

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 783

To address the urgent need for a Federal strategy to ensure that individuals who encounter minors at risk of female genital mutilation are fully prepared to take action to prevent the practice, and individuals who have been subjected to female genital mutilation can seek necessary services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Ms. JACKSON LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To address the urgent need for a Federal strategy to ensure that individuals who encounter minors at risk of female genital mutilation are fully prepared to take action to prevent the practice, and individuals who have been subjected to female genital mutilation can seek necessary services, and for other purposes.

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 “Zero Tolerance for
5 FGM Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Female genital mutilation (in this Act re-
4 ferred to as “FGM”) is a harmful traditional prac-
5 tice carried out on an estimated 125 million girls
6 and women around the world.

7 (2) If current trends continue, an additional 86
8 million will face the procedure by 2030, including
9 minors in the United States.

10 (3) According to an article which appeared in
11 Public Health Reports (1997 JAN–FEB) entitled
12 “Female genital mutilation. Female circumcision.
13 Who is at risk in the U.S.?” , relying on estimates
14 derived by the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
15 vention, in 1990 over 168,000 girls and women liv-
16 ing in the United States had either been, or were at
17 risk of being, subjected to FGM.

18 (4) FGM is widely recognized as a violation of
19 the rights of girls.

20 (5) The United Nations, with the support of the
21 United States, adopted a resolution calling for all
22 countries to develop national strategies to end FGM.

23 (6) The United Nations declared a goal of fully
24 ending FGM within a generation.

25 (7) The United Nations recognizes Inter-
26 national Day for Zero Tolerance of FGM.

1 (8) It is illegal to carry out FGM against a
2 minor in the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of the Congress that—

5 (1) there is an urgent need for the Secretary of
6 Health and Human Services, in consultation with of-
7 ficials at other relevant Federal departments and
8 agencies, to develop and implement a multi-agency
9 strategy to ensure that—

10 (A) individuals who encounter minors at
11 risk of FGM are fully prepared to take action
12 to prevent the practice; and

13 (B) individuals who have been subjected to
14 FGM can seek necessary services;

15 (2) the strategy should provide for updating the
16 estimates of the Centers for Disease Control and
17 Prevention on the prevalence of women and girls
18 with female genital mutilation or female circumci-
19 sion; and

20 (3) the strategy should provide for a public
21 awareness campaign, so that the American public
22 understands—

23 (A) how to help individuals in danger of
24 being subjected to FGM; and

1 (B) how to address the needs of individuals
2 who have been subjected to it.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

4 Not later than one year after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
6 in consultation with officials at relevant Federal depart-
7 ments and agencies, shall submit to the Congress a report
8 on the status of the development and implementation of
9 the strategy described in section 3.

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