

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9758

To comprehensively combat child marriage in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2026

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 comprehensively combat child marriage in the United States.

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 “Child Marriage Pre-
5 vention Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Over 314,000 minors were married in the
9 United States between 2000 and 2021. Most were

1 wed to adult men and some were as young as 10
2 years of age, though most were 16 or 17 years of
3 age.

4 (2) Child marriage limits educational opportuni-
5 ties. Women who marry before they turn 19 years
6 of age are 50 percent more likely to drop out of high
7 school and 4 times less likely to graduate from col-
8 lege.

9 (3) Girls who marry in their early teens are up
10 to 31 percent more likely to live in future poverty.

11 (4) Child marriage has harmful consequences
12 for mental and physical health. Women who married
13 as children have higher rates of certain psychiatric
14 disorders. Another study found that women who
15 marry before 19 years of age have a 23 percent
16 greater risk of developing a serious health condition,
17 including diabetes, cancer, heart attack, or stroke.

18 (5) Child marriage can facilitate physical, emo-
19 tional, and verbal abuse. Girls and young women 16
20 to 24 years of age experience the highest rates of in-
21 timate partner violence, and girls 16 to 19 years of
22 age experience intimate partner violence victimiza-
23 tion rates that are almost triple the national aver-
24 age. Further, the majority of States allow marriage
25 to be used as a defense to statutory rape laws, which

1 can incentivize perpetrators to marry victims to pre-
2 empt prosecutions.

3 (6) Seventy to 80 percent of marriages entered
4 into when at least one person is under 18 years of
5 age ultimately end in divorce. According to one
6 study based on census data, 23 percent of children
7 who marry are already separated or divorced by the
8 time they turn 18 years of age.

9 (7) Depending on the State, a child facing a
10 forced marriage or a married minor trying to leave
11 may find themselves with few options. A minor try-
12 ing to avoid a forced marriage may not be able to
13 leave home without being taken into custody and re-
14 turned by police and may not be able to stay in a
15 domestic violence shelter at all or in a youth shelter
16 for longer than a few days. Friends or allies of a
17 child escaping a marriage who offer to take them in
18 could risk being charged with contributing to the de-
19 linquency of a minor or harboring a runaway. And,
20 if the minor attempts to obtain a home of their own,
21 they may find no one willing to rent to them, be-
22 cause in many circumstances, minors cannot be held
23 to contracts they enter.

24 (8) Depending on the State, a minor who is
25 being forced or coerced into marriage may not be en-

1 titled to file on their own for a protective order. Fur-
2 ther, not all States clearly treat married minors as
3 emancipated, meaning they still have the limited
4 legal status and rights of a child and face similar
5 vulnerabilities and challenges seeking help.

6 (9) Child marriage in the United States can
7 also be facilitated through the immigration system.
8 Subject to rare exceptions, United States law recog-
9 nizes marriages as valid if they were legal where
10 they took place. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
11 Services reported that between fiscal year 2007 and
12 fiscal year 2017, it approved 8,686 petitions for
13 spousal or fiancé visas that involved at least one
14 minor, though it remains unclear how many of these
15 visas were ultimately approved by the Department of
16 State. However, approximately 2.6 percent of fiancé
17 and spousal petitions were returned unapproved to
18 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services between
19 fiscal year 2007 and fiscal year 2017. It is therefore
20 reasonable to conclude that the United States issued
21 a visa to a significant number of the spouses and
22 fiancés named on the 8,686 petitions.

23 (10) Four States and 2 territories set no statu-
24 tory minimum age for marriage. In 10 States and
25 2 territories, clerks acting on their own—without

1 judges—can issue marriage licenses for all minors.
2 Four States and 1 territory permit pregnancy to
3 lower the minimum marriage age and in 1 State,
4 Mississippi, and 1 territory, Northern Mariana Is-
5 lands, the statute sets different conditions for ap-
6 provals for girls and boys.

7 (11) There is a growing movement to eliminate
8 child marriage in the United States and 17 States—
9 Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota,
10 Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont,
11 Connecticut, Michigan, Washington, Virginia, New
12 Hampshire, Maine, Oregon, Oklahoma, and Mis-
13 souri—as well as Washington, DC, American
14 Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands, have
15 set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years of
16 age, with no exceptions. Since 2016, a total of 37
17 States, 3 territories, and Washington, DC have en-
18 acted new laws to end or limit child marriage with
19 5 more States requiring parties to be legal adults
20 (meaning that the only exception to the requirement
21 to be 18 years of age to be married is for certain
22 court-emancipated minors). Until all States and ter-
23 ritories take action, however, the patchwork of State
24 laws will continue to put all children, particularly
25 girls, at risk, given the ease with which they can be

1 taken out of their home State or territory into an-
2 other State or territory with lax or no laws.

