

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4342

To establish a National Child Abuse Hotline.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2020

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish a National Child Abuse Hotline.

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 “National Child Abuse  
5 Help Hotline Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
9 retary”) may award a grant to a nonprofit entity to pro-  
10 vide for the establishment and ongoing operation of a Na-  
11 tional Child Abuse Hotline, which shall provide a 24-hour,

1 national, toll-free telephone hotline to improve capacity for  
2 the provision of crisis intervention, assistance, and infor-  
3 mation services with respect to child abuse or neglect, to  
4 victims of child abuse or neglect, and to parents, care-  
5 givers, mandated reporters, and other concerned commu-  
6 nity members, including through implementation of other  
7 communication technologies to improve access for such  
8 victims and other individuals.

9 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive the grant  
10 under subsection (a), an entity shall have experience in  
11 operating a hotline that provides information and assist-  
12 ance to victims of child abuse or neglect, and to parents,  
13 caregivers, and mandated reporters.

14 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
15 under subsection (a), a nonprofit entity shall submit an  
16 application to the Secretary, at such time and in such  
17 manner as the Secretary may require, and containing—

18 (1) a complete description of the entity’s plan  
19 for the operation of a national child abuse hotline,  
20 including descriptions of—

21 (A) the professional development program  
22 for hotline personnel, including technology pro-  
23 fessional development to ensure that all individ-  
24 uals affiliated with the hotline are able to effec-

1           tively operate any technological systems used by  
2           the hotline;

3           (B) the qualifications for hotline personnel;

4           (C) the methods for the creation, mainte-  
5           nance, and updating of a resource database;

6           (D) a plan for publicizing the availability  
7           of the hotline throughout the United States;

8           (E) a plan for providing service to non-  
9           English speaking callers, including service  
10          through hotline personnel who have non-English  
11          language capability;

12          (F) a plan for facilitating access to the  
13          hotline and alternative modality services by in-  
14          dividuals with hearing impairments and disabil-  
15          ities;

16          (G) a plan for providing crisis counseling,  
17          general assistance, and referrals to youth vic-  
18          tims of child abuse; and

19          (H) a plan for utilizing available commu-  
20          nications technologies other than the telephone  
21          hotline, as appropriate, such as texting or live  
22          chat;

23          (2) information to demonstrate that the enti-  
24          ty—

1 (A) has the capacity and the expertise to  
2 maintain a child abuse and neglect hotline;

3 (B) has the ability to provide information  
4 and referrals for contacts, directly connect con-  
5 tacts to such service providers, and employ cri-  
6 sis interventions; and

7 (C) complies with Federal privacy laws and  
8 has established quality assurance practices; and

9 (3) such other information, assurances, and  
10 agreements as the Secretary may require.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For pur-  
12 poses of carrying out this section, there are authorized to  
13 be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
14 through 2025.

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