

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2961

To reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2018

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

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 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 211 of the Victims of Child  
8 Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2,000,000”  
10 and inserting “3,300,000”;

1 (2) in paragraph (6)—

2 (A) by inserting “improve positive out-  
3 comes for the child,” before “and increase”;  
4 and

5 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a  
6 semicolon;

7 (3) in paragraph (7), by striking “could be du-  
8 plicated in many jurisdictions throughout the coun-  
9 try.” and inserting “have expanded dramatically  
10 throughout the United States; and”; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(8) State chapters of children’s advocacy cen-  
13 ter networks are needed to—

14 “(A) assist local communities in coordi-  
15 nating their multidisciplinary child abuse inves-  
16 tigation, prosecution, and intervention services;  
17 and

18 “(B) provide oversight of, and training and  
19 technical assistance in, the effective delivery of  
20 evidence-informed programming.”.

21 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 212 of the Victims of  
22 Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20302) is amended—

23 (1) by striking paragraphs (3) and (6);

1           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (7),  
2           (8), and (9) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and  
3           (7), respectively;

4           (3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by  
5           striking “and” at the end;

6           (4) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by  
7           striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
8           and

9           (5) by adding at the end the following:

10           “(8) the term ‘State chapter’ means a member-  
11           ship organization that provides technical assistance,  
12           training, coordination, grant administration, over-  
13           sight, and support to local children’s advocacy cen-  
14           ters, multidisciplinary teams, and communities work-  
15           ing to implement a multidisciplinary response to  
16           child abuse in the provision of evidence-informed ini-  
17           tiatives, including mental health counseling, forensic  
18           interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination,  
19           and victim advocacy.”.

20           (c) REGIONAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—

21           Section 213 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990  
22           (34 U.S.C. 20303) is amended—

23           (1) in subsection (a)—

24           (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),

25           by striking “with the Director and”

1 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

2 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
3 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

4 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,  
5 by striking “and” at the end;

6 (E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

7 (i) by inserting after “mental health  
8 care professionals” the following: “, law  
9 enforcement officers, child protective serv-  
10 ice workers, forensic interviewers, prosecu-  
11 tors, and victim advocates,”;

12 (ii) by striking “medical” each place  
13 that term appears; and

14 (iii) by striking the period at the end  
15 and inserting “; and”; and

16 (F) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) collaborate with State chapters to provide  
18 training, technical assistance, coordination, and  
19 oversight to—

20 “(A) local children’s advocacy centers; and

21 “(B) communities that want to develop  
22 local children’s advocacy centers.”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
2 graph (A), by striking “, in coordination  
3 with the Director,”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
5 “and” at the end;

6 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
7 “the prevention, judicial handling, and  
8 treatment of child abuse and neglect; and”  
9 and inserting “multidisciplinary team in-  
10 vestigation, trauma-informed interventions,  
11 and evidence-informed treatment.”; and

12 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C); and  
13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (I) in the matter preceding clause  
16 (i), by striking “communities” and in-  
17 serting “communities, local children’s  
18 advocacy centers, multidisciplinary  
19 teams, and State chapters”;

20 (II) in clause (i), by inserting  
21 “and expanding” after “developing”;

22 (III) by redesignating clauses (ii)  
23 through (x) as clauses (iii) through  
24 (xi), respectively;

1 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)  
2 the following:

3 “(ii) in promoting the effective deliv-  
4 ery of the evidence-informed Children’s Ad-  
5 vocacy Model and the multidisciplinary re-  
6 sponse to child abuse, including best prac-  
7 tices in—

8 “(I) organizational support and  
9 development;

10 “(II) programmatic evaluation;  
11 and

12 “(III) financial oversight of Fed-  
13 eral funding;”;

14 (V) in clause (iii), as so redesign-  
15 nated, by striking “a freestanding fa-  
16 cility where interviews of and services  
17 for abused children can be provided”  
18 and inserting “child-friendly facilities  
19 for the investigation of, assessment of,  
20 and intervention in abuse”; and

21 (VI) in clause (iv), as so redesign-  
22 nated, by striking “multiple” and in-  
23 serting “duplicative”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
2 “and interested communities” after “advocacy centers”;  
3

4 (3) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “remedial counseling to” and inserting “evidence-informed services for”;  
6  
7

8 (B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking  
9 “multidisciplinary child abuse program” and inserting “children’s advocacy center”; and  
10

11 (C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

12 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
13 by striking “, in coordination with the Director,”;  
14

15 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

16 (iii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and  
17 (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in coordination with the Director,”; and  
20

21 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Director”; and  
22  
23

24 (5) by striking subsections (e) and (f).

1 (d) LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—Sec-  
2 tion 214 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34  
3 U.S.C. 20304) is amended—

4 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
5 following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordina-  
7 tion with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,  
8 shall make grants to—

9 “(1) develop and enhance multidisciplinary  
10 child abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecu-  
11 tion; and

12 “(2) promote the effective delivery of the evi-  
13 dence-informed Children’s Advocacy Model and the  
14 multidisciplinary response to child abuse, including  
15 best practices in programmatic evaluation and finan-  
16 cial oversight of Federal funding.”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
19 “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND” before “CHILD  
20 PORNOGRAPHY”;

21 (B) by striking “with the Director and”;  
22 and

23 (C) by inserting “human trafficking and”  
24 before “child pornography”;

25 (3) in subsection (c)—



1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-  
3 ing “Administrator”; and

