, only covers abuse that happened to people under 18.

## WHO DOES THE ADULT SURVIVORS ACT SERVE?

The victims in the Nassar case were under 18 when the crimes were committed and reported in 2015. However, it wasn't until 2016 that the FBI began to investigate and truly ignite action. And at this point, the young athletes surpassed the age limit the CVA covers.

The Adult Survivors Act allows a one-year window for survivors of adult sexual abuse in New York to file a civil lawsuit. Claims will be eligible even when the statute of limitations has already expired.

## WHAT DOES THE RESPECT FOR CHILD SURVIVORS ACT REQUIRE THE FBI TO DO?

The new legislation will require the FBI to use multidisciplinary teams with trauma expertise when investigating these types of cases, even in cases where the victim is no longer a child.

The bill aims to make sure cases like this are not prolonged like the Nassar investigation had been.

"It takes tremendous courage for young victims of sexual assault to tell their story and overcome the fear that they may not be taken seriously, may be ignored, or may be wrongfully blamed," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, one of the bill's sponsors.

"To avoid re-traumatizing victims during the investigation process, it's imperative we give these individuals the support they need to ensure survivors feel respected during the interview process and abusers are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The bill was directly inspired by the testimony of former Olympic gymnast McKayla Maroney, who was wrongfully treated during FBI interviews about the scandal.

"They had legal, legitimate evidence of child abuse and did nothing," said Maroney at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Sept. 2021.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this bill was inspired by the heroic testimony of gymnast and survivor McKayla Maroney, who came before Congress to share a story of the abuse she and more than 100 others faced at the hands of Larry Nassar.

McKayla told Congress that when she was asked to speak to the FBI about Nassar's abuse, she told them everything, she poured her heart out to them. She spoke to FBI agents over the phone for 3 hours. Can you imagine how painful that was, as she sat on the floor of her bedroom recounting details of molestation—information she had not shared with her mother?

She wanted to make a difference. She wanted to protect others. She said it was the most uncomfortable conversation that she ever had in her life. But she thought as uncomfortable as it was, she was making a difference and, hopefully, protecting others from the same abuse. She thought and trusted that they would act quickly for the sake of the other girls. She waited and waited and waited and heard nothing. They did nothing.

□ 1445

We know now that the FBI's failure to listen to McKayla and other survivors allowed Nassar to continue his abuse, his torture of these young, beautiful women and continue to molest them. Our outstanding athletes who we cheer and are so proud when we are looking at the Olympics, look what they had to suffer.

These young women made great sacrifices to pursue their sport and represent the best of their country. They put their safety in the hands of their coaches and their doctors and ultimately, the FBI, the people who were all supposed to protect them but failed.

I am very grateful to Congressmen Costa and Gonzales and all the sponsors in the Senate. As the chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, we had a hearing dealing with the human trafficking issues.

This is a mighty powerful bill. We hope that we will pass the no trafficking zone bill in the other body that complements this because I don't know if anybody realizes, this is a scourge, it is an epidemic. This bill will provide for wraparound services so that whatever is said by a child, that this can now be utilized to protect others. That is what the no trafficking zone is about, and that is what we are trying to protect.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I want everybody to realize that just in the last 24 hours they talked about a sextortion campaign against young boys—where do they do it? Online. Where are children online? At schools, among other places—to extort from children who are asked to take pictures of themselves.

This legislation is crucial. The no trafficking zone legislation is crucial. We hope that it will pass as well, and we are grateful for the work that has been done.

Finally, let me say that I congratulate those who supported the Equal Pay for Team USA Act for 2022. I couldn't support it even more.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4926, the "Respect for Child Survivors Act."

This bill was inspired by the heroic testimony of gymnast and survivor McKayla Maroney, who came before Congress to share her story of the abuse she and more than 100 others faced at the hands of Larry Nassar.

McKayla told Congress that when she was asked to speak to the FBI about Nassar's abuse, she told them everything. She spoke to FBI agents over the phone for three hours as she sat on the floor of her bedroom, recounting details of her molestation—information she had not even shared with her mother.

She said, "it was the most uncomfortable conversation I had ever had in my life, but I thought as uncomfortable as it was, I was making a difference, and hopefully protecting others from the same abuse . . . I thought and trusted that they would act quickly for the sake of other girls. I waited, and I waited and heard nothing."

We know now that the FBI's failure to listen to McKayla and other survivors allowed Nassar to continue his abuse and to molest more young women.

These young women made great sacrifices to pursue their sport and represent the best of their country. They put their safety in the hands of their coaches, their doctors, and ultimately, the FBI—people who were all supposed to protect them but failed.

McKayla is not alone in coming forward to bravely share her story so that Congress can do better to protect victims and survivors of

abuse. In April, I convened the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security for a hearing on federal efforts to combat human trafficking.

At this hearing, we heard from survivors who explained the many hurdles faced by those who are trafficked. These individuals came from different parts of the country; they were different ages, ethnicities, and genders; and they experienced different types of abuse and trafficking, including both labor and sexual exploitation—but they nonetheless had a great deal in common.

They often put their trust in an adult who was supposed to protect them. They often told multiple people about their abuse before finding someone who would help them escape. And they experienced significant obstacles as they sought freedom, justice, and healing.

We must do more to make sure that the FBI is never an obstacle. The treatment that McKayla and other survivors experienced at the hands of the FBI never should have happened, and with this legislation, Congress can ensure that it will not ever happen again.

The Respect for Child Survivors Act directs the FBI to use multidisciplinary teams of trained experts to interview victims of child sexual abuse or child trafficking. This is critical to providing trauma-informed care and preventing further harm.

