

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2073

To authorize appropriations for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 1998

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. ABRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) For 14 years, the National Center for Miss-
6 ing and Exploited Children (referred to in this sec-
7 tion as the “Center”) has—

8 (A) served as the national resource center
9 and clearinghouse congressionally mandated

1 under the provisions of the Missing Children's
2 Assistance Act of 1984; and

3 (B) worked in partnership with the De-
4 partment of Justice, the Federal Bureau of In-
5 vestigation, the Department of the Treasury,
6 the Department of State, and many other agen-
7 cies in the effort to find missing children and
8 prevent child victimization.

9 (2) Congress has given the Center, which is a
10 private non-profit corporation, unique powers and
11 resources, such as having access to the National
12 Crime Information Center of the Federal Bureau of
13 Investigation, and the National Law Enforcement
14 Telecommunications System.

15 (3) Since 1987, the Center has operated the
16 National Child Pornography Tipline, in conjunction
17 with the United States Customs Service and the
18 United States Postal Inspection Service and, begin-
19 ning this year, the Center established a new
20 CyberTipline on child exploitation, thus becoming
21 "the 911 for the Internet".

22 (4) In light of statistics that time is of the es-
23 sence in cases of child abduction, the Director of the
24 Federal Bureau of Investigation in February of
25 1997 created a new NCIC child abduction ("CA")

1 flag to provide the Center immediate notification in
2 the most serious cases, resulting in 642 “CA” notifi-
3 cations to the Center and helping the Center to have
4 its highest recovery rate in history.

5 (5) The Center has established a national and
6 increasingly worldwide network, linking the Center
7 online with each of the missing children clearing-
8 houses operated by the 50 States, the District of Co-
9 lumbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as with Scotland
10 Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian
11 Mounted Police, INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon,
12 France, and others, which has enabled the Center to
13 transmit images and information regarding missing
14 children to law enforcement across the United States
15 and around the world instantly.

16 (6) From its inception in 1984 through March
17 31, 1998, the Center has—

18 (A) handled 1,203,974 calls through its
19 24-hour toll-free hotline (1-800-THE-LOST)
20 and currently averages 700 calls per day;

21 (B) trained 146,284 law enforcement,
22 criminal and juvenile justice, and healthcare
23 professionals in child sexual exploitation and
24 missing child case detection, identification, in-
25 vestigation, and prevention;

1 (C) disseminated 15,491,344 free publica-
2 tions to citizens and professionals; and

3 (D) worked with law enforcement on the
4 cases of 59,481 missing children, resulting in
5 the recovery of 40,180 children.

6 (7) The demand for the services of the Center
7 is growing dramatically, as evidenced by the fact
8 that in 1997, the Center handled 129,100 calls, an
9 all-time record, and by the fact that its new Internet
10 website (www.missingkids.com) receives 1,500,000
11 “hits” every day, and is linked with hundreds of
12 other websites to provide real-time images of break-
13 ing cases of missing children, helping to cause such
14 results as a police officer in Puerto Rico searching
15 the Center’s website and working with the Center to
16 identify and recover a child abducted as an infant
17 from her home in San Diego, California, 7 years
18 earlier.

19 (8) In 1997, the Center provided policy training
20 to 256 police chiefs and sheriffs from 50 States and
21 Guam at its new Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement
22 Training Center.

23 (9) The programs of the Center have had a re-
24 markable impact, such as in the fight against infant
25 abductions in partnership with the healthcare indus-

1 try, during which the Center has performed 668 on-
2 site hospital walk-throughs and inspections, and
3 trained 45,065 hospital administrators, nurses, and
4 security personnel, and thereby helped to reduce in-
5 fant abductions in the United States by 82 percent.

6 (10) The Center is now playing a leading role
7 in international child abduction cases, serving as a
8 representative of the Department of State at cases
9 under The Hague Convention, and successfully re-
10 solving the cases of 343 international child abduc-
11 tions, and providing greater support to parents in
12 the United States.

13 (11) The Center is a model of public/private
14 partnership, raising private sector funds to match
15 congressional appropriations and receiving extensive
16 private in-kind support, including advanced tech-
17 nology provided by the computer industry such as
18 imaging technology used to age the photographs of
19 long-term missing children and to reconstruct facial
20 images of unidentified deceased children.

21 (12) The Center was 1 of only 10 of 300 major
22 national charities given an A+ grade in 1997 by the
23 American Institute of Philanthropy.

24 (13) In light of its impressive history, the Cen-
25 ter has been redesignated as the Nation's missing

1 children clearinghouse and resource center once
2 every 3 years through a competitive selection process
3 conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and De-
4 linquency Prevention of the Department of Justice,
5 and has received grants from that Office to conduct
6 the crucial purposes of the Center.

7 (14) An official congressional authorization will
8 increase the level of scrutiny and oversight by Con-
9 gress and continue the Center's long partnership
10 with the Department of Justice and the Office of
11 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the
12 Department of Justice.

13 (15) The exemplary record of performance and
14 success of the Center, as exemplified by the fact that
15 the Center's recovery rate has climbed from 62 to 91
16 percent, justifies action by Congress to formally rec-
17 ognize the National Center for Missing and Ex-
18 ploited Children as the Nation's official missing and
19 exploited children's center, and to authorize a line-
20 item appropriation for the National Center for Miss-
21 ing and Exploited Children in the Federal budget.

22 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED**
23 **CHILDREN.**

24 (a) GRANTS.—The Administrator of the Office of Ju-
25 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Depart-

1 ment of Justice shall annually make a grant to the Na-
2 tional Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which
3 shall be used to—

4 (1) operate the official national resource center
5 and information clearinghouse for missing and ex-
6 ploited children;

7 (2) provide to State and local governments,
8 public and private nonprofit agencies, and individ-
9 uals, information regarding—

10 (A) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodg-
11 ing, and transportation services that are avail-
12 able for the benefit of missing and exploited
13 children and their families; and

14 (B) the existence and nature of programs
15 being carried out by Federal agencies to assist
16 missing and exploited children and their fami-
17 lies;

18 (3) coordinate public and private programs that
19 locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their
20 families;

21 (4) disseminate, on a national basis, informa-
22 tion relating to innovative and model programs,
23 services, and legislation that benefit missing and ex-
24 ploited children;

1 (5) provide technical assistance and training to
2 law enforcement agencies, State, and local govern-
3 ments, elements of the criminal justice system, pub-
4 lic and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in
5 the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treat-
6 ment of cases involving missing and exploited chil-
7 dren; and

8 (6) provide assistance to families and law en-
9 forcement agencies in locating and recovering miss-
10 ing and exploited children, both nationally and inter-
11 nationally.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
14 carry out this section, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

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