3 (12) The foreign policy of the United States is
4 already imbued with these understandings that child
5 marriage is harmful and should be prevented, in-
6 cluding the following:

7 (A) The Department of State in its For-
8 eign Affairs Manual states the Federal Govern-
9 ment view of “forced marriage to be a violation
10 of basic human rights. It also considers the
11 forced marriage of a minor child to be a form
12 of child abuse, since the child will presumably
13 be subjected to non-consensual sex.”.

14 (B) The United States Agency for Inter-
15 national Development has observed that Child,
16 Early, and Forced Marriage (In this paragraph
17 referred to as “CEFM”) “impedes girls’ edu-
18 cation and increases early pregnancy and the
19 risk of maternal mortality, obstetric complica-
20 tions, gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS.
21 Children of young mothers have higher rates of
22 infant mortality and malnutrition compared to
23 children of mothers older than 18. . . . CEFM
24 is also associated with reductions in economic
25 productivity for individuals and nations at

1 large. CEFM is a human rights abuse and a
2 practice that undermines efforts to promote
3 sustainable growth and development.”.

4 (C) Congress enacted the Violence Against
5 Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public
6 Law 113–4; 127 Stat. 54), which requires the
7 Secretary of State to establish and implement a
8 multiyear strategy—

- 9 (i) to “prevent child marriages”; and
10 (ii) to “promote the empowerment of
11 girls at risk of child marriage in developing
12 countries”.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) NONCITIZEN.—The term “noncitizen”
16 means any person who is not a citizen or national
17 of the United States.

18 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
19 the several States, the District of Columbia, and any
20 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
21 States.

22 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CHILD MAR-**
23 **RIAGE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
25 Department of Health and Human Services a commission,

1 to be known as the National Commission to Combat Child
2 Marriage in the United States (in this section referred to
3 as the “Commission”), which shall—

4 (1) conduct a comprehensive study on child
5 marriage in the United States, including—

6 (A) applicable laws, or the absence of laws,
7 which define or prohibit child marriage;

8 (B) the extent to which such marriages
9 currently occur; and

10 (C) the extent to which such marriages oc-
11 curred over the last 5 years in each State;

12 (2) build upon the evaluations of other entities
13 and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing the
14 findings, conclusions, and recommendations of other
15 commissions, the Federal Government, State and
16 local governments, State task forces, and nongovern-
17 mental entities relating to child marriage in the
18 United States;

19 (3) submit a report outlining the most effective
20 strategies to eliminate child marriage in the United
21 States informed by the study required under para-
22 graph (1) to—

23 (A) the Committee on the Judiciary and
24 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
25 and Pensions of the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on the Judiciary and
2 the Committee on Education and Workforce of
3 the House of Representatives; and

4 (C) the Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services; and

6 (4) carry out other duties as described in sub-
7 section (c).

8 (b) COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.—

9 (1) MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be com-
10 posed of 10 members, of whom—

11 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
12 President;

13 (B) 1 member, who is of a different polit-
14 ical party than that of the member appointed
15 under paragraph (1), shall be appointed by the
16 President;

17 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
18 Secretary of Health and Human Services;

19 (D) 1 member shall be appointed by the
20 majority leader of the Senate;

21 (E) 1 member shall be appointed by the
22 minority leader of the Senate;

23 (F) 1 member shall be appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

1 (G) 1 member shall be appointed by the
2 minority leader of the House of Representa-
3 tives.

4 (2) GOVERNMENTAL APPOINTEES.—An indi-
5 vidual appointed to the Commission may not be an
6 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

7 (3) COMMISSION REPRESENTATION.—The Com-
8 mission shall include at least—

9 (A) 1 survivor of child marriage;

10 (B) 1 representative from a private non-
11 profit entity with demonstrated expertise in
12 working with survivors of child marriage in the
13 United States;

14 (C) 1 representative from a private non-
15 profit entity with demonstrated expertise in
16 working with immigrant survivors of child mar-
17 riage in the United States; and

18 (D) 1 representative from a private non-
19 profit entity with demonstrated expertise in
20 working with State governments to limit child
21 marriage.

22 (4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed
23 under paragraph (1) shall have demonstrated experi-
24 ence or expertise in—

1 (A) providing services to survivors of child
2 marriage in the United States;

3 (B) providing services to immigrant sur-
4 vivors of child marriage in the United States;

5 (C) working with State governments to
6 limit child marriage;

7 (D) the medical challenges that survivors
8 of child marriage face;

9 (E) the mental health challenges that sur-
10 vivors of child marriage face;

11 (F) legal issues involving individuals who
12 were married or sought to marry before becom-
13 ing 18 years of age;

14 (G) conducting research on the impact of
15 child marriage on individuals who were married
16 before becoming 18 years of age;

17 (H) risk factors that play a role in child
18 marriage; or

19 (I) issues of forced or coerced marriage,
20 family violence, sexual assault, human traf-
21 ficking, or child abuse.

22 (5) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 120
23 days after the appointment of members of the Com-
24 mission, the Commission shall—

1 (A) hold an initial meeting, at which the
2 members shall elect a Chairperson and Vice
3 Chairperson, who shall be of different political
4 parties, from among such members and shall
5 determine a schedule of Commission meetings;
6 and

7 (B) begin the operations of the Commis-
8 sion.

9 (6) QUORUM AND VACANCY.—

10 (A) QUORUM.—A majority of the members
11 of the Commission shall constitute a quorum,
12 but a lesser number of members may hold hear-
13 ings.

14 (B) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Com-
15 mission shall not affect its powers and shall be
16 filled in the same manner in which the original
17 appointment was made.

18 (c) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission
19 shall—

20 (1) conduct pursuant to subsection (a) a com-
21 prehensive study that examines and assesses the
22 adequacy of laws addressing child marriage and the
23 extent of child marriage across the country, includ-
24 ing making specific findings relating to—

1 (A) barriers to and gaps in services for mi-
2 nors facing the threat of forced marriage or al-
3 ready married minors seeking protection from
4 abuse in all States and territories; and

5 (B) Federal laws, regulations, policies, and
6 programs relevant to child marriage and indi-
7 viduals who marry before becoming 18 years of
8 age; and

9 (2) submit to the President, the Secretary of
10 Health and Human Services, and Congress a report
11 on the specific findings, conclusions, and rec-
12 ommendations to eliminate all child marriage in the
13 United States and improve services and outcomes
14 for survivors of child marriage in the United States,
15 including specific recommendations on policies, regu-
16 lations, and legislative changes as the Commission
17 considers appropriate to eliminate all child marriage
18 in the United States.

19 (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

20 (1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold
21 such hearings, meet and act at such times and
22 places, and receive such evidence as may be nec-
23 essary to carry out the functions of the Commission.

24 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
2 access, to the extent authorized by law, from
3 any executive department, bureau, agency,
4 board, commission, office, independent estab-
5 lishment, or instrumentality of the Federal Gov-
6 ernment such information, suggestions, esti-
7 mates, and statistics as the Commission con-
8 siders necessary to carry out this section.

9 (B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On
10 written request of the Chairperson of the Com-
11 mission, each department, bureau, agency,
12 board, commission, office, independent estab-
13 lishment, or instrumentality shall, to the extent
14 authorized by law, provide the requested infor-
15 mation to the Commission.

16 (C) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND
17 DISSEMINATION.—Information shall only be re-
18 ceived, handled, stored, and disseminated by
19 members of the Commission and its staff con-
20 sistent with all applicable statutes, regulations,
21 and Executive orders.

22 (3) LISTENING SESSIONS.—The Commission
23 shall organize and facilitate listening sessions with
24 survivors of child marriage and advocates and ex-
25 perts working towards the elimination of child mar-

1 riage in the United States in order to discharge its
2 duties under this section.

3 (4) DONATIONS.—The Commission may accept,
4 use, and dispose of donations of services or property.

5 (5) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may
6 use the United States mails in the same manner and
7 under the same conditions as a department or agen-
8 cy of the United States.

9 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-
10 mission shall serve without compensation, but shall receive
11 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
12 in accordance with applicable provisions in the same man-
13 ner as persons employed intermittently in the Government
14 service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title
15 5, United States Code.

16 (f) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-
17 BILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall
18 apply to the Commission, including the staff of the Com-
19 mission.

20 (g) REPORTS OF COMMISSION AND TERMINATION.—

21 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—The Commission shall,
22 not later than 1 year after the date of the initial
23 meeting of the Commission, submit an interim re-
24 port containing preliminary findings, conclusions,
25 and recommendations required under this section as

1 have been agreed to by a majority of Commission
2 members to—

3 (A) the President;

4 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services;

6 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary and
7 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
8 and Pensions of the Senate; and

9 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary and
10 the Committee on Education and Workforce of
11 the House of Representatives.

12 (2) FINAL REPORT.—The Commission shall,
13 not later than 2 years after the date of the initial
14 meeting of the Commission, submit to the officers
15 and entities named in paragraph (1) a final report
16 containing final findings, conclusions, and rec-
17 ommendations required under this section as have
18 been agreed to by a majority of Commission mem-
19 bers.

20 (3) TERMINATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and
22 all the authorities of this section, shall termi-
23 nate 180 days after the date on which the final
24 report is submitted under paragraph (3).

1 (B) RECORDS.—Not later than the date of
2 termination of the Commission under subpara-
3 graph (A), all records and papers of the Com-
4 mission shall be delivered to the Archivist of the
5 United States for deposit in the National Ar-
6 chives.

7 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
9 \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028.

10 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORTS.**

11 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
12 priate committees of Congress” means the Committee on
13 the Judiciary and the Committee on Health, Education,
14 and Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee
15 on the Judiciary and the Committee on Education and
16 Workforce of the House of Representatives.

17 (b) CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
20 General of the United States shall submit to the ap-
21 propriate committees of Congress a report describ-
22 ing—

23 (A) Federal laws, regulations, policies, and
24 programs relevant to child marriage and indi-

1 viduals who marry before becoming 18 years of
2 age;

3 (B) applicable laws, or the absence of laws,
4 which define or prohibit child marriage;

5 (C) the extent to which such marriages oc-
6 curred during the 5-year period ending on the
7 date of enactment of this Act in each State;
8 and

9 (D) research and studies published during
10 the 10-year period ending on the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act assessing—

12 (i) the common or typical cir-
13 cumstances in which such marriages take
14 place, including information indicating the
15 prevalence of forced or coerced marriage
16 and risk factors that may have played a
17 role in such marriages taking place; and

18 (ii) the impact of such marriages on
19 the individuals who were married before
20 turning 18 years of age in the United
21 States, including the impact on the safety
22 and well-being of such individuals, includ-
23 ing—

24 (I) medical and mental health;

1 (II) economic and educational
2 outcomes;

3 (III) risk of or vulnerability to—

4 (aa) family violence;

5 (bb) abuse or exploitation;

6 (cc) sexual assault and re-
7 productive coercion;

8 (dd) child abuse or neglect;

9 or

10 (ee) human trafficking; and

11 (IV) barriers to and gaps in serv-
12 ices for minors facing the threat of
13 forced marriage or already married
14 minors seeking protection from abuse.

15 (2) ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMA-
16 TION.—The Comptroller General of the United
17 States may request that States provide the informa-
18 tion necessary to address the portion of the report
19 required under paragraph (1)(C) to the extent au-
20 thorized by law.

21 (c) CHILD MARRIAGE AND IMMIGRATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years
24 thereafter through 2035, the Comptroller General of
25 the United States shall submit to the appropriate

1 committees of Congress a report that assesses the
2 extent to which—

3 (A) noncitizens who were under 18 years
4 of age on the date of marriage are admitted to
5 the United States as beneficiaries of approved
6 petitions submitted by the United States citizen
7 or lawful permanent resident spouses of the
8 noncitizens; and

9 (B) the United States has admitted non-
10 immigrant spouses who, on the date on which
11 a nonimmigrant visa petition was submitted for
12 the noncitizens, were under 18 years of age.

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under
14 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) For each petition described in para-
16 graph (1)(A) approved during the 2-year period
17 preceding the report—

18 (i) the sex of the beneficiary and peti-
19 tioner;

20 (ii) the ages of the beneficiary and pe-
21 titioner on—

22 (I) the date of the marriage;

23 (II) the date on which the peti-
24 tion was submitted; and

1 (III) the date on which the peti-
2 tion was approved; and

3 (iii) in the case of a noncitizen who
4 was under 18 years of age on the date on
5 which such a petition was submitted, a de-
6 scription of the basis upon which the evi-
7 dentiary requirements were determined to
8 have been met under, as applicable—

9 (I) clause (ii) of section
10 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and
11 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
12 1101(a)(15)(K)), as amended by sec-
13 tion 10 of this Act;

14 (II) clause (iii)(II) of section
15 201(b)(2)(A) of that Act (8 U.S.C.
16 1151(b)(2)(A)), as amended by sec-
17 tion 10 of this Act; or

18 (III) subparagraph (A)(ii) of sec-
19 tion 203(a)(2) of that Act (8 U.S.C.
20 1153(a)(2)), as amended by section
21 10 of this Act.

22 (B) A summary of feedback from adjudica-
23 tors of such petitions with respect to whether
24 the evidentiary requirements under the provi-
25 sions described in subclauses (I) through (III)

1 of subparagraph (A)(ii) provide sufficient guid-
2 ance, and the manner in which such guidance
3 may be improved.

4 **SEC. 6. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATE TASK FORCES TO EX-**
5 **AMINE CHILD MARRIAGE.**

6 The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42
7 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 315. STATE TASK FORCES TO EXAMINE CHILD MAR-**
10 **RIAGE.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

12 “(1) PROGRAM.—From amounts made available
13 under subsection (c), the Secretary may award
14 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible States to
15 establish a State-based task force to examine child
16 marriage in the eligible State.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—In this section, the
18 term ‘eligible State’ means a State that permits an
19 individual younger than 18 years of age to marry.

20 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
21 grant under paragraph (1), an eligible State shall
22 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
23 in such manner, and containing such information as
24 the Secretary may require.

25 “(b) STATE TASK FORCE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State awarded a
2 grant under subsection (a)(1) shall establish a task
3 force to examine child marriage in the eligible State.

4 “(2) APPOINTEES.—A task force established
5 under paragraph (1) shall include individuals with—

6 “(A) advocacy expertise in combating fam-
7 ily violence, sexual assault, or child abuse or ne-
8 glect issues;

9 “(B) experience in social work or school
10 counseling, with preference for such individuals
11 with experience providing culturally specific
12 services;

13 “(C) experience in providing legal assist-
14 ance to survivors of family violence or sexual
15 assault with a preference for such individuals
16 with experience serving such survivors who are
17 younger than 18 years of age;

18 “(D) experience in providing legal assist-
19 ance to individuals with needs for child protec-
20 tion services, including foster youth, homeless
21 and runaway youth, and youth otherwise at-risk
22 for needing such services;

23 “(E) judicial experience with cases involv-
24 ing child protection and family violence issues;

1 “(F) legal experience with cases involving
2 emancipation, guardianship, or child-specific
3 protection orders, with special preference for
4 such individuals who have worked on cases in-
5 volving forced or coerced marriage; or

6 “(G) providing professional medical or
7 mental health services to youth who have expe-
8 rienced child, early, or forced marriage.

9 “(3) TASKS.—A task force established under
10 paragraph (1) shall—

11 “(A) collect statewide statistics for each of
12 the 10 years preceding the date of the grant
13 award on the number, age, sex, and residency
14 of individuals in the eligible State who were
15 younger than 18 years of age at the time of the
16 marriage of such individual;

17 “(B) examine the risk factors that lead to
18 child marriage and negative impacts from child
19 marriage in the eligible State, including the re-
20 lationship between child marriage and threats
21 to a minor’s safety, health, and well-being, and
22 including risk factors and impacts such as
23 forced or coerced marriage, family violence, sex-
24 ual assault, child abuse and neglect, human
25 trafficking, educational impacts, poverty, and

1 other negative impacts on individuals who are
2 younger than 18 years of age who marry;

3 “(C) develop policy recommendations for
4 the eligible State to address negative impacts of
5 child marriage on individuals and the intersec-
6 tion between child marriage and forced or co-
7 erced marriage, family violence, sexual assault,
8 child abuse and neglect, and human trafficking;
9 and

10 “(D) prepare a report with the rec-
11 ommendations of the task force regarding how
12 best to protect individuals who are younger
13 than 18 years of age from the negative impacts
14 of child marriage and forced or coerced mar-
15 riages and enabling already-married individuals
16 who are younger than 18 years of age to pro-
17 tect themselves from these forms of abuse.

18 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
20 \$375,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2032.”.

21 **SEC. 7. STATE INCENTIVES TO ELIMINATE CHILD MAR-**
22 **RIAGE.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered
24 formula grant” means a grant under—

1 (1) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
2 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10441
3 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “STOP Vio-
4 lence Against Women Formula Grant Program”); or
5 (2) section 41601 of the Violence Against
6 Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12511) (commonly
7 referred to as the “Sexual Assault Services Pro-
8 gram”).

9 (b) INCREASED FUNDING FOR FORMULA GRANTS
10 AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General shall increase the
11 amount provided to a State under the covered formula
12 grants in accordance with this section if the State has in
13 place a law that prohibits marriage for individuals who
14 have not attained 18 years of age or, if more than 18 years
15 of age, the age of majority for the State.

16 (c) APPLICATION.—A State seeking an increase in
17 the amount provided to the State under the covered for-
18 mula grants shall include in the application of the State
19 for each covered formula grant such information as the
20 Attorney General may reasonably require, including infor-
21 mation about the law described in subsection (b).

