

# Calendar No. 581

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2961

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

---

## 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, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Reported by Mr. GRASSLEY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

---

## 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~~”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

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

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

6 (2) in paragraph (6)—

7 (A) by inserting “improve positive out-  
8 comes for the child,” before “and increase”;  
9 and

10 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a  
11 semicolon;

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

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

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

19 “(A) assist local communities in coordi-  
20 nating their multidisciplinary child abuse inves-  
21 tigation, prosecution, and intervention services;  
22 and

23 “(B) provide oversight of, and training and  
24 technical assistance in, the effective delivery of  
25 evidence-informed programming.”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (c) REGIONAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—  
24 Section 213 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990  
25 (34 U.S.C. 20303) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a)—

2                   (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
3           by striking “with the Director and”

4                   (B) by striking paragraph (2);

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

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

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

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

15                   (ii) by striking “medical” each place  
16           that term appears; and

17                   (iii) by striking the period at the end  
18           and inserting “; and”; and

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

20                   “(4) collaborate with State chapters to provide  
21           training; technical assistance; coordination; and  
22           oversight to—

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

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

- 1           (2) in subsection (b)—
- 2           (A) in paragraph (1)—
- 3           (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
- 4           graph (A), by striking “, in coordination
- 5           with the Director,”;
- 6           (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
- 7           “and” at the end;
- 8           (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
- 9           “the prevention, judicial handling, and
- 10          treatment of child abuse and neglect; and”
- 11          and inserting “multidisciplinary team in-
- 12          vestigation, trauma-informed interventions,
- 13          and evidence-informed treatment.”; and
- 14          (iv) by striking subparagraph (C); and
- 15          (B) in paragraph (2)—
- 16          (i) in subparagraph (A)—
- 17               (I) in the matter preceding clause
- 18               (i), by striking “communities” and in-
- 19               serting “communities, local children’s
- 20               advocacy centers, multidisciplinary
- 21               teams, and State chapters”;
- 22               (II) in clause (i), by inserting
- 23               “and expanding” after “developing”;

1                   (III) by redesignating clauses (ii)  
2                   through (x) as clauses (iii) through  
3                   (xi), respectively;

4                   (IV) by inserting after clause (i)  
5                   the following:

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

11                  “(I) organizational support and  
12                  development;

13                  “(II) programmatic evaluation;  
14                  and

15                  “(III) financial oversight of Fed-  
16                  eral funding;”;

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

1                   (VI) in clause (iv), as so redesignig-  
 2                   nated, by striking “multiple” and in-  
 3                   serting “duplicative”; and

4                   (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
 5                   “and interested communities” after “advocacy  
 6                   centers”;

7                   (3) in subsection (c)—

8                   (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “re-  
 9                   medial counseling to” and inserting “evidence-  
 10                  informed services for”;

11                  (B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking  
 12                  “multidisciplinary child abuse program” and in-  
 13                  serting “children’s advocacy center”; and

14                  (C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

15                   (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
 16                   by striking “, in coordination with the Di-  
 17                   rector,”;

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

19                   (iii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and  
 20                   (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

21                  (4) in subsection (d)—

22                   (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in co-  
 23                   ordination with the Director,”; and

1           (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
 2           ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the  
 3           Director”; and

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

5           (d) LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—See  
 6           tion 214 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34  
 7           U.S.C. 20304) is amended—

8           (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
 9           following:

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

13               “(1) develop and enhance multidisciplinary  
 14               child abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecu-  
 15               tion; and

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

21          (2) in subsection (b)—

22               (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
 23               “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND” before “CHILD  
 24               PORNOGRAPHY”;



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

2           and

3           (C) by inserting “human trafficking and”

4           before “child pornography”;

5           (3) in subsection (c)—

6           (A) in paragraph (1)—

7                 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-  
8                 ing “Administrator”; and

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

11           (B) in paragraph (2)—

12                 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
13                 “social service” and inserting “child pro-  
14                 tective service”;

