

legislation, as well as the Budget Committee staff, both on the Republican and Democratic side.

It is critical that the Congressional Budget Office has access to the data needed to support the budget process and ensure that we are the best stewards of Americans' hard earned tax dollars.

The CBO plays a meaningful role in the legislative process by determining the fiscal impact of important potential policy decisions that we undertake here in this House.

Too often, the CBO struggles to obtain the necessary data from executive branch agencies in a timely manner. As was mentioned earlier, this has ripple effects on its ability to deliver prompt budgetary analysis to Congress.

As we all know, this, in turn, delays the Congress in making fully informed decisions regarding the budgetary impact of legislation.

H.R. 7032 removes this hurdle and helps streamline the budget process. This bipartisan legislation will grant the CBO the authority to request and receive key data from executive branch agencies, ensuring it is able to fulfill its mission as laid out in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

While expanding access, however, this bill also recognizes the importance of protecting data privacy and ensures that the CBO continues to be subject to congressional oversight.

Given the critical nature of the CBO's work, we can't allow them to continue to operate in a broken budgetary system.

This bipartisan legislation supports strengthening the CBO while allowing us as lawmakers to make the most informed and forward-thinking decisions possible.

I am grateful to everyone who played a part in moving this bill, and I commend the bipartisan members of the Budget Committee who voted unanimously for this bill during committee markup.

I am proud to express my strong support for the CBO Data Sharing Act. I look forward to voting in favor of this piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7032.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REVISING EXISTING PROCEDURES ON REPORTING VIA TECHNOLOGY ACT

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 474) to amend title 18, United

States Code, to strengthen reporting to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 474

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 "Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology Act" or the "REPORT Act".

SEC. 2. LIMITED LIABILITY MODERNIZATION.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258B of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "providers or domain name registrars" and inserting "the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "or charge" after "a claim"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking "this section,"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR NCMEC-CONTRACTED VENDORS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)).

"(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the vendor—

"(A) engaged in—

"(i) intentional misconduct; or

"(ii) negligent conduct; or

"(B) acted, or failed to act—

"(i) with actual malice;

"(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification; or

"(iii) for a purpose unrelated to the performance of any responsibility or function—

"(I) set forth in paragraph (1); or

"(II) pursuant to sections 2258A, 2258C, 2702, or 2703.

"(3) VENDOR CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to any visual depiction provided pursuant to the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)) that is stored or transferred by a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support such duties of NCMEC, a vendor shall—

"(A) secure such visual depiction in a manner that is consistent with the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor thereto;

"(B) minimize the number of employees that may be able to obtain access to such visual depiction;

"(C) employ end-to-end encryption for data storage and transfer functions, or an equivalent technological standard;

"(D) undergo an independent annual cybersecurity audit to determine whether such visual depiction is secured as required under subparagraph (A); and

"(E) promptly address all issues identified by an audit described in subparagraph (D).

"(e) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR REPORTING APPARENT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY BY AN INDIVIDUAL DEPICTED IN THE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AS A MINOR, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against an individual depicted in child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, arising from a report to the NCMEC CyberTipline by the individual, or the representative of such individual, of information that relates to the child pornography in which the individual is depicted as a minor, including a copy of the child pornography.

"(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the individual, or the representative of such individual—

"(A) engaged in—

"(i) intentional misconduct;

"(ii) negligent conduct; or

"(iii) any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251; or

"(B) acted, or failed to act—

"(i) with actual malice; or

"(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification.

"(3) MINIMIZING ACCESS.—With respect to any child pornography reported to the NCMEC CyberTipline by an individual depicted in the child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, NCMEC shall minimize access to the child pornography and ensure the appropriate deletion of the child pornography, as set forth in section 2258D.

"(4) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "representative", with respect to an individual depicted in child pornography—

"(A) means—

"(i) the parent or legal guardian of the individual, if the individual is under 18 years of age;

"(ii) the legal guardian or other person appointed by a court to represent the individual;

"(iii) a legal representative retained by the individual;

"(iv) a representative of the estate of the individual; or

"(v) a person who is a mandated reporter under section 226(a)(1) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341(a)(1)); and

"(B) does not include a person who engaged in any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a civil claim or criminal charge that is filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2258B and inserting the following:

"2258B. Limited liability for the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children."

