

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7538

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to establish strong requirements to ensure safe placements for unaccompanied alien children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. GOODEN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. LUNA, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to establish strong requirements to ensure safe placements for unaccompanied alien children.

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 “Migrant Child Safety
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THE SAFETY OF UNACCOMPANIED**
2 **ALIEN CHILDREN.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235(c)(3) of the William
4 Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthoriza-
5 tion Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)) is amended by in-
6 serting at the end the following:

7 “(D) INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS
8 WITH WHOM CHILDREN ARE PLACED.—

9 “(i) INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED
10 BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
11 HUMAN SERVICES AND PROVIDED TO THE
12 SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—

13 Before placing the child with a sponsor,
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
15 ices shall provide to the Secretary of
16 Homeland Security, regarding the sponsor
17 with whom the child will be placed, all in-
18 formation related to the individual that the
19 Secretary of Health and Human Services
20 possesses, including the following informa-
21 tion:

22 “(I) The name of the individual.

23 “(II) The maiden name of the in-
24 dividual, if applicable.

25 “(III) Any former name or alias
26 of the individual, if applicable.

1 “(IV) The social security number
2 of the individual.

3 “(V) The date of birth of the in-
4 dividual.

5 “(VI) The birthplace of the indi-
6 vidual.

7 “(VII) The location of the indi-
8 vidual’s residence where the child will
9 be placed, including proof of address.

10 “(VIII) The results of back-
11 ground checks of the individual and
12 each additional adult household mem-
13 ber of the residence where the child
14 will be placed.

15 “(IX) The immigration status of
16 the individual.

17 “(X) Contact information for the
18 individual, including a phone number.

19 “(XI) Whether the individual is a
20 relative or legal guardian of the child,
21 and if so—

22 “(aa) documents to prove
23 that the individual is a relative or
24 legal guardian of the child; or

1 “(bb) the results of a DNA
2 test administered by the Sec-
3 retary of Health and Human
4 Services proving that the indi-
5 vidual is a relative of the child.

6 “(XII) Any other information the
7 Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
8 ices determines appropriate.

9 “(ii) ADDITIONAL PRE-PLACEMENT
10 SAFEGUARDS.—Before placing the child
11 with an individual, the Secretary of Health
12 and Human Services, in coordination with
13 the Secretary of Homeland Security,
14 shall—

15 “(I) conduct at least one in-per-
16 son home visit at the location where
17 the child will reside to confirm the
18 safety, suitability, and stability of the
19 placement environment;

20 “(II) require the sponsor, if the
21 sponsor is not a citizen of the United
22 States, to consent to placement on an
23 appropriate electronic monitoring sys-
24 tem, which may include global-posi-
25 tioning-system monitoring, for the du-

1 ration of the child’s immigration pro-
2 ceedings or until otherwise determined
3 by the Secretary; and

4 “(III) require the individual to
5 execute a bond, in an amount deter-
6 mined by the Secretary of Homeland
7 Security, but not less than \$5,000,
8 conditioned upon ensuring the child’s
9 appearance at all required immigra-
10 tion proceedings and compliance with
11 any related reporting requirements.

12 “(iii) ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY
13 OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Upon receiving
14 the information described in clause (i), the
15 Secretary of Homeland Security shall,
16 without unnecessary delay, determine the
17 immigration status of the individual with
18 whom a child is to be placed and notify the
19 Secretary of Health and Human Services.
20 If the individual is determined to be unlaw-
21 fully present in the United States and not
22 currently in removal proceedings under the
23 immigration laws, the Secretary of Home-
24 land Security shall consider the initiation
25 of such proceedings consistent with appli-

1 cable law and the Secretary's enforcement
2 discretion.

3 “(iv) NO WAIVER.—The Secretary of
4 Health and Human Services may not waive
5 the requirements under clause (i).

6 “(v) REPORTS TO NCMEC.—The Sec-
7 retary of Health and Human Services shall
8 report as missing to the National Center
9 for Missing and Exploited Children the
10 name (and any other information in the
11 possession of the Secretary) of any unac-
12 companied alien child, with respect to
13 whom, not later than 120 days after plac-
14 ing the child with the sponsor—

15 “(I) the Secretary could not con-
16 tact the sponsor for the purpose of a
17 follow-up or well-being check; or

18 “(II) the sponsor did not contact
19 the Secretary for the purpose of a fol-
20 low-up or well-being check.

21 “(vi) INFORMATION PROVIDED TO
22 STATE OR LOCAL HEALTH OR WELFARE
23 AGENCY.—Not later than 30 days after
24 placing a child in a residence, the Sec-
25 retary of Health and Human Services shall

1 provide to the appropriate State or local
2 health or welfare agency the information
3 provided to the Secretary of Homeland Se-
4 curity under clause (i) and any other infor-
5 mation in the possession of the Secretary
6 related to the child.

7 “(vii) PARENTAL CONTACT.—To the
8 extent practicable, the Secretary of Health
9 and Human Services shall attempt to con-
10 tact the parents of each unaccompanied
11 alien child, using any information in the
12 possession of the Secretary.”

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall apply to any unaccompanied alien child
15 (as such term is defined in section 462(g) of the Home-
16 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) apprehended
17 on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the
18 enactment of this Act.

○