15                 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
16                 “the ‘counseling center’” and inserting “a  
17                 ‘children’s advocacy center’”;

18                 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
19                 “sexual and serious physical abuse and ne-  
20                 glect cases to the counseling center” and  
21                 inserting “child abuse cases that meet des-  
22                 ignated referral criteria to the children’s  
23                 advocacy center”;

24           (iv) in subparagraph (D)—

1                   (I) by striking “investigative”  
2                   and inserting “forensic”; and

3                   (II) by striking “social service”  
4                   and inserting “child protective serv-  
5                   ice”;

6                   (v) by striking subparagraph (E);

7                   (vi) by redesignating subparagraphs  
8                   (F) through (J) as subparagraphs (E)  
9                   through (I), respectively;

10                  (vii) in subparagraph (E), as so reded-  
11                  ignated, by striking “counseling center”  
12                  and inserting “children’s advocaey center  
13                  or an agency with which there is a linkage  
14                  agreement regarding the delivery of multi-  
15                  disciplinary child abuse investigation, pros-  
16                  ecution, and intervention services”;

17                  (viii) in subparagraph (F), as so re-  
18                  designated, by striking “minimize the  
19                  number of interviews that a child victim  
20                  must attend” and inserting “eliminate du-  
21                  plicative forensic interviews with a child  
22                  victim”;

23                  (ix) in subparagraph (G), as so reded-  
24                  ignated, by striking “multidisciplinary pro-

1                   gram” and inserting “children’s advocacy  
2                   center”;

3                   (x) in subparagraph (H), as so reded-  
4                   ignated, by inserting “intervention and”  
5                   before “judicial proceedings”; and

6                   (xi) in subparagraph (I), as so reded-  
7                   ignated, by striking “Director” and insert-  
8                   ing “Administrator”;

9                   (4) in subsection (d)—

10                   (A) by striking “the Director” and insert-  
11                   ing “the Administrator”; and

12                   (B) by striking “both large and small  
13                   States” and inserting “all States that are eligi-  
14                   ble for such grants, including large and small  
15                   States,”; and

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

17                   “(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE  
18 TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In award-  
19 ing grants under this section, the Administrator shall en-  
20 sure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State  
21 chapters to enable State chapters to provide technical as-  
22 sistance, training, coordination, and oversight to other re-  
23 cipients of grants under this section in providing evidence-  
24 informed initiatives, including mental health counseling;

1 forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination,  
2 and victim advocacy.”.

3 (c) GRANTS FOR SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
4 ANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 214A of the  
5 Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20305)  
6 is amended—

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

10 “(1) attorneys and other allied professionals in-  
11 strumental to the criminal prosecution of child abuse  
12 cases in State or Federal courts, for the purpose of  
13 improving the quality of criminal prosecution of such  
14 cases; and

15 “(2) child abuse professionals instrumental to  
16 the protection of children, intervention in child abuse  
17 cases, and treatment of victims of child abuse, for  
18 the purpose of—

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

21 “(B) promoting the effective delivery of the  
22 evidence-informed Children’s Advocacy Model  
23 and the multidisciplinary response to child  
24 abuse, including best practices in programmatic

1 evaluation and financial oversight of Federal  
2 funding.”;

3 ~~(2)~~ by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
4 following:

5 “(b) GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS.—

6 “(1) PROSECUTORS.—An organization to which  
7 a grant is made for specific training and technical  
8 assistance for prosecutors under subsection (a)(1)  
9 shall be one that has—

10 “(A) a broad representation of attorneys  
11 who prosecute criminal cases in State courts;  
12 and

13 “(B) demonstrated experience in providing  
14 training and technical assistance for prosecu-  
15 tors.