The bill also requires that victims are connected with advocates and that critical information is shared with these advocates to support victims' needs.

The bill encourages coordination with Children's Advocacy Centers, which already have significant expertise in supporting the diverse needs of child victims.

Lastly, the bill creates a case review process to ensure no victim or investigation is forgotten.

This legislation is supported by the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network; the National District Attorneys Association; Army of Survivors; and the National Children's Alliance.

I thank Senators CORNYN, COONS, GRASSLEY, and KLOBUCHAR for their leadership in bringing forth this bipartisan legislation in the Senate, and I thank Congressman COSTA and Congressman GONZALES for championing the House companion.

While I hope that we continue to make progress in the fight to combat human trafficking in the 118th Congress, it is my hope that the Senate will pass my No Trafficking Zones Act, which already passed the House this year with bipartisan support.

There is much more that we can and should do to support victims of child abuse and human trafficking, and to prevent these horrible crimes from occurring, but I am pleased that we are taking this important step today.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I simply urge Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is endorsed by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network; the National District Attorneys Association; Army of Survivors; and the National Children's Alliance.

We must do better in helping survivors seek justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Respect for Child Survivors Act. As Co-Founder and Chairman of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus, I am proud to put forward legislation that helps protect the most vulnerable in our communities. This important legislation was brought about, in part, by the failings of the FBI during its handling of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse cases. The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General found that the FBI did not properly handle or document evidence gathering with USA Gymnastics or the victims and did not notify state or local authorities of the sexual assault allegations. This bill is intended to prevent similar situations from happening with future investigations. The legislation will require the FBI to utilize multidisciplinary teams, made up of trauma-informed experts, when interviewing a victim who reports child abuse or trafficking. The use of these teams would prevent further traumatizing victims. In addition, the bill's information sharing and case review provisions would ensure accountability so cases are not mishandled in the future.

This legislation also includes another bill I am proud to lead, the Victims of Child Abuse Act (VOCAA) Reauthorization Act of 2021. This legislation will reauthorize funding for Children's Advocacy Centers through the Victims of Child Abuse Act through 2028. Victims and survivors of child abuse must have access to the resources and care provided by Children's Advocacy Centers to heal from their trauma. This legislation will put the authorized level in line with the increased Fiscal Year 2023 funding level set by appropriators. I worked to reauthorize VOCAA in both 2013 and 2018 and will continue to ensure that VOCAA is reauthorized and fully funded.

I want to thank the bipartisan group of legislators that have helped champion this legislation. In the House, Representatives TONY GONZALES and BRIAN FITZPATRICK are the Republican Leads on the Respect for Child Survivors Act and Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act, respectively. I also would like to thank Senators COONS, CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, and GRAHAM, who have championed this through the Senate. Finally, thank you to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the respective committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate for helping to get these important pieces of legislation to the floor.

The Respect for Child Survivors Act is endorsed by Rape Abuse & Incest National Network, the National District Attorneys Association, Army of Survivors, the National Children's Alliance, Keep Kids Safe, Together for Girls, Darkness to Light, the Monique Bun Foundation for Children, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), and the Brave Movement. The VOCAA Reauthorization Act is endorsed by National Children's Alliance, National Children's Advocacy Center, Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Fraternal Order of Police, National District Attorneys Association, National Association of Police Organizations, Major County Sheriffs' Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD. I thank these groups for their support of these bills and for their advocacy.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 4926—the Respect for Child Survivors Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4926.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 450) to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 450

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The brutal lynching of Emmett Till and the subsequent bravery and boldness of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, became a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

(2) On August 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till was kidnapped, beaten, and shot in Money, Mississippi, where he had traveled from Chicago to stay with his great uncle, Moses Wright.

(3) The corpse of Emmett Till was discovered 3 days later in the Tallahatchie River and his murderers were acquitted despite Moses Wright providing an eyewitness testimony that the men on trial kidnapped Emmett Till.

(4) Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, demonstrated her love for her son and her courage and strength in suffering in the days that followed as she brought the body of Emmett Till back to Chicago for burial and demanded an open casket funeral, which drew more than 50,000 attendees.

(5) Mamie Till-Mobley further allowed a photograph to be taken of Emmett Till in his casket, which was shown throughout the world.

(6) The original casket of Emmett Till stands on display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture as an enduring reminder of the racial violence that is a part of the history of the United States that the people of the United States must confront.

(7) The heroic actions of Mamie Till-Mobley in the midst of evil, injustice, and grief became a catalyst for the civil rights movement and continued in the years to come as she worked for justice and honored the legacy of Emmett Till.

(8) Mamie Till-Mobley went on to create the Emmett Till Players, which was a significant national cultural contribution as teenagers traveled throughout the country

presenting Martin Luther King Jr. speeches in the name of Emmett Till.

(9) Mamie Till-Mobley also served as chair and co-founder of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, which had the dual mission of reopening the murder of Emmett Till for a re-investigation and a passage into law of Federal legislation to ensure that other racially motivated murders during the civil rights era were investigated and, when possible, prosecuted.

(10) The efforts of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign led to the successful joint investigation by the State of Mississippi, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Justice in 2004, the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-344; 122 Stat. 3934), signed into law by President George W. Bush, and the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-325; 130 Stat. 1965), signed into law by President Barack Obama.

(11) The people of the United States honor the legacy of Emmett Till and the incredible suffering and equally incredible courage, resilience, and efforts of Mamie Till-Mobley that led to the civil rights movement that began in the 1950s.

#### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscriptions of the name of, “Emmett Till” and “Mamie Till-Mobley”.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, where it shall be displayed as appropriate.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Museum of African American History and Culture should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations and events associated with Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

#### SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

#### SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

#### SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.