

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990,  
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 “Victims of Child Abuse  
5       Act Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

6       **SEC. 2. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF**  
7       **CHILD ABUSE CASES.**

8       The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C.  
9       20301 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 211 (34 U.S.C. 20301)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by striking “3,300,000” and in-  
4 sserting “3,400,000”; and

5 (ii) by striking “, and drug abuse is  
6 associated with a significant portion of  
7 these”;

8 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)  
9 through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), re-  
10 spectively;

11 (C) by inserting afer paragraph (2) the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “(3) a key to a child victim healing from abuse  
14 is access to supportive and healthy families and com-  
15 munities;”; and

16 (D) in paragraph (9)(B), as so redesign-  
17 ated, by inserting “, and operations of cen-  
18 ters” before the period at the end;

19 (2) in section 212 (34 U.S.C. 20302)—

20 (A) in paragraph (5), by inserting “coordi-  
21 nated team” before “response”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (8), by inserting “organi-  
23 zational capacity” before “support”;

24 (3) in section 213 (34 U.S.C. 20303)—

25 (A) in subsection (a)—

## 3

1 (i) in the heading, by inserting “AND  
2 MAINTENANCE” after “ESTABLISHMENT”;

3 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph  
4 (1)—

5 (I) by striking “, in coordination  
6 with the Director of the Office of Vic-  
7 tims of Crime,”; and

8 (II) by inserting “and maintain”  
9 after “establish”;

10 (iii) in paragraph (3)—

11 (I) by striking “and victim advo-  
12 cates” and inserting “victim advo-  
13 cates, multidisciplinary team leader-  
14 ship, and children’s advocacy center  
15 staff”; and

16 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

17 (iv) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
18 paragraph (5);

19 (v) by inserting after paragraph (3)  
20 the following:

21 “(4) provide technical assistance, training, co-  
22 ordination, and organizational capacity support for  
23 State chapters; and”; and

24 (vi) in paragraph (5), as so redesign-  
25 nated, by striking “and oversight to” and

## 4

1 inserting “organizational capacity support,  
2 and oversight of”;

3 (B) in subsection (b)—

4 (i) in paragraph (1)—

5 (I) in subparagraph (A), by in-  
6 serting “and maintain” after “estab-  
7 lish”; and

8 (II) in the matter following sub-  
9 paragraph (B), by striking “and tech-  
10 nical assistance to aid communities in  
11 establishing” and inserting “training  
12 and technical assistance to aid com-  
13 munities in establishing and maintain-  
14 ing”; and

15 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

16 (I) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (aa) in clause (ii), by insert-  
18 ing “Center” after “Advocacy”;  
19 and

20 (bb) in clause (iii), by strik-  
21 ing “of, assessment of, and inter-  
22 vention in” and inserting “and  
23 intervention in child”; and

24 (II) in subparagraph (B), by  
25 striking “centers and interested com-

1                   munities” and inserting “centers, in-  
2                   terested communities, and chapters”;  
3                   and

4                   (C) in subsection (c)—

5                   (i) in paragraph (2)—

6                   (I) in subparagraph (B), by  
7                   striking “evaluation, intervention, evi-  
8                   dence gathering, and counseling” and  
9                   inserting “investigation and interven-  
10                  tion in child abuse”; and

11                  (II) in subparagraph (E), by  
12                  striking “judicial handling of child  
13                  abuse and neglect” and inserting  
14                  “multidisciplinary response to child  
15                  abuse”;

16                  (ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking  
17                  “so that communities can establish multi-  
18                  disciplinary programs that respond to child  
19                  abuse” and inserting “and chapters so that  
20                  communities can establish and maintain  
21                  multidisciplinary programs that respond to  
22                  child abuse and chapters can establish and  
23                  maintain children’s advocacy centers in  
24                  their State”;

25                  (iii) in paragraph (4)(B)—

1 (I) in clause (iii), by striking  
2 “and” at the end;

3 (II) in by redesignating clause  
4 (iv) as clause (v); and

5 (III) by inserting after clause  
6 (iii) the following:

7 “(iv) best result in supporting chap-  
8 ters in each State; and”; and

9 (iv) in paragraph (6), by inserting  
10 “under this Act” after “recipients”;

