

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 566

To amend section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant to a nonprofit entity for a national child abuse hotline.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mrs. MCBATH (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant to a nonprofit entity for a national child abuse hotline.

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. NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.**

4 Section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 “(8) NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
2 award a grant under this subsection to a non-
3 profit entity to provide for the ongoing oper-
4 ation of a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone
5 hotline to provide information and assistance to
6 youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents,
7 caregivers, mandated reporters, and other con-
8 cerned community members, including through
9 alternative modalities for communications (such
10 as texting or chat services) with such victims
11 and other information seekers.

12 “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants de-
13 scribed in this paragraph, the Secretary shall
14 give priority to applicants with experience in
15 operating a hotline that provides assistance to
16 victims of child abuse, parents, caregivers, and
17 mandated reporters.

18 “(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-
19 ceive a grant described in this paragraph, a
20 nonprofit entity shall submit an application to
21 the Secretary that shall—

22 “(i) contain such assurances and in-
23 formation, be in such form, and be sub-
24 mitted in such manner, as the Secretary
25 shall prescribe;

1 “(ii) include a complete description of
2 the entity’s plan for the operation of a na-
3 tional child abuse hotline, including de-
4 scriptions of—

5 “(I) the professional development
6 program for hotline personnel, includ-
7 ing technology professional develop-
8 ment to ensure that all persons affili-
9 ated with the hotline are able to effec-
10 tively operate any technological sys-
11 tems used by the hotline;

12 “(II) the qualifications for hot-
13 line personnel;

14 “(III) the methods for the cre-
15 ation, maintenance, and updating of a
16 comprehensive list of prevention and
17 treatment service providers;

18 “(IV) a plan for publicizing the
19 availability of the hotline throughout
20 the United States;

21 “(V) a plan for providing service
22 to non-English speaking callers, in-
23 cluding service through hotline per-
24 sonnel who have non-English language
25 capability;

1 “(VI) a plan for facilitating ac-
2 cess to the hotline and alternative mo-
3 dality services by persons with hearing
4 impairments and disabilities;

5 “(VII) a plan for providing crisis
6 counseling, general assistance, and re-
7 ferrals to youth victims of child abuse;
8 and

9 “(VIII) a plan to offer alternative
10 services to calling, such as texting or
11 live chat;

12 “(iii) demonstrate that the entity has
13 the capacity and the expertise to maintain
14 a child abuse hotline and a comprehensive
15 list of service providers;

16 “(iv) demonstrate the ability to pro-
17 vide information and referrals for contacts,
18 directly connect contacts to service pro-
19 viders, and employ crisis interventions;

20 “(v) demonstrate that the entity has a
21 commitment to providing services to indi-
22 viduals in need; and

1 “(vi) demonstrate that the entity com-
2 plies with State privacy laws and has es-
3 tablished quality assurance practices.”.

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