

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5560

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to incentivize States to eliminate civil and criminal statutes of limitations and revive time-barred civil claims for child abuse cases, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to incentivize States to eliminate civil and criminal statutes of limitations and revive time-barred civil claims for child abuse cases, 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 “Statutes of Limitation  
5       for Child Sexual Abuse Reform Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Child sexual abuse is a pernicious crime  
2           perpetrated through threats of violence, intimidation,  
3           manipulation, and abuse of power.

4           (2) Child sexual abuse is a public health epi-  
5           demic that affects an estimated 1 in 4 girls and 1  
6           in 20 boys in the United States.

7           (3) The prevalence of child sex trafficking is  
8           difficult to estimate, but the National Center for  
9           Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reports  
10          receiving more than 19,000 reports of child sex traf-  
11          ficking in 2022.

12          (4) Historically, nearly 90 percent of child vic-  
13          tims never go to the authorities and the vast major-  
14          ity of claims have expired before the victims were ca-  
15          pable of getting to court.

16          (5) Due to the subversive nature of this crime,  
17          the average age of disclosure of child sexual abuse  
18          does not occur until a victim is over 52 years old.

19          (6) Because many State statutes of limitations  
20          applicable to laws involving child sexual abuse fail to  
21          give victims adequate time to come forward and re-  
22          port their abuse, numerous victims are unable to  
23          seek fair and just remediation against their abusers.

24          (7) Due to the especially heinous nature of  
25          child sexual abuse, it is imperative that perpetrators

1 of this crime are punished, prevented from re-  
2 offending, and victims have the opportunity to see  
3 their abusers brought to justice.

4 **SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF STATE STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS**  
5 **FOR CHILD ABUSE CASES.**

6 (a) CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT  
7 ACT.—Section 107(e)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention  
8 and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106c(e)(1)) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at  
10 the end;

11 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period  
12 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(D) elimination of State civil and criminal  
15 statutes of limitations laws for child sexual  
16 abuse, exploitation, and sex trafficking, and  
17 adoption of laws reviving previously time-barred  
18 civil claims for child sexual abuse, exploitation,  
19 and sex trafficking.”.

20 (b) SPECIAL RULE.—Section 111(b) of the Child  
21 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.  
22 5106g(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(3) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOI-  
24 TATION.—For purposes of section 107(e)(1)(D), the  
25 term ‘child sexual abuse and exploitation’ shall in-

1       clude an act or a failure to act on the part of a par-  
2       ent, caretaker, or any other person.”.

3   **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR ELIMINATING CERTAIN STATUTES OF**  
4       **LIMITATION.**

5       (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of Health and  
6   Human Services may make grants to States that are eligi-  
7   ble to receive an award under section 107 of the Child  
8   Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106c)  
9   to achieve one or more of the following reforms:

10           (1) The elimination of all State civil statutes of  
11       limitations for claims of, related to, or arising from,  
12       child sexual abuse, exploitation, and sex trafficking,  
13       against perpetrators, other individuals, and public  
14       and private entities.

15           (2) The elimination of all State criminal stat-  
16       utes of limitations for all felony and misdemeanor  
17       sex crimes against children, including sexual abuse,  
18       exploitation, and trafficking, and for inchoate of-  
19       fenses related to such sex crimes, including attempt,  
20       conspiracy, solicitation, and aiding and abetting.

21           (3) The revival of previously time-barred civil  
22       claims for child sexual abuse, exploitation, and sex  
23       trafficking against perpetrators, other individuals,  
24       and public and private entities, which, at a min-  
25       imum, permits previously time-barred claims a 2-

1 year period or until a victim reaches age 55, which-  
2 ever is longer.

3 (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the funds made available to  
4 carry out this section—

5 (1) 25 percent shall be for States that achieve  
6 one of the reforms described in paragraphs (1)  
7 through (3) of subsection (a);

8 (2) 35 percent shall be for States that achieve  
9 two of such reforms; and

10 (3) 40 percent shall be for States that achieve  
11 three of such reforms.

12 An award under this section shall be in addition to any  
13 funds for which the State is otherwise eligible to receive  
14 under section 107 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
15 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106c).

16 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
18 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2033.

19 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**

20 Section 1404A of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984  
21 (34 U.S.C. 20103), by striking “section 109” and insert  
22 “section 107”.

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