

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 671

To establish an interagency task force to increase vital documents access
for unaccompanied homeless youth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ANSARI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish an interagency task force to increase vital
documents access for unaccompanied homeless youth.

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 “Vital Documents Ac-
5 cess for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE**
2 **ON VITAL DOCUMENTS ACCESS FOR UNAC-**
3 **COMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH; REPORTS.**

4 (a) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
7 covered Secretaries and the Commissioner of the So-
8 cial Security Administration shall, jointly, establish
9 the Interagency Task Force on Vital Documents Ac-
10 cess for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (referred
11 to in this section as the “Task Force”) to coordinate
12 efforts and share best policies and practices to in-
13 crease vital documents access for unaccompanied
14 homeless youth.

15 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
17 be composed of—

- 18 (i) the Chair of the Task Force;
19 (ii) the Commissioner of the Social
20 Security Administration;
21 (iii) the covered Secretaries;
22 (iv) three directors of State depart-
23 ments of human services, or equivalent
24 State officials, of whom—

25 (I) one shall be appointed by the
26 President;

1 (II) one shall be appointed by the
2 majority leader of the Senate, with
3 the concurrence of the minority leader
4 of the Senate; and

5 (III) one shall be appointed by
6 the majority leader of the House of
7 Representatives, with the concurrence
8 of the minority leader of the House of
9 Representatives; and

10 (v) three representatives from national
11 nonprofit organizations that work on youth
12 homelessness, who shall be appointed by
13 the President.

14 (B) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MEM-
15 BERS.—The members of the Task Force ap-
16 pointed under clauses (iv) and (v) of subpara-
17 graph (A) shall each—

18 (i) have not attained the age of 30;

19 and

20 (ii) have lived-in experience for youth
21 homelessness.

22 (C) TERMS.—Each member shall serve for
23 the duration of the Task Force.

24 (D) VACANCY.—In the case of a vacancy
25 on the Task Force, such vacancy shall be filled

not later than 30 days after arising and in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(E) STAFF.—

(i) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Task Force shall be chosen, jointly, by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration and the covered Secretaries and shall lead the Task Force in executing the duties described in paragraph (3).

(ii) SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—The Task Force may appoint additional support personnel as it considers appropriate to assist in executing the duties described in paragraph (3).

(3) DUTIES.—Beginning on the last day of the first fiscal quarter after the date on which the Task Force is established under paragraph (1), and quarterly thereafter, the Task Force shall meet to—

(A) assess and discuss—

(i) the progress each Task Force member has made on increasing vital documents access for unaccompanied homeless youth;

1 (ii) each policy and practice imple-
2 mented by a Task Force member that in-
3 creased vital documents access for unac-
4 panied homeless youth;

5 (iii) each challenge faced by a Task
6 Force member while working towards in-
7 creasing vital documents access for unac-
8 panied homeless youth; and

9 (iv) each method used by a Task
10 Force member to refine each policy and
11 practice implemented to improve vital doc-
12 uments access for unaccompanied homeless
13 youth;

14 (B) establish a framework for collecting
15 data on the effectiveness of each policy and
16 practice implemented by a Task Force member
17 to increase vital documents access for unaccom-
18 panied homeless youth;

19 (C) using the data collected under sub-
20 paragraph (B)—

21 (i) formulate policies and practices to
22 increase vital documents access for unac-
23 panied homeless youth; and

1 (ii) evaluate the success of each such
2 policy and practice in increasing such ac-
3 cess; and

4 (D) develop policies and practices that can
5 be implemented by Federal, State, and local
6 agencies to improve vital documents access for
7 unaccompanied homeless youth.

8 (b) REPORTS.—

9 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
11 after the date on which the Task Force is es-
12 tablished under subsection (a)(1), the covered
13 Secretaries and the Commissioner of the Social
14 Security Administration shall, jointly, submit to
15 Congress an initial report on how to increase
16 vital documents access for unaccompanied
17 homeless youth.

18 (B) ELEMENTS.—The initial report re-
19 quired under subparagraph (A) shall include
20 the following:

21 (i) The covered Secretaries shall,
22 jointly, provide—

23 (I) a detailed analysis of each
24 challenge that unaccompanied home-
25 less youth without vital documents

1 face in accessing all programs under
2 the separate and joint administrative
3 jurisdictions of the covered Secre-
4 taries, including programs related to
5 housing assistance, homelessness pre-
6 vention, health care, child welfare, or
7 other social services;

8 (II) any recommendations for
9 legislation and administrative action
10 the covered Secretaries determine ap-
11 propriate to increase access to each
12 such program by unaccompanied
13 homeless youth without vital docu-
14 ments, including enhanced training re-
15 quirements for agency staff and in-
16 creased collaboration between the
17 agencies of the covered Secretaries;

18 (III) a list of each State and
19 local policy that increased vital docu-
20 ments access for unaccompanied
21 homeless youth, as determined by the
22 covered Secretaries, and recommenda-
23 tions for legislation and administra-
24 tive action to expand such State and
25 local policy; and

1 (IV) a detailed assessment of
2 each such policy identified by the cov-
3 ered Secretaries under subclause (III)
4 and any suggestion the covered Secre-
5 taries determine appropriate to ex-
6 pand or replicate each such policy
7 within the Federal Government.

8 (ii) The Commissioner of the Social
9 Security Administration shall provide—

10 (I) a detailed assessment of each
11 policy related to issuing social security
12 cards to unaccompanied homeless
13 youth, including any discretion the
14 Commissioner has to waive any docu-
15 mentation requirement in the social
16 security card application process;

17 (II) any recommendation the
18 Commissioner determines appropriate
19 to increase social security card access
20 for unaccompanied homeless youth,
21 including enhanced training require-
22 ments for Administration staff on how
23 to better assist unaccompanied home-
24 less youth;

1 (III) any proposal for issuing
2 new educational materials, or expand-
3 ing upon existing materials, to assist
4 unaccompanied homeless youth with
5 the social security card application
6 process;

7 (IV) a plan to enhance outreach
8 and collaboration efforts among Fed-
9 eral, State, and local agencies, as well
10 as community-based organizations, to
11 increase social security card access for
12 unaccompanied homeless youth; and

13 (V) any recommendation that the
14 Commissioner determines appropriate
15 for State legislation and administra-
16 tive action to increase social security
17 card access for unaccompanied home-
18 less youth.

19 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three
21 years after the date on which the Task Force
22 is established under subsection (a)(1), the Task
23 Force shall submit to Congress a final report.

1 (B) ELEMENTS.—The final report required
2 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (i) Each change undertaken by a
5 Task Force member based on rec-
6 ommendations made in the initial report
7 under paragraph (1).

8 (ii) The effectiveness of each change
9 described in clause (i) in increasing vital
10 documents access for unaccompanied
11 homeless youth.

12 (iii) A detailed assessment of the mer-
13 its of making the Task Force permanent.

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-
16 ered Secretaries” means—

17 (A) the Secretary of Housing and Urban
18 Development; and

19 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human
20 Services.

21 (2) UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH.—The
22 term “unaccompanied homeless youth” means an in-
23 dividual who is—

1 (A) a homeless child or youth (as defined
2 in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
3 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)); and

4 (B) not in the physical custody of a parent
5 or guardian.

6 (3) VITAL DOCUMENTS.—The term “vital docu-
7 ments”—

8 (A) means any State or Federal document
9 issued to an individual that can be used to es-
10 tablish the identity of such individual; and

11 (B) includes a social security card and a
12 birth certificate.

13 (d) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate
14 on the date that is three years after the date on which
15 the Task Force is established under subsection (a)(1).

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