

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 659

To establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare interviews with children and adults, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare interviews with children and adults, 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 “Generate Recordings
5 of All Child protective Interviews Everywhere Act” or the
6 “GRACIE Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE INTERVIEW RECORD-**
2 **ING GRANTS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) CHILD WELFARE INTERVIEW.—The term
5 “child welfare interview” means a documented inter-
6 view with all relevant parties, including a child and
7 an adult, conducted by a child protective services
8 agency of a State in order to elicit information re-
9 garding concerns of abuse, neglect, or exposure to
10 violence.

11 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
12 the Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and
13 Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Jus-
14 tice.

15 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
16 ty” means a child protective services agency of a
17 State that has in effect a statute, ordinance, policy,
18 or practice that requires—

19 (A) any child welfare interview conducted
20 by a child protective services agency of the
21 State to be recorded through—

22 (i) electronic audio recording;

23 (ii) body camera video; or

24 (iii) any other reasonable means of re-
25 cording; and

1 (B) the retention and storage of a record-
2 ing described in subparagraph (A)—

3 (i) for not less than 5 years; and

4 (ii) in a manner consistent with the
5 protocols established by the State for such
6 recordings, which shall include that—

7 (I) a copy of such a recording—

8 (aa) subject to item (bb),
9 may only be released to those in-
10 vestigating an allegation; and

11 (bb) upon a request by a
12 caregiver or guardian in connec-
13 tion with a judicial proceeding,
14 shall be made available to the
15 caregiver or guardian, unless the
16 court orders otherwise;

17 (II) a penalty is imposed for a
18 violation of a limitation described in
19 subclause (I); and

20 (III) the retention systems of the
21 child protective services agency se-
22 curely manage the storage and dis-
23 tribution of such a recording with ac-
24 cess controls and role-based permis-
25 sion management.

1 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

2 (A) each of the several States;

3 (B) the District of Columbia;

4 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

5 and

6 (D) any territory or possession of the

7 United States.

8 (b) GRANTS.—The Director may award a grant to
9 an eligible entity for the purpose of recording and storing
10 all child welfare interviews conducted by the eligible entity.

11 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant
12 under this section shall submit to the Director an applica-
13 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
14 information as the Director may require.

15 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a
16 grant under this section shall be used exclusively for costs
17 directly associated with conducting and retaining for 5
18 years the recording of all child welfare interviews by a
19 child protective services agency of a State, including initial
20 interviews conducted during a family assessment.

21 (e) FUNDING.—The Director shall carry out this sec-
22 tion using amounts otherwise available to the Director.

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