

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4508

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide compensation for direct victims of civil rights era violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2021

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide compensation for direct victims of civil rights era violence, 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 “Sarah Collins Rudolph
5 Civil Rights Compensation Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPENSATION FOR DIRECT VICTIMS OF CIVIL**
2 **RIGHTS ERA VIOLENCE.**

3 Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
4 Streets Act of 1968 is amended by adding at the end the
5 following new part:

6 **“PART PP—DIRECT VICTIMS OF CIVIL RIGHTS**
7 **ERA VIOLENCE**

8 **“SEC. 3056. COMPENSATION FOR DIRECT VICTIMS OF CIVIL**
9 **RIGHTS ERA VIOLENCE.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which Director
11 of the Bureau of Justice Assistance determines under reg-
12 ulations issued pursuant to this section, that an individual
13 is a direct victim of civil rights era violence, the Director
14 shall pay a benefit pursuant to subsection (c) to such indi-
15 vidual.

16 “(b) DIRECT VICTIM OF CIVIL RIGHTS ERA VIO-
17 LENCE DESCRIBED.—An individual is a direct victim of
18 civil rights era violence and may receive a payment under
19 subsection (a) if—

20 “(1) the individual is an citizen of the United
21 States;

22 “(2) the individual sustained an injury as a re-
23 sult of racial violence during the civil rights era;

24 “(3) the individual can provide evidence of the
25 injury sustained through medical records; and

1 “(4) the individual is incurring expenses (as of
2 the date of the enactment of the ‘Sarah Collins Ru-
3 dolph Civil Rights Compensation Act of 2021’) re-
4 lated to the injury.

5 “(c) BENEFIT AMOUNT.—A direct victim described
6 under subsection (b) shall be eligible for a benefit under
7 subsection (a) in the amount that is equal to the cost of
8 the individual’s medical care associated with the injury
9 sustained during the civil rights era, as demonstrated by
10 the medical records of such direct victim.

11 “(d) SURVIVORS OF A DIRECT VICTIM.— A family
12 member of a direct victim described in subsection (b) shall
13 be eligible for a benefit under subsection (a) if such family
14 member is responsible for the costs related to the injury
15 sustained during the civil rights era and the direct victim
16 is deceased.

17 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) CIVIL RIGHTS ERA.—The term ‘civil rights
19 era’ means the time period of 1954 through 1965.

20 “(2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ‘family
21 member’ means—

22 “(A) a person to whom the direct victim of
23 civil rights era violence is legally married, even
24 if physically separated, under the laws of the
25 jurisdiction where the marriage took place; and

1 “(B) a child that is natural, illegitimate,
2 adopted, posthumous, or a stepchild of the di-
3 rect victim of civil rights era violence.

4 “(3) INJURY.—The term ‘injury’ means—

5 “(A) a traumatic physical wound (or a
6 traumatized physical condition of the body) di-
7 rectly and proximately caused by external force
8 (such as bullets, explosives, sharp instruments,
9 blunt objects, or physical blows), chemicals,
10 electricity, climatic conditions, infectious dis-
11 ease, radiation, virii, or bacteria; and

12 “(B) any associated or resulting traumatic
13 physical wound that occurred as a result of a
14 traumatic physical wound described in subpara-
15 graph (A), even if such resulting traumatic
16 physical wound did not occur during the civil
17 rights era.

18 “(4) MEDICAL RECORDS.—The term ‘medical
19 records’ includes medical records and bills that docu-
20 ment an injury during the civil rights era.”.

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