11 (4) in section 214 (34 U.S.C. 20304)—

12 (A) by striking subsection (a) and insert-  
13 ing the following:

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall make  
15 grants to—

16 “(1) establish and maintain a network of care  
17 for child abuse victims where investigation, prosecu-  
18 tions, and interventions are continually occurring  
19 and coordinating activities within local children’s ad-  
20 vocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

21 “(2) develop, enhance, and coordinate multi-  
22 disciplinary child abuse investigations, intervention,  
23 and prosecution activities;

24 “(3) promote the effective delivery of the evi-  
25 dence-based, trauma-informed Children’s Advocacy

1 Center Model and the multidisciplinary response to  
2 child abuse; and

3 “(4) develop and disseminate practice standards  
4 for care and best practices in programmatic evalua-  
5 tion, and support State chapter organizational ca-  
6 pacity and local children’s advocacy center organiza-  
7 tional capacity and operations in order to meet such  
8 practice standards and best practices.”;

9 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “, in co-  
10 ordination with the Director of the Office of  
11 Victims of Crime,”;

12 (C) in subsection (c)(2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
14 “to the greatest extent practicable, but in  
15 no case later than 72 hours,” after  
16 “hours”; and

17 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (D)  
18 through (I) and inserting the following:

19 “(D) Forensic interviews of child victims  
20 by trained personnel that are used by law en-  
21 forcement, health, and child protective service  
22 agencies to interview suspected abuse victims  
23 about allegations of abuse.

1           “(E) Provision of needed follow up services  
2           such as medical care, mental healthcare, and  
3           victims advocacy services.

4           “(F) A requirement that, to the extent  
5           practicable, all interviews and meetings with a  
6           child victim occur at the children’s advocacy  
7           center or an agency with which there is a link-  
8           age agreement regarding the delivery of multi-  
9           disciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecu-  
10          tion, and intervention services.

11          “(G) Coordination of each step of the in-  
12          vestigation process to eliminate duplicative fo-  
13          rensic interviews with a child victim.

14          “(H) Designation of a director for the chil-  
15          dren’s advocacy center.

16          “(I) Designation of a multidisciplinary  
17          team coordinator.

18          “(J) Assignment of a volunteer or staff ad-  
19          vocate to each child in order to assist the child  
20          and, when appropriate, the child’s family,  
21          throughout each step of intervention and judi-  
22          cial proceedings.

23          “(K) Coordination with State chapters to  
24          assist and provide oversight, and organizational  
25          capacity that supports local children’s advocacy

1 centers, multidisciplinary teams, and commu-  
2 nities working to implement a multidisciplinary  
3 response to child abuse in the provision of evi-  
4 dence-informed initiatives, including mental  
5 health counseling, forensic interviewing, multi-  
6 disciplinary team coordination, and victim advo-  
7 cacy.

8 “(L) Such other criteria as the Adminis-  
9 trator shall establish by regulation.”; and

10 (D) by striking subsection (f) and inserting  
11 the following:

12 “(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE  
13 TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In award-  
14 ing grants under this section, the Administrator shall en-  
15 sure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State  
16 chapters to enable State chapters to provide oversight,  
17 training, and technical assistance to local centers on evi-  
18 dence-informed initiatives including mental health, coun-  
19 seling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team co-  
20 ordination, and victim advocacy.”;

21 (5) in section 214A (34 U.S.C. 20305)—

22 (A) in subsection (a)—

23 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “at-  
24 torneys and other allied” and inserting

1 “prosecutors and other attorneys and al-  
2 lied”; and

3 (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting  
4 “Center” after “Advocacy”; and

5 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking sub-  
6 paragraph (A) and inserting the following:

7 “(A) a significant connection to prosecu-  
8 tors who handle child abuse cases in State  
9 courts, such as a membership organization or  
10 support service providers; and”; and

11 (6) by striking 214B (34 U.S.C. 20306) and in-  
12 serting the following:

13 **“SEC. 214B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
15 sections 213, 214, and 214A, \$40,000,000 for each of fis-  
16 cal years 2022 through 2028.”.