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF REPORTS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

Section 2258A(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "90 days" and inserting "1 year"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) EXTENSION OF PRESERVATION.—A provider of a report to the CyberTipline under

subsection (a)(1) may voluntarily preserve the contents provided in the report (including any comingled content described in paragraph (2)) for longer than 1 year after the submission to the CyberTipline for the purpose of reducing the proliferation of online child sexual exploitation or preventing the online sexual exploitation of children.

“(6) METHOD OF PRESERVATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, a provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) shall preserve materials under this subsection in a manner that is consistent with the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor thereto.”.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING OF DUTY TO REPORT APPARENT VIOLATIONS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “, of section 1591 (if the violation involves a minor), or of 2422(b)” after “child pornography”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$150,000” and inserting “\$850,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$600,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$300,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$850,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”.

(b) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children may issue guidelines, as appropriate, to providers required or permitted to take actions described in section 2258A(a)(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code, on the relevant identifiers for content that may indicate sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of that title, or enticement, as described in section 2422(b) of that title.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of Florida. 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. 474, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida.

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are here to discuss today is the Revising Existing Procedures on Reporting via Technology Act, or REPORT Act.

This is a strong bipartisan bill that provides additional tools to investigate and catch criminal purveyors of child sex abuse material, or CSAM.

The exploitation of children through CSAM remains a serious problem both

within the United States and abroad. We have heard extensive testimony about these issues in our two victims' focused hearings in the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance of the Judiciary Committee, one in September and one earlier this month.

Reports of CSAM continue to grow exponentially, with 3,000 reports in 1998 growing to more than 1 million in 2014 and 36.2 million in 2023.

We have gaps in Federal law that prevent the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, from preserving reports of CSAM, which hinders law enforcement from holding these predators accountable.

With the growing proliferation of CSAM on the internet, NCMEC, Homeland Security investigations, and other entities that protect children need additional support and investigative tools to bring these predators to justice.

The REPORT Act will extend the duration for which evidence submitted to the CyberTipline is preserved from 90 days to 1 year.

This will allow law enforcement agencies the much-needed time to conduct comprehensive investigations and strengthen the legal framework against online predators.

This bill will strengthen existing law that requires providers to report to law enforcement as soon as reasonably possible after obtaining information about CSAM.

Currently, many providers maintain an adequate reporting system. However, the REPORT Act will increase fines for companies that fail to meet these standards and will further penalize companies that repeatedly fail to report exploitative contact.

I thank all of the advocates who helped us get where we are today with this bill, including the American Conservative Union, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, International Justice Mission, Rights4Girls, PACT-USA, Raven, the Tim Tebow Foundation, and so many more.

I cannot thank them enough for all that each of them does to protect and advocate on behalf of child victims in both the United States and abroad.

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I also thank my colleagues across the aisle for their support of this bill, including Representative MADELEINE DEAN, Representative LUCY MCBATH, and Representative GLENN IVEY.

Lastly, I thank law enforcement for their tireless efforts to protect children, including Homeland Security Investigations and the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces across the country.

This legislation will make a significant impact on our ability to investigate and prosecute child predators. I am thrilled this bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee 23-0, and I am thrilled to see it brought before this Chamber for a vote today.

Simply put, the legislation is crucial. It is supported by law enforcement, advocacy groups, and tech companies alike. It is bipartisan, it is common sense, and it will save lives.

I urge all my colleagues to pass the REPORT Act and take this important step to protect children.

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 474, the REPORT Act. I am pleased to cosponsor the House version of this legislation with my colleague and friend from Florida. I thank Representative LEE for her leadership on this bill. The REPORT Act would strengthen the ongoing collaboration between law enforcement and technology providers to combat sexual exploitation of children.

The exploitation of child sex abuse material, frequently referred to as CSAM, can be stopped only with cooperation across many different sectors of American society, from law enforcement to victims' groups to local leaders and technology providers.

