

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 886

To establish a National Child Abuse Hotline.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 22, 2021

Ms. Collins (for herself and Ms. Sinema) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish 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. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "National Child Abuse
- 5 Help Hotline Act of 2021".
- 6 SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.
- 7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
- 8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the "Sec-
- 9 retary") may award a grant to a nonprofit entity to pro-
- 10 vide for the establishment and ongoing operation of a Na-
- 11 tional Child Abuse Hotline, which shall provide a 24-hour,

1	national, toll-free telephone hotline to improve capacity for
2	the provision of crisis intervention, assistance, and infor-
3	mation services with respect to child abuse or neglect, to
4	victims of child abuse or neglect, and to parents, care-
5	givers, mandated reporters, and other concerned commu-
6	nity members, including through implementation of other
7	communication technologies to improve access for such
8	victims and other individuals.
9	(b) Eligibility.—To be eligible to receive the grant
10	under subsection (a), an entity shall have experience in
11	operating a hotline that provides information and assist-
12	ance to victims of child abuse or neglect, and to parents,
13	caregivers, and mandated reporters.
14	(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
15	under subsection (a), a nonprofit entity shall submit an
16	application to the Secretary, at such time and in such
17	manner as the Secretary may require, and containing—
18	(1) a complete description of the entity's plan
19	for the operation of a national child abuse hotline,
20	including descriptions of—
21	(A) the qualifications for hotline personnel;
22	(B) the professional development program
23	for hotline personnel, including technology pro-
24	fessional development to ensure that all individ-
25	uals affiliated with the hotline are able to oper-

1	ate the technological systems used by the hot-
2	line;
3	(C) the methods for the creation, mainte-
4	nance, and updating of a comprehensive data-
5	base of prevention and treatment services re-
6	sources;
7	(D) a plan for publicizing the availability
8	of the hotline throughout the United States;
9	(E) a plan for providing service to non-
10	English speaking callers, including service
11	through hotline personnel who have non-English
12	language capability;
13	(F) a plan for facilitating access to the
14	hotline and alternative modality services by in-
15	dividuals with hearing impairments and disabil-
16	ities;
17	(G) a plan for providing crisis counseling,
18	general assistance, and referrals to youth vic-
19	tims of child abuse; and
20	(H) a plan for utilizing available commu-
21	nications technologies other than the telephone
22	hotline, as appropriate, such as texting or live
23	chat;
24	(2) information to demonstrate that the enti-
25	ty—

1	(A) has the capacity and the expertise to
2	maintain a child abuse and neglect hotline;
3	(B) has the ability to provide information
4	and referrals for contacts, directly connect con-
5	tacts to such service providers, and employ cri-
6	sis interventions; and
7	(C) complies with Federal and State pri-
8	vacy laws and has established quality assurance
9	practices; and
10	(3) such other information, assurances, and
11	agreements as the Secretary may require.
12	(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—For pur-
13	poses of carrying out this section, there are authorized to
14	be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
15	through 2026.

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