

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 924

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse in primary and secondary education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 2019

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse in primary and secondary education.

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 “Jenna Quinn Law”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) One in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually
2 abused before the age of 18.

3 (2) Forty-five percent of sexual assault victims
4 are under the age of 12.

5 (3) According to the Department of Education,
6 more than 4,500,000 students are subject to sexual
7 misconduct by a school employee sometime between
8 kindergarten and twelfth grade.

9 (4) Research shows that school personnel iden-
10 tify 52 percent of child abuse cases, more than any
11 other profession or organization type.

12 (5) Ninety percent of child sexual abuse victims
13 know their abuser.

14 (6) Most child sexual abuse can be prevented
15 through education combined with a comprehensive
16 set of prevention policies.

17 (7) Studies show that after educators were
18 trained in child sexual abuse prevention and report-
19 ing, they were about 4 times more likely to report
20 than they were prior to such training.

21 (8) Two-thirds of teachers do not receive train-
22 ing in preventing, recognizing, or responding to child
23 sexual abuse, either in their college coursework or as
24 part of their professional development.

1 (9) Ninety percent of children who are sexually
2 trafficked were first sexually abused as children.

3 (10) More than half of sexual assault incidents
4 happen within 1 mile of the victim's home.

5 (11) The average lifetime cost per victim of
6 child abuse is \$210,012, totaling an estimated
7 \$150,000,000,000 annually nationwide. These ex-
8 penses are largely paid for by the public, including
9 through costs to the criminal justice system, child
10 welfare systems, special education and health care
11 costs, and productivity losses.

12 (12) Each State has a reporting statute related
13 to child abuse and neglect, which range from stat-
14 utes that require every adult to report suspicions to
15 statutes setting forth a minimal list of categories of
16 individuals or circumstances that trigger a manda-
17 tory report.

18 (13) The silent epidemic of child sexual abuse
19 should not be limited to reporting requirements after
20 the abuse has already occurred. It is imperative that
21 students of all ages, school leaders, teachers and
22 other school employees, and other adults who work
23 with children in a professional or voluntary capacity
24 have a fundamental understanding of child sexual
25 assault prevention training and policies.

1 **SEC. 3. EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING.**

2 The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act is
3 amended by inserting after section 103 of such Act (42
4 U.S.C. 5104) the following:

5 **“SEC. 103A. EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
7 to eligible entities to provide training on child sexual abuse
8 awareness and prevention for students, teachers and other
9 school employees, mandatory reporters, caregivers, and
10 other adults who work with children in a professional or
11 voluntary capacity for the purpose of compliance with
12 State laws that mandate child sexual abuse education in
13 school-based settings, or in the case of a State in which
14 there is no such mandate, providing such training.

15 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
16 grant under this section, an entity shall submit an applica-
17 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
18 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
19 including information demonstrating that the entity—

20 “(1) has partnerships with local educational
21 agencies for the purpose of providing training de-
22 scribed in subsection (a);

23 “(2) uses evidence-based or evidence-informed
24 methods to identify and prevent child sexual abuse;

25 “(3) will disseminate free training materials to
26 the community; and

1 “(4) has a demonstrated ability in the field of
2 child welfare, including with respect to child sexual
3 abuse cases, which may include providing direct
4 services to victims of child sexual abuse or providing
5 child sexual abuse prevention training or education.

6 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a grant
7 under this section shall use the funds made available
8 through the grant to establish or implement evidence-
9 based or evidence-informed child sexual abuse awareness
10 and annual prevention programs or activities, such as pro-
11 grams, training, or activities designed to provide—

12 “(1) age-appropriate and developmentally ap-
13 propriate instruction for students in child sexual
14 abuse awareness and prevention, including how to
15 recognize child sexual abuse and how to safely report
16 child sexual abuse;

17 “(2) training for teachers and other school em-
18 ployees, and other mandatory reporters and adults
19 who work with children in a professional or volun-
20 teer capacity, including training on how to recognize
21 child sexual abuse and how to report child sexual
22 abuse; and

23 “(3) information for parents and guardians of
24 students about child sexual abuse awareness and
25 prevention, including how to prevent, recognize, re-

1 spond to, and report child sexual abuse and how to
 2 discuss prevention strategies for child sexual abuse
 3 with a child.

4 “(d) PREFERENCE FOR CHILD ABUSE PROFES-
 5 SIONALS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Sec-
 6 retary shall give preference to entities that have demon-
 7 strable work in the field of child welfare, including child
 8 sexual abuse cases, providing direct services to victims of
 9 child sexual abuse, or prevention training or education.”.

10 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NE-**
 11 **GLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PRO-**
 12 **GRAMS.**

13 Clause (i) of section 106(b)(2)(B) of the Child Abuse
 14 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
 15 5106a(b)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting “recognize and”
 16 after “an individual to”.

17 **SEC. 5. IMPROVE REPORTING.**

18 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 107(b) of the Child Abuse
 19 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106c(b)) is
 20 amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (4)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 23 “and” at the end; and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(C) support training by experts in the
2 prevention of child sexual abuse, for teachers
3 and other adults who work with children in a
4 professional or volunteer capacity, to recognize
5 child sexual abuse and exploitation, and report
6 suspected and known incidents of child sexual
7 abuse or neglect in accordance with State law;
8 and”;

9 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting before the pe-
10 riod “and the training described in paragraph
11 (4)(C)”.

12 (b) STATE TASK FORCE STUDY.—Section 107(d) of
13 such Act (42 U.S.C. 5106c(d)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and
15 inserting “;”;

16 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and
17 inserting “; and”;

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(3) evaluate the State’s efforts to implement
21 the training recommendations in each of the cat-
22 egories described in subsection (e).”.

1 **SEC. 6. COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS.**

2 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 202(3) of the Child Abuse
3 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a(3)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and”
6 and inserting “;”;

7 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
8 and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(E) will develop partnerships with local
12 educational agencies, local community agencies,
13 or any other nonprofit group that is an eligible
14 entity described in section 103A(b) to provide
15 training to students, teachers, and other adults
16 who work with children in a professional or vol-
17 unteer capacity, on recognizing child sexual
18 abuse and exploitation and reporting suspected
19 and known incidents of child sexual abuse or
20 neglect in accordance with State law.”.

21 (b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 204 of the Child Abuse
22 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d) is
23 amended by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(9) a plan for providing operation support,
26 training, and technical assistance to community-

1 based and prevention-focused programs and activi-
2 ties designed—

3 “(A) to strengthen and support families to
4 prevent child abuse and neglect for develop-
5 ment, operation, expansion, and enhancement
6 activities; and

7 “(B) to educate students and train teach-
8 ers and other school employees, and other
9 adults who work with children in a professional
10 or volunteer capacity, to prevent and recognize
11 child sexual abuse;”.

12 (c) LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Section
13 205(a)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e (a)(1)) is amended by inserting “lo-
15 cation educational agencies” after “local nonprofit organi-
16 zations”.

17 (d) GENERAL DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Child
18 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101
19 note) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through
21 (8) as paragraphs (7) through (9), respectively; and

22 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(6) the term ‘local educational agency’ has the
25 meaning given such term in section 8101 of the Ele-

1 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 7801);”.

○