The REPORT Act would enable this cooperation and encourage much greater reporting to the CyberTipline, operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC.

This legislation would also modify how photos and videos of child sex abuse are stored by providers, would change reporting requirements for platforms, and would give law enforcement more time to investigate these cases. By making updates to the law, the REPORT Act will help law enforcement evolve with the threat, as consumption of child sexual abuse content permeates new technology spaces.

Advancements in technology, from generative AI to social networking platforms, clearly benefit society. Technology has brought us cutting-edge medical and therapeutic breakthroughs, the ability to keep in touch with loved ones far away, and opportunities for budding entrepreneurs and artists who leverage technology to reach their audiences without costly barriers to entry.

However, there is also a dark side. Law enforcement experts and victims' advocates agree: Advancements in technology have led to an explosion of images depicting child sexual abuse available and distributed online.

Demand for new and more egregious photos and videos drives the market for this material, resulting in the continued grotesque abuse and exploitation of children.

Through their comprehensive efforts, the Internet Crimes Against Children, or ICAC, task forces, which represent more than 5,400 local, State, and Federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, are making progress in identifying and rescuing victims of child sex abuse material.

However, the growth of the problem continues to outpace the resources

available to identify and locate victims, especially since law enforcement, prosecutors, the tech industry, and other organization must continually contend with the emergence of new technologies, like AI, which further complicates their efforts.

Under the process for reporting child sexual abuse material today, electronic service providers, or companies that offer a platform through which users can communicate, are required to report instances of CSAM to the CyberTipline. After a tip is reported, the company works with NCMEC to share relevant information. NCMEC reviews the incoming reports and then refers them out to the appropriate law enforcement agency, typically a regional ICAC task force.

To date, NCMEC reports that the CyberTipline has received more than 92 million reports since it began in 1998, the majority of them from electronic communication service providers.

NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program has reviewed more than 331 million images and videos. That is more than 25 million images each year. That is grotesque. While most children reflected in the images remain unknown, more than 19,300 victims have been identified.

I commend the successes of NCMEC and other law enforcement agencies in identifying and rescuing victims, but we cannot be satisfied while so many CSAM victims remain unidentified. That is why the REPORT Act is an important first step to increasing the effectiveness of CSAM reports and better protecting victims from child sexual abuse.

The Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent, with the support of law enforcement groups, the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, and technology providers. With passage of the bill today, the next stop will be President Biden's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LEE for her extraordinary leadership to protect all of our children.

In conclusion, the REPORT Act takes an important step toward combating the proliferation of child sexual abuse material online and protecting victims from future abuse. I thank Representative LEE for her leadership in introducing the House version of this bill. I am proud to cosponsor it with her. I thank our Senate partners for sponsoring this legislation. This is about our children.

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DEAN. It was a privilege to cosponsor this important legislation with her.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms.

LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 474.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS EDUCATION TRANS-PARENCY AND TRAINING ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3738) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3738

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 "Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

"Sec.

"8001. Organization of Administration.

"8002. Functions of Administration.

"8003. Annual report to Congress.

"§ 8001. Organization of Administration

"(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

"(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

"§ 8002. Functions of Administration

"The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

"(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

"(2) Educational assistance programs.

"(3) Veterans' housing loan and related programs.

"(4) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

"(5) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.

"§ 8003. Annual report to Congress

"The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section

529 of this title a report on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each such report shall include the following with respect to each such program during the fiscal year covered by that report:

"(1) The number of claims received.

"(2) The number of claims decided.

"(3) The average processing time for a claim.

"(4) The number of successful outcomes (as determined by the Secretary).

"(5) The number of full-time equivalent employees.

"(6) The amounts expended for information technology."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

"80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration ... 8001".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

(c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the total number of full-time equivalent employees authorized for the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may not exceed—

(1) 34,228 in fiscal year 2025; and

(2) 35,417 in fiscal year 2026.

(d) LABOR RIGHTS.—Any labor rights, inclusion in the bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement that affects an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is transferred to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply in the same manner to such employee after such transfer.

SEC. 3. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

"§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition

"(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

"(1) information technology; and

"(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

"(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

"(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary: