

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8156

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program to support the establishment of a national, toll-free telephone helpline to provide information and assistance to parents, caregivers, and youth to prevent child abuse and strengthen families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program to support the establishment of a national, toll-free telephone helpline to provide information and assistance to parents, caregivers, and youth to prevent child abuse and strengthen families.

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 Parent and
5 Youth Helpline Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) There are approximately 174,000,000 par-
2 ents, caregivers, and youth in the United States.

3 (2) Many parents, caregivers, and youth often
4 do not have an immediate connection to someone
5 who can offer trusted guidance when facing personal
6 challenges.

7 (3) Parents, caregivers, and youth could benefit
8 from an effective helpline that fosters the strengths
9 parents have, which would improve family relation-
10 ships, as well as community life and society overall
11 to foster the future for American children and fami-
12 lies.

13 (4) Congress recognizes that helpline prevention
14 services will support parents and caregivers in posi-
15 tively addressing child development concerns and re-
16 >sponding to child maltreatment, substance misuse,
17 and other personal and family challenges.

18 (5) Congress recognizes that helpline prevention
19 services promote safety and stability by reducing
20 harmful influences and encouraging protective be-
21 haviors through weekly, trusted, and stable engage-
22 ment programs.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARENT AND**
2 **YOUTH HELPLINE.**

3 Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
5 section 103 the following:

6 **“SEC. 103A. GRANT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARENT**
7 **AND YOUTH HELPLINE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a
9 grant to one nonprofit entity to—

10 “(1) provide for the establishment and ongoing
11 operation of a national, toll-free telephone parent
12 and youth helpline, as described in subsection (d), to
13 provide personal guidance and trusted assistance to
14 parents, caregivers, and youth to prevent child abuse
15 and strengthen families through calls, texts, and live
16 chats;

17 “(2) create and maintain a website with vital
18 information and resources for parents, caregivers,
19 and youth to address a broad spectrum of family
20 issues related to emotional, social, behavioral, and
21 educational well-being; and

22 “(3) develop and implement comprehensive out-
23 reach strategies to reach parents, caregivers, and
24 youth nationwide.

25 “(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding the grant under this
26 section, the Secretary shall give priority to an entity—

1 “(1) with experience in operating a national
2 parent and youth helpline that provides guidance
3 and emotional support to parents, caregivers, and
4 youth; and

5 “(2) that operates weekly, evidence-based mu-
6 tual support groups.

7 “(c) DURATION.—The grant under this section may
8 be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

9 “(d) HELPLINE ACTIVITIES.—The entity that re-
10 ceives the grant under this section shall use the grant—

11 “(1) to establish and operate a 24-hour, na-
12 tional, toll-free telephone helpline to provide
13 (through calls, texts, and live chats)—

14 “(A) emotional support and assistance to
15 parents, caregivers, children, and youth of all
16 ages who are facing personal challenges, includ-
17 ing emotional distress, substance abuse, peer
18 relationships, and educational concerns related
19 to their well-being; and

20 “(B) weekly, trusted mutual support
21 groups held across the country to promote fam-
22 ily stability and encourage skills that help
23 strengthen households; and

24 “(2) to carry out activities in support of the
25 helpline, including—

1 “(A) implementing comprehensive outreach
2 strategies to reach parents, caregivers, and
3 youth nationwide;

4 “(B) distributing relevant information and
5 resources to parents, caregivers, and youth; and

6 “(C) maintaining a website to provide in-
7 formation about the helpline.

8 “(e) PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The entity that re-
9 ceives the grant under this section shall submit a perform-
10 ance report to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
11 and containing such information as the Secretary may rea-
12 sonably require. Such performance report shall include—

13 “(1) a description of the activities carried out
14 with the grant;

15 “(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of such
16 activities; and

17 “(3) such additional information as the Sec-
18 retary determines appropriate.

19 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than three
20 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
21 retary shall submit to Congress a report addressing the
22 implementation and effectiveness of the national parent
23 and youth helpline funded with the grant under this sec-
24 tion.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2032.”.

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