16 “(2) CHILD ABUSE PROFESSIONALS.—An orga-  
17 nization to which a grant is made for specific train-  
18 ing and technical assistance for child abuse profes-  
19 sionals under subsection (a)(2) shall be one that  
20 has—

21 “(A) a diverse portfolio of training and  
22 technical resources for the diverse professionals  
23 responding to child abuse, including a digital li-  
24 brary to promote evidence-informed practice;  
25 and

1           “(B) demonstrated experience in providing  
2           training and technical assistance for child abuse  
3           professionals, especially law enforcement offi-  
4           cers, child protective service workers, prosecu-  
5           tors, forensic interviewers, medical profes-  
6           sionals, victim advocates, and mental health  
7           professionals.”; and

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

11          (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
12          214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34  
13          U.S.C. 20306) is amended—

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

18           (2) in subsection (b), by striking “section  
19           214A” and all that follows and inserting the fol-  
20           lowing: “section 214A, \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal  
21           years 2019 through 2023.”.

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

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

4           (2) in section 214(e)(1) (34 U.S.C.  
5 20304(e)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”  
6 and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

7           (3) in section 214A(e)(1) (34 U.S.C.  
8 20305(e)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”  
9 and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

10          (4) in section 217(e)(1) (34 U.S.C.  
11 20323(e)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”  
12 and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;

13          (5) in section 223(e) (34 U.S.C. 20333(e)), by  
14 striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)” and inserting  
15 “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”.

16 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

17           *This Act may be cited as the “Victims of Child Abuse*  
18 *Act Reauthorization Act of 2018”.*

19 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

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

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

24                   (2) in paragraph (6)—

1           (A) by inserting “improve positive outcomes  
2           for the child,” before “and increase”; and

3           (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a  
4           semicolon;

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

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

10           “(8) State chapters of children’s advocacy center  
11           networks are needed to—

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

17           (c) *REGIONAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.*—  
18 Section 213 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34  
19 U.S.C. 20303) is amended—

20           (1) in subsection (a)—

21                   (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
22 by striking “with the Director and”

23                   (B) by striking paragraph (2);

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

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

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

4           (i) by inserting after “mental health  
5 care professionals” the following: “, law en-  
6 forcement officers, child protective service  
7 workers, forensic interviewers, prosecutors,  
8 and victim advocates,”;

9           (ii) by striking “medical” each place  
10 that term appears; and

11           (iii) by striking the period at the end  
12 and inserting “; and”; and

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

14           “(4) collaborate with State chapters to provide  
15 training, technical assistance, coordination, and over-  
16 sight to—

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

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

20           (2) in subsection (b)—

21           (A) in paragraph (1)—

22           (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
23 graph (A), by striking “, in coordination  
24 with the Director,”;

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

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

9                   (iv) by striking subparagraph (C); and  
10                  (B) in paragraph (2)—

11                  (i) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

19                         (III) by redesignating clauses (ii)  
20                         through (x) as clauses (iii) through  
21                         (xi), respectively;

22                         (IV) by inserting after clause (i)  
23                         the following:

24                                 “(ii) in promoting the effective delivery  
25                                 of the evidence-informed Children’s Advo-

1           *cacy Model and the multidisciplinary re-*  
2           *sponse to child abuse, including best prac-*  
3           *tices in—*

4                     “(I) *organizational support and*  
5                     *development;*

6                     “(II) *programmatic evaluation;*  
7                     *and*

8                     “(III) *financial oversight of Fed-*  
9                     *eral funding;”;*

10                    (V) *in clause (iii), as so redesign-*  
11                    *ated, by striking “a freestanding fa-*  
12                    *cility where interviews of and services*  
13                    *for abused children can be provided”*  
14                    *and inserting “child-friendly facilities*  
15                    *for the investigation of, assessment of,*  
16                    *and intervention in abuse”; and*

17                    (VI) *in clause (iv), as so redesign-*  
18                    *ated, by striking “multiple” and in-*  
19                    *serting “duplicative”; and*

20                    (ii) *in subparagraph (B), by inserting*  
21                    *“and interested communities” after “advoc-*  
22                    *acy centers”;*

23                    (3) *in subsection (c)—*

1           (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “reme-  
2           dial counseling to” and inserting “evidence-in-  
3           formed services for”;

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

7           (C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

8                 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
9                 by striking “, in coordination with the Di-  
10                rector,”;