22 (d) GRANT INCREASE.—The amount of the increase
23 provided to a State under the covered formula grants
24 under this section shall be equal to not more than 10 per-
25 cent of the average of the total amount of funding pro-

1 vided to the State under the covered formula grants under
2 the 3 most recent awards to the State.

3 (e) PERIOD OF INCREASE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
5 provide an increase in the amount provided to a
6 State under the covered formula grants under this
7 section for a 2-year period.

8 (2) LIMIT.—The Attorney General may not
9 provide an increase in the amount provided to a
10 State under the covered formula grants under this
11 section more than 4 times.

12 (f) ALLOCATION OF INCREASED FORMULA GRANT
13 FUNDS.—The Attorney General shall allocate an increase
14 in the amount provided to a State under the covered for-
15 mula grants under this section such that—

16 (1) 25 percent the amount of the increase is
17 provided under the program described in subsection
18 (a)(1); and

19 (2) 75 percent the amount of the increase is
20 provided under the program described in subsection
21 (a)(2).

22 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2032.

1 **SEC. 8. FEDERAL LIMITATIONS ON CHILD MARRIAGE.**

2 No property that is on any land or in any building
3 owned by, leased to, or otherwise used by or under the
4 control of the Federal Government may be used to facili-
5 tate a marriage unless both of the individuals marrying
6 are at least 18 years of age at the time of the marriage.

7 **SEC. 9. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS**
8 **CHILD MARRIAGE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall estab-
10 lish a working group which shall, not later than 180 days
11 after the date on which the National Commission to Com-
12 bat Child Marriage in the United States issues the final
13 report required under section 4(g)(2), promulgate a model
14 State statute that—

15 (1) prohibits child marriage by requiring a per-
16 son to be at least 18 years of age or, for a State
17 with an age of majority that is older than 18 years
18 of age, the age of majority in the State, at the time
19 of marriage;

20 (2) allows any individual married as a minor to
21 choose to petition for such marriage to be voided;
22 and

23 (3) restricts any party who was an adult at the
24 time of marriage to a person younger than the age
25 of majority from voiding such a marriage.

1 (b) COMPOSITION OF THE WORKING GROUP.—The
2 working group established under subsection (a) shall be
3 composed of 8 members, of whom at least 1 member shall
4 be from the following components of the Department of
5 Justice:

6 (1) The Office of Legal Policy.

7 (2) The Office of Legislative Affairs.

8 (3) The Child Exploitation and Obscenity Sec-
9 tion of the Criminal Division.

10 (4) The Human Rights and Special Prosecu-
11 tions Section of the Criminal Division.

12 (5) The Office on Violence Against Women.

13 **SEC. 10. MODIFICATIONS TO IMMIGRATION PROVISIONS**
14 **RELATING TO MARRIAGE.**

15 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifi-
17 cally provided, any term used in this section that is
18 used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning
19 given such term in the immigration laws.

20 (2) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigra-
21 tion laws” has the meaning given such term in sec-
22 tion 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality
23 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

24 (b) MODIFICATIONS TO IMMIGRATION PROVISIONS
25 RELATING TO MARRIAGE.—

1 (1) DEFINITION OF NONCITIZEN.—Section
 2 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
 3 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end
 4 the following:

5 “(53) The term ‘noncitizen’ means any person who
 6 is not a citizen or national of the United States.”.

7 (2) CLASSIFICATIONS RELATING TO VISAS FOR
 8 NONCITIZEN FIANCÉS AND SPOUSES.—

9 (A) K VISAS.—Section 101(a)(15)(K) of
 10 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 11 1101(a)(15)(K)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(K) subject to subsections (d) and (r) of sec-
 13 tion 214, a noncitizen—

14 “(i)(I) who is the fiancée or fiancé of a cit-
 15 izen of the United States (other than a citizen
 16 described in section 204(a)(1)(A)(viii)(I)) who
 17 is at least 18 years of age; and

18 “(II) who—

19 “(aa) seeks to enter the United States
 20 solely to conclude a valid marriage with the
 21 petitioner within ninety days after admis-
 22 sion; and

23 “(bb) is at least 18 years of age;

24 “(ii)(I) who has concluded a valid marriage
 25 with a citizen of the United States who is the

1 petitioner who is at least 18 years of age and
2 was at least 18 years of age on the date of the
3 marriage (other than a citizen described in sec-
4 tion 204(a)(1)(A)(viii)(I)); and

5 “(II) who—

6 “(aa) is the beneficiary of a petition
7 to accord a status under section
8 201(b)(2)(A)(i) that was filed under sec-
9 tion 204 by the petitioner;

