

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2278

To amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting first responders, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2025

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HAGERTY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting first responders, 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 “Graham Hoffman
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CRIMES TARGETING FIRST RESPONDERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 121. Crimes targeting first responders**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, in any circumstance
3 described in subsection (b), knowingly assaults a first re-
4 sponder engaged in official duties causing serious bodily
5 injury, or attempts to do so—

6 “(1) shall be imprisoned not more than 10
7 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both;
8 and

9 “(2) shall be imprisoned for any term of years
10 or for life, fined in accordance with this title, or
11 both, if—

12 “(A) death results from the offense; or

13 “(B) the offense includes kidnapping or an
14 attempt to kidnap, or an attempt to kill.

15 “(b) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of
16 subsection (a), the circumstances described in this sub-
17 section are that—

18 “(1) the conduct described in subsection (a) oc-
19 curs during the course of, or as the result of, the
20 travel of the defendant or the victim—

21 “(A) across a State line or national border;
22 or

23 “(B) using a channel, facility, or instru-
24 mentality of interstate or foreign commerce;

25 “(2) the defendant uses a channel, facility, or
26 instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in

1 connection with the conduct described in subsection
 2 (a);

3 “(3) in connection with the conduct described in
 4 subsection (a), the defendant employs a firearm,
 5 dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device, or
 6 other weapon that has traveled in interstate or for-
 7 eign commerce;

8 “(4) the conduct described in subsection (a)—

9 “(A) interferes with commercial or other
 10 economic activity in which the victim is engaged
 11 at the time of the conduct; or

12 “(B) otherwise affects interstate or foreign
 13 commerce; or

14 “(5) the victim is a Federal first responder.

15 “(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No prosecution of any of-
 17 fense described in this section may be undertaken by
 18 the United States, except under the certification in
 19 writing of the Attorney General, or a designee,
 20 that—

21 “(A) the State does not have jurisdiction;

22 “(B) the State has requested that the Fed-
 23 eral Government assume jurisdiction;

24 “(C) the verdict or sentence obtained pur-
 25 suant to State charges left demonstratively

1 unvindicated the Federal interest in protecting
 2 the public safety; or

3 “(D) a prosecution by the United States is
 4 in the public interest and necessary to secure
 5 substantial justice.

6 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
 7 this subsection shall be construed to limit the au-
 8 thority of Federal officers, or a Federal grand jury,
 9 to investigate possible violations of this section.

10 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ‘first re-
 12 sponder’ means—

13 “(A) a firefighter, a law enforcement offi-
 14 cer, or a member of a rescue squad or ambu-
 15 lance crew, as those terms are defined in sec-
 16 tion 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
 17 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C.
 18 10284); or

19 “(B) an officially recognized or designated
 20 employee or volunteer member of a paramedic
 21 ALS intercept service that meet the require-
 22 ments under section 410.40(d) of title 42, Code
 23 of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
 24 lation).

1 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means a State
2 of the United States, the District of Columbia, or
3 any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
4 United States.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 for chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
7 by adding at the end the following:

 “121. Crimes targeting first responders.”.

