

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 886

To establish a National Child Abuse Hotline.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2021

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

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 2021”.

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 qualifications for hotline personnel;

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

1 ate the technological systems used by the hot-
2 line;

3 (C) the methods for the creation, mainte-
4 nance, and updating of a comprehensive data-
5 base of prevention and treatment services re-
6 sources;

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

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

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

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

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

24 (2) information to demonstrate that the enti-
25 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 and State pri-
8 vacy laws and has established quality assurance
9 practices; and

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

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For pur-
13 poses of carrying out this section, there are authorized to
14 be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
15 through 2026.

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