10 “(bb) seeks to enter the United States
11 to await the approval of such petition and
12 the availability to the noncitizen of an im-
13 migrant visa;

14 “(cc) was at least 18 years of age on
15 the date of his or her marriage to the peti-
16 tioner, unless that State of the United
17 States in which the petitioner and bene-
18 ficiary seek to reside together would have
19 permitted them to marry under the laws in
20 effect in such State at the time of filing;
21 and

22 “(dd) is at least 18 years of age or,
23 if residing in a State described in item
24 (cc), is at least 16 years of age and estab-
25 lishes a compelling, urgent humanitarian

1 reason for the issuance of a visa, arising
2 from a risk of individualized and targeted
3 harm to such noncitizen if such visa is de-
4 nied, which reason may not include paren-
5 tal consent, a child in common with the pe-
6 titioner, pregnancy, or any combination of
7 such factors; or

8 “(iii) who is the minor child of a noncitizen
9 described in clause (i) or (ii) and is accom-
10 panying, or following to join, the noncitizen.”.

11 (B) IMMEDIATE RELATIVES.—Section
12 201(b)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nation-
13 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)) is amended
14 by adding at the end the following:

15 “(iii) For purposes of this subparagraph, a non-
16 citizen spouse may only be considered the immediate
17 relative of a United States citizen spouse if—

18 “(I) the United States citizen spouse is at
19 least 18 years of age and was at least 18 years
20 of age at the time of marriage; and

21 “(II) the noncitizen spouse—

22 “(aa) was at least 18 years of age on
23 the date of his or her marriage to a United
24 States citizen spouse unless the State of
25 the United States in which the petitioner

1 and beneficiary seek to reside together
2 would have permitted them to marry under
3 the laws in effect in such State at the time
4 of filing; and

5 “(bb) is at least 18 years of age or,
6 if residing in a State described in item
7 (aa), is at least 16 years of age and estab-
8 lishes a compelling, urgent humanitarian
9 reason for the issuance of a visa, arising
10 from a risk of individualized and targeted
11 harm to such noncitizen if such visa is de-
12 nied, which reason may not include paren-
13 tal consent, a child in common with the pe-
14 titioner, pregnancy, or any combination of
15 such factors.”.

16 (C) SPOUSES OF LAWFUL PERMANENT
17 RESIDENTS.—Section 203(a)(2) of the Immi-
18 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
19 1153(a)(2)) is amended by striking subpara-
20 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

21 “(A) who—

22 “(i) are the spouses of noncitizens
23 lawfully admitted for permanent residence
24 who are 18 years of age or older and were

1 at least 18 years of age at the time of
2 marriage; and

3 “(ii)(I) were at least 18 years of age
4 on the date of the marriage to a lawful
5 permanent resident spouse unless the State
6 of the United States in which the peti-
7 tioner and beneficiary seek to reside to-
8 gether would have permitted them to
9 marry under the laws in effect in such
10 State at the time of filing; and

11 “(II) are at least 18 years of age or,
12 if residing in a State described in sub-
13 clause (I), are at least 16 years of age and
14 establish a compelling, urgent humani-
15 tarian reason for the issuance of a visa,
16 arising from a risk of individualized and
17 targeted harm to the noncitizen if the visa
18 is denied, which reason may not include
19 parental consent, a child in common with
20 the petitioner, pregnancy, or any combina-
21 tion of such factors;

22 “(B) who are the children of noncitizens
23 lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or

24 “(C) who are the unmarried sons or un-
25 married daughters (but are not the children) of

1 noncitizens lawfully admitted for permanent
2 residence,”.

3 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amend-
4 ments made by this subsection may not be construed
5 to preclude, limit, or modify eligibility of any noncit-
6 izen spouse subjected to battery or extreme cruelty
7 and otherwise eligible for relief as a VAWA self-peti-
8 tioner (as defined in section 101(a)(51) of the Immi-
9 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
10 1101(a)(51))), or any battered spouse (within the
11 meaning of section 240A(b)(2) of that Act (8 U.S.C.
12 1229b(b)(2))), for any available relief under the im-
13 migrations laws without regard to either spouse’s
14 age at time of marriage.

15 (c) PROXY MARRIAGE.—Section 101(a)(35) of the
16 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(35))
17 is amended by striking “marriage shall have been con-
18 summated” and inserting “parties have met in person dur-
19 ing the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of
20 the ceremony”.

