

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2196

To amend title 18, United States Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26 (legislative day, JUNE 24), 2025

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, 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 “Strengthening Protec-  
5       tions for Domestic Violence and Stalking Survivors Act  
6       of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDRESSING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.**

2 (a) INCLUSION OF CURRENT AND FORMER DATING  
3 PARTNERS IN DEFINITION OF “INTIMATE PARTNER”.—  
4 Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amend-  
5 ed—

6 (1) in paragraph (32)—

7 (A) by striking “and an individual” and in-  
8 serting “an individual”; and

9 (B) by inserting before the period at the  
10 end the following: “, an individual who is or  
11 was in a dating relationship with the person, or  
12 any other individual similarly situated to a  
13 spouse, including an individual who is protected  
14 by the domestic or family violence laws of the  
15 State or Tribal jurisdiction in which the abuse  
16 occurred or the victim resides”;

17 (2) by striking paragraph (37)(A) and inserting  
18 the following:

19 “(37)(A) The term ‘dating relationship’ means a rela-  
20 tionship between individuals who have or have had, or in  
21 the case of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence have  
22 or have recently had, a continuing serious relationship of  
23 a romantic or intimate nature.”; and

24 (3) in paragraph (37)(C), by striking “dating  
25 relationship” and inserting “continuing serious rela-  
26 tionship”.

1 (b) INCLUSION OF DATING PARTNERS' CHILDREN IN  
 2 DEFINITION OF "MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF DOMESTIC VI-  
 3 OLENCE".—Section 921(a)(33)(A)(ii) of title 18, United  
 4 States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by striking "victim, or by a person" and in-  
 6 serting "victim, by a person"; and

7 (2) by inserting " , or by a person who has a  
 8 current or recent former dating relationship with the  
 9 parent, guardian, or person similarly situated to a  
 10 parent or guardian of the victim" before the period  
 11 at the end.

12 (c) NEW PROHIBITOR FOR MISDEMEANOR CRIMES  
 13 OF STALKING.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States  
 14 Code, is amended—

15 (1) in section 921(a), by adding at the end the  
 16 following:

17 "(39)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B)  
 18 and (C), the term 'misdemeanor crime of stalking' means  
 19 an offense that—

20 "(i) is a misdemeanor under Federal, State,  
 21 Tribal, or local law; and

22 "(ii) has as an element a course of harassment,  
 23 intimidation, or surveillance that—

24 "(I) places a person in reasonable fear of  
 25 actual harm to the health or safety of—

1 “(aa) that person;

2 “(bb) an immediate family member  
3 (as defined in section 115) of that person;

4 “(cc) an individual who shares or has  
5 shared a residence with that person, with-  
6 out regard to whether the individual is re-  
7 lated to that person;

8 “(dd) an intimate partner of that per-  
9 son; or

10 “(ee) the pet, service animal, or emo-  
11 tional support animal (as those terms are  
12 defined in section 2266) of that person; or

13 “(II) causes, attempts to cause, or would  
14 reasonably be expected to cause emotional dis-  
15 tress to a person described in item (aa), (bb),  
16 (cc), or (dd) of subclause (I).

17 “(B) A person shall not be considered to have been  
18 convicted of such an offense for purposes of this chapter,  
19 unless—

20 “(i) the person was represented by counsel in  
21 the case, or knowingly and intelligently waived the  
22 right to counsel in the case; and

23 “(ii) in the case of a prosecution for an offense  
24 described in this paragraph for which a person was

1 entitled to a jury trial in the jurisdiction in which  
 2 the case was tried, either—

3 “(I) the case was tried by a jury; or

4 “(II) the person knowingly and intel-  
 5 ligently waived the right to have the case tried  
 6 by a jury, by guilty plea or otherwise.

7 “(C) A person shall not be considered to have been  
 8 convicted of such an offense for purposes of this chapter  
 9 if the conviction has been expunged or set aside, or is an  
 10 offense for which the person has been pardoned or has  
 11 had civil rights restored (if the law of the applicable juris-  
 12 diction provides for the loss of civil rights under such an  
 13 offense) unless the pardon, expungement, or restoration  
 14 of civil rights expressly provides that the person may not  
 15 ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms.”; and

16 (2) in section 922—

17 (A) in subsection (d)—

18 (i) by redesignating paragraphs (10)  
 19 and (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12), re-  
 20 spectively;

21 (ii) by inserting after paragraph (9)  
 22 the following:

23 “(10) has been convicted in any court of a mis-  
 24 demeanor crime of stalking;”; and

- 1 (iii) in paragraph (12), as so redesign-  
2 nated, by striking “(10)” and inserting  
3 “(11)”; and  
4 (B) in subsection (g)—  
5 (i) in paragraph (8), by striking “or”  
6 at the end;  
7 (ii) in paragraph (9), by striking the  
8 comma at the end and inserting “; or”;  
9 and  
10 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (9)  
11 the following:  
12 “(10) has been convicted in any court of a mis-  
13 demeanor crime of stalking,”.

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