4 (ii) by striking “this section” and in-  
5 serting “subsections (a) and (b)”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
8 “social service” and inserting “child pro-  
9 tective service”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
11 “the ‘counseling center’” and inserting “a  
12 ‘children’s advocacy center’”;

13 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
14 “sexual and serious physical abuse and ne-  
15 glect cases to the counseling center” and  
16 inserting “child abuse cases that meet des-  
17 ignated referral criteria to the children’s  
18 advocacy center”;

19 (iv) in subparagraph (D)—

20 (I) by striking “investigative”  
21 and inserting “forensic”; and

22 (II) by striking “social service”  
23 and inserting “child protective serv-  
24 ice”;

25 (v) by striking subparagraph (E);

1 (vi) by redesignating subparagraphs  
2 (F) through (J) as subparagraphs (E)  
3 through (I), respectively;

4 (vii) in subparagraph (E), as so reded-  
5 igned, by striking “counseling center”  
6 and inserting “children’s advocacy center  
7 or an agency with which there is a linkage  
8 agreement regarding the delivery of multi-  
9 disciplinary child abuse investigation, pros-  
10 ecution, and intervention services”;

11 (viii) in subparagraph (F), as so reded-  
12 igned, by striking “minimize the  
13 number of interviews that a child victim  
14 must attend” and inserting “eliminate du-  
15 plicative forensic interviews with a child  
16 victim”;

17 (ix) in subparagraph (G), as so reded-  
18 igned, by striking “multidisciplinary pro-  
19 gram” and inserting “children’s advocacy  
20 center”;

21 (x) in subparagraph (H), as so reded-  
22 igned, by inserting “intervention and”  
23 before “judicial proceedings”; and

1 (xi) in subparagraph (I), as so reded-  
2 igned, by striking “Director” and insert-  
3 ing “Administrator”;

4 (4) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) by striking “the Director” and insert-  
6 ing “the Administrator”; and

7 (B) by striking “both large and small  
8 States” and inserting “all States that are eligi-  
9 ble for such grants, including large and small  
10 States,”; and

11 (5) by adding at the end 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 technical as-  
17 sistance, training, coordination, and oversight to other re-  
18 cipients of grants under this section in providing evidence-  
19 informed initiatives, including mental health counseling,  
20 forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination,  
21 and victim advocacy.”.

22 (e) GRANTS FOR SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
23 ANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 214A of the  
24 Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20305)  
25 is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “to attorneys”  
2 and all that follows and inserting the following:

3 “to—

4 “(1) attorneys and other allied professionals in-  
5 strumental to the criminal prosecution of child abuse  
6 cases in State or Federal courts, for the purpose of  
7 improving the quality of criminal prosecution of such  
8 cases; and

9 “(2) child abuse professionals instrumental to  
10 the protection of children, intervention in child abuse  
11 cases, and treatment of victims of child abuse, for  
12 the purpose of—

13 “(A) improving the quality of such protec-  
14 tion, intervention, and treatment; and

15 “(B) promoting the effective delivery of the  
16 evidence-informed Children’s Advocacy Model  
17 and the multidisciplinary response to child  
18 abuse, including best practices in programmatic  
19 evaluation and financial oversight of Federal  
20 funding.”;

21 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
22 following:

23 “(b) GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS.—

24 “(1) PROSECUTORS.—An organization to which  
25 a grant is made for specific training and technical

1 assistance for prosecutors under subsection (a)(1)  
2 shall be one that has—

3 “(A) a broad representation of attorneys  
4 who prosecute criminal cases in State courts;  
5 and

6 “(B) demonstrated experience in providing  
7 training and technical assistance for prosecu-  
8 tors.

9 “(2) CHILD ABUSE PROFESSIONALS.—An orga-  
10 nization to which a grant is made for specific train-  
11 ing and technical assistance for child abuse profes-  
12 sionals under subsection (a)(2) shall be one that  
13 has—

14 “(A) a diverse portfolio of training and  
15 technical resources for the diverse professionals  
16 responding to child abuse, including a digital li-  
17 brary to promote evidence-informed practice;  
18 and

19 “(B) demonstrated experience in providing  
20 training and technical assistance for child abuse  
21 professionals, especially law enforcement offi-  
22 cers, child protective service workers, prosecu-  
23 tors, forensic interviewers, medical profes-  
24 sionals, victim advocates, and mental health  
25 professionals.”; and

1           (3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting after  
2           “shall require” the following: “, in the case of a  
3           grant made under subsection (a)(1),”.

4           (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
5 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34  
6 U.S.C. 20306) is amended—

7           (1) in subsection (a), by striking “sections 213  
8           and 214” and all that follows and inserting the fol-  
9           lowing: “sections 213 and 214, \$19,000,000 for each  
10          of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”; and

11          (2) in subsection (b), by striking “section  
12          214A” and all that follows and inserting the fol-  
13          lowing: “section 214A, \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal  
14          years 2019 through 2023.”.

15          (g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS  
16 RELATING TO TITLE 34, UNITED STATES CODE.—The  
17 Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301 et  
18 seq.) is amended—

19          (1) in section 212(1) (34 U.S.C. 20302), by  
20          striking “(42 U.S.C. 5611(b))” and inserting “(34  
21          U.S.C. 11111(b))”;

22          (2) in section 214(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.  
23          20304(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”  
24          and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

1           (3) in section 214A(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.  
2           20305(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”  
3           and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

4           (4) in section 217(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.  
5           20323(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”  
6           and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

7           (5) in section 223(c) (34 U.S.C. 20333(c)), by  
8           striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)” and inserting  
9           “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”.

○