

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1950

To authorize the court to impose a reduced sentence for a youthful victim offender, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the court to impose a reduced sentence for a youthful victim offender, 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 “Sara’s Law”.

5 **SEC. 2. SENTENCING YOUTHFUL VICTIM OFFENDERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3553 of chapter 227 of
7 title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following:

9 “(h) SENTENCING YOUTHFUL VICTIM OFFEND-
10 ERS.—

1 “(1) STATUTORY MINIMUMS.—In the case of a
2 youthful victim offender, the court shall have the au-
3 thority to impose a sentence that is below a level es-
4 tablished by statute as a minimum sentence so as to
5 consider the effect of trauma on the offender’s con-
6 duct.

7 “(2) SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE.—In the case
8 of a youthful offender, the court shall have the au-
9 thority to suspend any portion of an imposed sen-
10 tence.

11 “(3) YOUTHFUL VICTIM OFFENDER DE-
12 FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘youthful vic-
13 tim offender’ means an individual who—

14 “(A) has not attained the age of 18; and

15 “(B) has been convicted of a violent of-
16 fense against a person who the court finds, by
17 clear and convincing evidence, engaged in con-
18 duct against such individual, not earlier than 1
19 year before such violent offense, that is an of-
20 fense under section 1591 or an offense under
21 chapter 71, 109A, 110, or 117.”.

22 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this
23 section shall apply only to a conviction entered on or after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. DIRECTIVE TO THE SENTENCING COMMISSION.**

2 Pursuant to its authority under section 994(p) of title
3 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this sec-
4 tion, the United States Sentencing Commission shall re-
5 view and amend, if appropriate, its guidelines and its pol-
6 icy statements with respect to youthful victim offenders
7 to ensure that the guidelines and policy statements are
8 consistent with the amendments made by section 2.

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