

Calendar No. 383

105TH CONGRESS
2^D 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

MAY 21, 1998

Reported by Mr. HATCH, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]**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:

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

4 (A) served as the national resource center
5 and clearinghouse congressionally mandated
6 under the provisions of the Missing Children’s
7 Assistance Act of 1984; and

8 (B) worked in partnership with the De-
9 partment of Justice, the Federal Bureau of In-
10 vestigation, the Department of the Treasury,
11 the Department of State, and many other agen-
12 cies in the effort to find missing children and
13 prevent child victimization.

14 (2) Congress has given the Center, which is a
15 private non-profit corporation, unique powers and
16 resources, such as having access to the National
17 Crime Information Center of the Federal Bureau of
18 Investigation, and the National Law Enforcement
19 Telecommunications System.

20 (3) Since 1987, the Center has operated the
21 National Child Pornography Tipline, in conjunction
22 with the United States Customs Service and the
23 United States Postal Inspection Service and, begin-
24 ning this year, the Center established a new

1 CyberTipline on child exploitation, thus becoming
2 “the 911 for the Internet”.

3 (4) In light of statistics that time is of the es-
4 sence in cases of child abduction, the Director of the
5 Federal Bureau of Investigation in February of
6 1997 created a new NCIC child abduction (“CA”)
7 flag to provide the Center immediate notification in
8 the most serious cases, resulting in 642 “CA” notifi-
9 cations to the Center and helping the Center to have
10 its highest recovery rate in history.

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

22 (6) From its inception in 1984 through March
23 31, 1998, the Center has—

1 (A) handled 1,203,974 calls through its
2 24-hour toll-free hotline (1-800-THE-LOST)
3 and currently averages 700 calls per day;

4 (B) trained 146,284 law enforcement,
5 criminal and juvenile justice, and healthcare
6 professionals in child sexual exploitation and
7 missing child case detection, identification, in-
8 vestigation, and prevention;

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

11 (D) worked with law enforcement on the
12 cases of 59,481 missing children, resulting in
13 the recovery of 40,180 children.

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

1 from her home in San Diego, California, 7 years
2 earlier.

3 (8) In 1997, the Center provided policy training
4 to 256 police chiefs and sheriffs from 50 States and
5 Guam at its new Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement
6 Training Center.

7 (9) The programs of the Center have had a re-
8 markable impact, such as in the fight against infant
9 abductions in partnership with the healthcare indus-
10 try, during which the Center has performed 668 on-
11 site hospital walk-throughs and inspections, and
12 trained 45,065 hospital administrators, nurses, and
13 security personnel, and thereby helped to reduce in-
14 fant abductions in the United States by 82 percent.

15 (10) The Center is now playing a ~~leading~~ *sig-*
16 *nificant* role in international child abduction cases,
17 serving as a representative of the Department of
18 State at cases under The Hague Convention, and
19 successfully resolving the cases of 343 international
20 child abductions, and providing greater support to
21 parents in the United States.

22 (11) The Center is a model of public/private
23 partnership, raising private sector funds to match
24 congressional appropriations and receiving extensive
25 private in-kind support, including advanced tech-

1 nology provided by the computer industry such as
2 imaging technology used to age the photographs of
3 long-term missing children and to reconstruct facial
4 images of unidentified deceased children.

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

8 (13) In light of its impressive history, the Cen-
9 ter has been redesignated as the Nation's missing
10 children clearinghouse and resource center once
11 every 3 years through a competitive selection process
12 conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and De-
13 linquency Prevention of the Department of Justice,
14 and has received grants from that Office to conduct
15 the crucial purposes of the Center.

16 (14) An official congressional authorization will
17 increase the level of scrutiny and oversight by Con-
18 gress and continue the Center's long partnership
19 with the Department of Justice and the Office of
20 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the
21 Department of Justice.

22 (15) The exemplary record of performance and
23 success of the Center, as exemplified by the fact that
24 the Center's recovery rate has climbed from 62 to 91
25 percent, justifies action by Congress to formally rec-

1 recognize the National Center for Missing and Ex-
2 ploited Children as the Nation’s official missing and
3 exploited children’s center, and to authorize a line-
4 item appropriation for the National Center for Miss-
5 ing and Exploited Children in the Federal budget.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED**
7 **CHILDREN.**

8 (a) GRANTS.—The Administrator of the Office of Ju-
9 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Depart-
10 ment of Justice shall annually make a grant to the Na-
11 tional Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which
12 shall be used to—

13 (1) operate the official national resource center
14 and information clearinghouse for missing and ex-
15 ploited children;

16 (2) provide to State and local governments,
17 public and private nonprofit agencies, and individ-
18 uals, information regarding—

19 (A) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodg-
20 ing, and transportation services that are avail-
21 able for the benefit of missing and exploited
22 children and their families; and

23 (B) the existence and nature of programs
24 being carried out by Federal agencies to assist

1 missing and exploited children and their fami-
2 lies;

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

6 (4) disseminate, on a national basis, informa-
7 tion relating to innovative and model programs,
8 services, and legislation that benefit missing and ex-
9 ploited children;

10 (5) provide technical assistance and training to
11 law enforcement agencies, State, and local govern-
12 ments, elements of the criminal justice system, pub-
13 lic and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in
14 the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treat-
15 ment of cases involving missing and exploited chil-
16 dren; and

17 (6) provide assistance to families and law en-
18 forcement agencies in locating and recovering miss-
19 ing and exploited children, both nationally and inter-
20 nationally.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
23 carry out this section, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
24 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

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