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

12               (iii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and  
13               (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

14           (4) in subsection (d)—

15               (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in co-  
16               ordination with the Director,”;

17               (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
18               ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the  
19               Director”; and

20               (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “DIS-  
21               CONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—” and all that fol-  
22               lows through “Upon discontinuation” and in-  
23               serting the following: “DISCONTINUATION OF  
24               FUNDING.—Upon discontinuation”; and

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

1           (d) *LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.*—Section  
2 214 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C.  
3 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 child  
10 abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecution;  
11 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 protec-  
9 tive 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 in-  
16 serting “child abuse cases that meet des-  
17 ignated referral criteria to the children’s ad-  
18 vocacy 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 redesi-  
5                   gnated, by striking “counseling center” and  
6                   inserting “children’s advocacy center or an  
7                   agency with which there is a linkage agree-  
8                   ment regarding the delivery of multidisci-  
9                   plinary child abuse investigation, prosecu-  
10                  tion, and intervention services”;

11                  (viii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesi-  
12                  gnated, by striking “minimize the number  
13                  of interviews that a child victim must at-  
14                  tend” and inserting “eliminate duplicative  
15                  forensic interviews with a child victim”;

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

20                  (x) in subparagraph (H), as so redesi-  
21                  gnated, by inserting “intervention and” be-  
22                  fore “judicial proceedings”; and

23                  (xi) in subparagraph (I), as so redesi-  
24                  gnated, by striking “Director” and inserting  
25                  “Administrator”;



1           (4) *in subsection (d)—*

2                   (A) *by striking “the Director” and inserting*  
3           *“the Administrator”; and*

4                   (B) *by striking “both large and small*  
5           *States” and inserting “all States that are eligible*  
6           *for such grants, including large and small*  
7           *States,”; and*

8           (5) *by adding at the end the following:*

9           “(f) *GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE*  
10 *TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In awarding*  
11 *grants under this section, the Administrator shall ensure*  
12 *that a portion of the grants is distributed to State chapters*  
13 *to enable State chapters to provide technical assistance,*  
14 *training, coordination, and oversight to other recipients of*  
15 *grants under this section in providing evidence-informed*  
16 *initiatives, including mental health counseling, forensic*  
17 *interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination, and*  
18 *victim advocacy.”.*

19           (e) *GRANTS FOR SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSIST-*  
20 *ANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 214A of the Vic-*  
21 *tims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20305) is*  
22 *amended—*

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

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

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

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

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

18           (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
19           following:

20           “(b) GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS.—

21                   “(1) PROSECUTORS.—An organization to which  
22                   a grant is made for specific training and technical  
23                   assistance for prosecutors under subsection (a)(1)  
24                   shall be one that has—

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

4           “(B) demonstrated experience in providing  
5           training and technical assistance for prosecutors.

6           “(2) *CHILD ABUSE PROFESSIONALS*.—An organi-  
7           zation to which a grant is made for specific training  
8           and technical assistance for child abuse professionals  
9           under subsection (a)(2) shall be one that has—

10           “(A) a diverse portfolio of training and  
11           technical resources for the diverse professionals  
12           responding to child abuse, including a digital li-  
13           brary to promote evidence-informed practice; and

14           “(B) demonstrated experience in providing  
15           training and technical assistance for child abuse  
16           professionals, especially law enforcement officers,  
17           child protective service workers, prosecutors, fo-  
18           rensic interviewers, medical professionals, victim  
19           advocates, and mental health professionals.”; and

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

23           (f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS*.—Section  
24           214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C.  
25           20306) is amended—

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

5           (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “section 214A”*  
6 *and all that follows and inserting the following: “sec-*  
7 *tion 214A, \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019*  
8 *through 2023.”.*

9           (g) *ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section 214C of the Victims of*  
10 *Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20307) is amended—*

11           (1) *by striking “All grants awarded” and insert-*  
12 *ing the following:*

