

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6389

To amend Public Law 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) to repeal or amend certain provisions that undermine protections and heighten dangers for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SIMON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CORREA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MENG, Ms. CHU, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. ROSS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MORRISON, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. CROCKETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend Public Law 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) to repeal or amend certain provisions that undermine protections and heighten dangers for unaccompanied children, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Upholding Protections
3 for Unaccompanied Children Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Unaccompanied children are among the
7 world’s most vulnerable individuals. Without protec-
8 tion in their countries of origin, they have fled to the
9 United States often on their own to escape extreme
10 violence, sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other
11 dangers.

12 (2) In recognition of this vulnerability, Con-
13 gress has traditionally ensured protections for unac-
14 companied children on a broad bipartisan basis.

15 (3) Congress reaffirmed this bipartisan commit-
16 ment through passage of the William Wilberforce
17 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
18 of 2008 (“TVPRA”) which passed, among other
19 purposes, to ensure that unaccompanied children are
20 screened properly to identify signs of trafficking or
21 other protection concerns, placed in the least restric-
22 tive setting that is in the best interest of the child,
23 and accorded a full and fair legal process, distin-
24 guished by child-sensitive procedures, for pursuing
25 humanitarian relief.

1 (4) The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Public
2 Law 119–21) erects barriers to TVPRA protections
3 and other longstanding safeguards for unaccom-
4 panied children, weakening due process and height-
5 ening these children’s vulnerability to human traf-
6 ficking, exploitation, and abuse.

7 (5) This legislation imposes an unprecedented
8 fee structure that limits or outright blocks unaccom-
9 panied children’s ability to pursue humanitarian pro-
10 tection in the United States, requiring onerous fees
11 from unaccompanied children to seek asylum and
12 other legal relief runs contrary to the TVPRA’s
13 mandate to govern these children’s applications in
14 ways that take into account their specialized needs.
15 It also creates opportunities for traffickers and
16 abusers skilled in leveraging debt to coerce children
17 into sex and labor trafficking and other forms of ex-
18 ploitation.

19 (6) The Trump administration has sought to
20 rely upon One Big Beautiful Bill Act provisions that
21 provide funding for the removal of unaccompanied
22 children to summarily return children throughout
23 the Nation to their countries of origin without due
24 process. These returns run counter to TVPRA re-
25 quirements that the Secretary of the Department of

1 Homeland Security place unaccompanied children
2 from countries other than Mexico and Canada in Of-
3 fice of Refugee Resettlement custody, where they re-
4 ceive screenings for trafficking and other protection
5 concerns by legal services providers, and that these
6 children are afforded an appropriate legal process
7 before an immigration judge. Summarily returned
8 children face grave risks of trafficking and other
9 harms.

10 (7) The American Academy of Pediatrics and
11 other leading medical groups have warned that there
12 is no evidence that any amount of time in detention
13 is safe for children and that detention itself poses a
14 threat to child health.

15 (8) The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides
16 funding for carrying out potentially physically intru-
17 sive examinations of unaccompanied children in the
18 Department of Homeland Security and Office of
19 Refugee Resettlement custody without any guard-
20 rails to protect against inappropriate application and
21 misconduct and despite risks of retraumatizing chil-
22 dren who may be fleeing abuse or exploitation.

23 (9) The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides
24 funding to the Office of Refugee Resettlement that
25 will further fuel the Trump administration's system-

1 atic targeting of unaccompanied children’s family
2 members for immigration enforcement. After the Ad-
3 ministration eliminated safeguards that restricted
4 the Office of Refugee Resettlement from sharing in-
5 formation on unaccompanied children’s sponsors
6 with the Department of Homeland Security for pur-
7 poses of immigration enforcement, Immigration and
8 Customs Enforcement has taken enforcement ac-
9 tions against numerous sponsors who lack immigra-
10 tion status. These actions have split families apart,
11 caused children profound trauma, and deterred lov-
12 ing parents and other family members from coming
13 forward to sponsor children in Office of Refugee Re-
14 settlement custody, depriving children of safe spon-
15 sorship options and dramatically increasing those
16 children’s periods of government detention.

17 **SEC. 3. FEES.**

18 (a) ASYLUM FEE.—Section 100002 of Public Law
19 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill
20 Act”) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(f) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
22 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
23 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
24 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
25 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

1 (b) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT
2 FEE.—Section 100003 of Public Law 119–21 (commonly
3 known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 “(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
6 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
7 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
8 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
9 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

10 (c) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE FEE.—

11 (1) REPEAL.—Section 100005 of Public Law
12 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beau-
13 tiful Bill Act”) is repealed.

14 (2) CLARIFICATION.—The Secretary of Home-
15 land Security may not impose a fee in connection
16 with any alien, parent, or legal guardian of an alien
17 applying for special immigrant juvenile status under
18 section 101(a)(27)(J) (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)).

19 (d) ANNUAL ASYLUM FEE.—Section 100009 of Pub-
20 lic Law 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beau-
21 tiful Bill Act”) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(e) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
24 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
25 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section

1 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
2 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

3 (e) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL
4 FEES.—

5 (1) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR PAROL-
6 EES.—Section 100010 of Public Law 119–21 (com-
7 monly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
10 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
11 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
12 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
13 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

14 (2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR ASY-
15 LUM APPLICANTS.—Section 100011 of Public Law
16 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beau-
17 tiful Bill Act”) is amended by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(e) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
20 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
21 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
22 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
23 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

24 (3) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR ALIENS
25 GRANTED TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.—Sec-

1 tion 100012 of Public Law 119–21 (commonly
2 known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(e) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
5 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
6 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
7 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
8 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

9 (f) IMMIGRATION COURT FEES.—Section 100013 of
10 Public Law 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big
11 Beautiful Bill Act”) is amended by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(l) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
14 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
15 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
16 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
17 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

18 (g) IN ABSENTIA REMOVAL FEE.—Section
19 100016(c) of Public Law 119–21 (commonly known as the
20 “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) is amended by inserting
21 before the period at the end the following: “, or in the
22 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
23 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
24 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
25 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))”.

1 (h) BORDER APPREHENSION FEE .—Section 100017
 2 of Public Law 119–21 (commonly known as the “One Big
 3 Beautiful Bill Act”) is amended by inserting at the end
 4 the following:

5 “(e) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply in the
 6 case of any individual who is, or was previously determined
 7 to be, an unaccompanied alien child, as defined in section
 8 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
 9 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).”.

10 **SEC. 4. UPHOLDING PROTECTION SCREENINGS AND A FAIR**
 11 **LEGAL PROCESS.**

12 Section 100051(8) of Public Law 119–21 (commonly
 13 known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) is repealed.

14 **SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS BODY EXAMINATIONS.**

15 (a) BODY EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE DE-
 16 PARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Section
 17 100051(11) of Public Law 119–21 is repealed.

18 (b) BODY EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE OF-
 19 FICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.—Section
 20 87001(b)(3) of Public Law 119–21 is repealed.

21 **SEC. 6. SPONSOR INFORMATION SHARING.**

22 Section 87001 of Public Law 119–21 (commonly
 23 known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”), as amended
 24 by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the
 25 following:

1 “(f) LIMITATION ON INFORMATION SHARING.—The
2 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that
3 information obtained under this section is not shared with
4 Department of Homeland Security or any other Federal
5 agency for the purpose of enforcing the immigration laws
6 (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration
7 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)).”.

8 **SEC. 7. REFUND OF FEES.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the
11 Attorney General shall refund each fee paid under a provi-
12 sion of law repealed or amended by this Act to each indi-
13 vidual who paid such fee.

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