

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4719

To protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2022

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation,  
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 “Preventing Child Sex  
5 Abuse Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 The sense of Congress is the following:

8 (1) The safety of children should be a top pri-  
9 ority for public officials and communities in the  
10 United States.

1           (2) According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest Na-  
2           tional Network, an individual in the United States is  
3           sexually assaulted every 68 seconds. And every 9  
4           minutes, that victim is a child. Meanwhile, only 25  
5           out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in pris-  
6           on.

7           (3) The effects of child sexual abuse can be  
8           long-lasting and affect the victim's mental health.

9           (4) Victims are more likely than non-victims to  
10          experience the following mental health challenges:

11                 (A) Victims are about 4 times more likely  
12                 to develop symptoms of drug abuse.

13                 (B) Victims are about 4 times more likely  
14                 to experience post-traumatic stress disorder as  
15                 adults.

16                 (C) Victims are about 3 times more likely  
17                 to experience a major depressive episode as  
18                 adults.

19          (5) The criminal justice system should and has  
20          acted as an important line of defense to protect chil-  
21          dren and hold perpetrators accountable.

22          (6) However, the horrific crimes perpetuated by  
23          Larry Nassar demonstrate firsthand the loopholes  
24          that still exist in the criminal justice system. While  
25          Larry Nassar was found guilty of several State-level

1 offenses, he was not charged federally for his illicit  
2 sexual contact with minors, despite crossing State  
3 and international borders to commit this conduct.

4 (7) The Department of Justice has also identi-  
5 fied a growing trend of Americans who use chari-  
6 table or missionary work in a foreign country as a  
7 cover for sexual abuse of children.

8 (8) It is the intent of Congress to prohibit  
9 Americans from engaging in sexual abuse or exploi-  
10 tation of minors under the guise of work, including  
11 volunteer work, with an organization that affects  
12 interstate or foreign commerce, such as an inter-  
13 national charity.

14 (9) Child sexual abuse does not require physical  
15 contact between the abuser and the child. This is es-  
16 pecially true as perpetrators turn increasingly to  
17 internet platforms, online chat rooms, and webcams  
18 to commit child sexual abuse.

19 (10) However, a decision of the United States  
20 Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit found the  
21 use of a webcam to engage in sexually provocative  
22 activity with a minor did not qualify as “sexual ac-  
23 tivity”.

24 (11) Congress can address this issue by amend-  
25 ing the definition of the term “sexual activity” to

1 clarify that it does not require interpersonal, phys-  
2 ical contact.

3 (12) It is the duty of Congress to provide clear-  
4 er guidance to ensure that those who commit crimes  
5 against children are prosecuted to the fullest extent  
6 of the law.

7 **SEC. 3. INTERSTATE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.**

8 Section 2423 of title 18, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “with a moti-  
11 vating purpose of engaging in any illicit sexual con-  
12 duct with another person” and inserting “with in-  
13 tent to engage in any illicit sexual conduct with an-  
14 other person”;

15 (2) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f),  
16 and (g) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (i), respec-  
17 tively;

18 (3) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by  
19 striking “with a motivating purpose of engaging in  
20 any illicit sexual conduct” and inserting “with intent  
21 to engage in any illicit sexual conduct”; and

22 (4) by inserting after subsection (g), as so re-  
23 designated, the following:

24 “(h) DEFINITION OF INTENT.—As used in sub-  
25 sections (b) and (e), the term ‘intent’ means that an indi-

1 vidual has the intention to engage in illicit sexual conduct  
2 at the time of the travel. This intention need not be a  
3 primary, significant, dominant, or motivating purpose of  
4 the travel.”.

5 **SEC. 4. ABUSE UNDER THE GUISE OF CHARITY.**

6 Section 2423 of title 18, United States Code, as  
7 amended by section 3 of this Act, is amended—

8 (1) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(d) **ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT IN CONNECTION**  
11 **WITH CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS.**—Any citizen of the  
12 United States or alien admitted for permanent residence  
13 who—

14 “(1) is an officer, director, employee, or agent  
15 of an organization that affects interstate or foreign  
16 commerce;

17 “(2) makes use of the mails or any means or  
18 instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce  
19 through the connection or affiliation of the person  
20 with such organization; and

21 “(3) commits an act in furtherance of illicit sex-  
22 ual conduct through the connection or affiliation of  
23 the person with such organization,

24 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more  
25 than 30 years, or both.”;

1           (2) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by  
2           striking “or (d)” and inserting “(d), or (e)”; and

3           (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by  
4           striking “(f)(2)” and inserting “(g)(2)”.

5 **SEC. 5. SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH MINORS.**

6           Section 2427 of title 18, United States Code, is  
7 amended by inserting “does not require interpersonal  
8 physical contact, and” before “includes”.

○