13           “*(a) IN GENERAL.—All grants awarded*”; and

14           (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

15           “*(b) REPORTING.—Not later than March 1 of each*  
16 *year, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee*  
17 *on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the*  
18 *Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that—*

19           “*(1) summarizes the efforts of the Administrator*  
20 *to monitor and evaluate the regional children’s advo-*  
21 *cacy program activities under section 213(d);*

22           “*(2) describes—*

23           “*(A) the method by which amounts are allo-*  
24 *cated to grantees and subgrantees under this sub-*  
25 *title, including to local children’s advocacy cen-*

1            *ters, State chapters, and regional children’s ad-*  
2            *vocacy program centers; and*

3            *“(B) steps the Attorney General has taken*  
4            *to minimize duplication and overlap in the*  
5            *awarding of amounts under this subtitle; and*

6            *“(3) analyzes the extent to which both rural and*  
7            *urban populations are served under the regional chil-*  
8            *dren’s advocacy program.”.*

9            *(h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RE-*  
10          *LATING TO TITLE 34, UNITED STATES CODE.—The Victims*  
11          *of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) is*  
12          *amended—*

13                  *(1) in section 212(1) (34 U.S.C. 20302), by*  
14                  *striking “(42 U.S.C. 5611(b))” and inserting “(34*  
15                  *U.S.C. 11111(b))”;*

16                  *(2) in section 214(c)(1) (34 U.S.C. 20304(c)(1)),*  
17                  *by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)” and inserting*  
18                  *“(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;*

19                  *(3) in section 214A(c)(1) (34 U.S.C.*  
20                  *20305(c)(1)), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)”*  
21                  *and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;*

22                  *(4) in section 217(c)(1) (34 U.S.C. 20323(c)(1)),*  
23                  *by striking “(42 U.S.C. 5665 et seq.)” and inserting*  
24                  *“(34 U.S.C. 11183, 11186)”;* *and*

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

4 **SEC. 3. IMMUNITY PROTECTIONS FOR REPORTERS OF**  
5 **CHILD ABUSE.**

6           (a) *STATE PLANS.*—Section 106(b)(2)(B)(vii) of the  
7 *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* (42 U.S.C.  
8 *5106a(b)(2)(B)(vii)*) is amended to read as follows:

9                           “(vii) provisions for immunity from  
10                           civil or criminal liability under State and  
11                           local laws and regulations for individuals  
12                           making good faith reports of suspected or  
13                           known instances of child abuse or neglect, or  
14                           who otherwise provide information or as-  
15                           sistance, including medical evaluations or  
16                           consultations, in connection with a report,  
17                           investigation, or legal intervention pursuant  
18                           to a good faith report of child abuse or ne-  
19                           glect;”.

20           (b) *FEDERAL IMMUNITY.*—

21                           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other  
22                           provision of law, any individual making a good faith  
23                           report to appropriate authorities of a suspected or  
24                           known instance of child abuse or neglect, or who oth-  
25                           erwise, in good faith, provides information or assist-

1        *ance, including medical evaluations or consultations,*  
2        *in connection with a report, investigation, or legal*  
3        *intervention pursuant to a good faith report of child*  
4        *abuse or neglect shall not be subject to civil liability*  
5        *or criminal prosecution, under any Federal law, ris-*  
6        *ing from making such report or providing such infor-*  
7        *mation or assistance.*

8                (2) *PRESUMPTION OF GOOD FAITH.—In a Fed-*  
9        *eral civil action or criminal prosecution brought*  
10        *against a person based on the person’s reporting a*  
11        *suspected or known instance of child abuse or neglect,*  
12        *or providing information or assistance with respect to*  
13        *such a report, as described in paragraph (1), there*  
14        *shall be a presumption that the person acted in good*  
15        *faith.*

16                (3) *COSTS.—If the defendant prevails in a Fed-*  
17        *eral civil action described in paragraph (2), the court*  
18        *may award costs and reasonable attorney’s fees in-*  
19        *curring by the defendant.*

Calendar No. 581

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 2961**

---

---

**A BILL**

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

---

---

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Reported with an amendment