21 (d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
22 section shall only apply to—

23 (1) petitions or applications for any status or
24 benefit under the immigration laws that are filed or

1 otherwise submitted on or after the date of the en-
2 actment of this Act; and

3 (2) marriages that are completed after such
4 date of enactment, except with respect to interviews
5 described in subsection (e).

6 (e) INTERVIEW REQUIREMENT.—An immigration of-
7 ficer or a consular officer, as applicable, shall conduct a
8 separate, private interview of each party to a spousal or
9 fiancé visa petition or application prior to approval, in all
10 cases in which at least one party was under 18 years of
11 age at the time of the marriage or engagement that forms
12 the basis of the petition or application occurred, regardless
13 of the date on which such marriage or engagement oc-
14 curred.

15 (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION ON CHANGES TO IMMIGRA-
16 TION LAW.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the
18 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
19 Security and the Secretary of State, in coordination
20 with the head of any other appropriate Federal
21 agency, shall immediately, and on an ongoing basis,
22 provide educational materials and information to the
23 public, in multiple languages, that describe the
24 changes to the immigration laws made by the
25 amendments under this section.

(2) UPDATES TO ADVISORY PAMPHLET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall update the advisory pamphlet required under section 833 of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162; 119 Stat. 3068) entitled “Information on the Legal Rights Available to Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence in the United States and Facts about Immigrating on a Marriage-Based Visa” to include the educational materials and information provided pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF UPDATED PAMPHLET.—

(i) U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES.—

(I) PETITIONERS AND BENEFICIARIES.—

(aa) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in item (bb), on receipt of a spousal or fiancé visa petition, the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (referred to in this subsection as the “Director”) shall

1 mail and email the pamphlet up-
2 dated under subparagraph (A)
3 (referred to in this subsection as
4 the “updated pamphlet”) to the
5 petitioner and beneficiary of such
6 petition, in the primary lan-
7 guages of such petitioner and
8 beneficiary.

9 (bb) EXCEPTION.—If the
10 updated pamphlet is unavailable
11 in the primary language of a pe-
12 titioner or beneficiary, the Direc-
13 tor shall mail and email the
14 English version of the updated
15 pamphlet to the petitioner or
16 beneficiary.

17 (II) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

18 (aa) U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND
19 IMMIGRATION SERVICES OF-
20 FICES.—The Director shall dis-
21 play and make available to the
22 public, in a publicly accessible lo-
23 cation of each U.S. Citizenship
24 and Immigration Services office,
25 the updated pamphlet—

1 (AA) in English; and
2 (BB) in multiple addi-
3 tional languages, including,
4 in the case of a U.S. Citi-
5 zenship and Immigration
6 Services office located in a
7 foreign country, the 1 or
8 more primary languages of
9 such country.

10 (III) U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IM-
11 MIGRATION SERVICES WEBSITE.—The
12 Director shall post the updated pam-
13 phlet on each relevant website of U.S.
14 Citizenship and Immigration Services,
15 including—

16 (aa) the homepage of U.S.
17 Citizenship and Immigration
18 Services; and

19 (bb) [https://www.uscis.gov/](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/forced-marriage)
20 humanitarian/forced-marriage.

21 (IV) COMMUNITY FORUMS.—The
22 Director shall present the updated
23 pamphlet through U.S. Citizenship
24 and Immigration Services community

1 forums with immigrant communities
2 in the United States.

3 (V) LEGAL SERVICES PRO-
4 VIDERS.—The Director shall provide
5 the updated pamphlet to all immigra-
6 tion legal services providers in the
7 United States for distribution to the
8 community.

9 (ii) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—

10 (I) APPLICANTS.—

11 (aa) IN GENERAL.—Except
12 as provided in item (bb), the Sec-
13 retary of State shall ensure that
14 consular officers directly dis-
15 tribute the updated pamphlet to
16 each applicant for a spousal or
17 fiancé visa during the consular
18 interview for such a visa, in the
19 primary language of the appli-
20 cant.

21 (bb) EXCEPTION.—If the
22 updated pamphlet is unavailable
23 in the primary language of an
24 applicant, the consular officer

1 conducting the visa interview
2 shall—

3 (AA) review the con-
4 tents of the updated pam-
5 phlet with the applicant
6 orally in the primary lan-
7 guage of the applicant; and

8 (BB) distribute the
9 English version of the up-
10 dated pamphlet to the appli-
11 cant.

12 (II) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The
13 Secretary of State shall display and
14 make available to the public at each
15 United States embassy and consulate
16 the updated pamphlet in English and,
17 if available, the primary language of
18 the country in which the embassy or
19 consulate is located.

20 (III) DEPARTMENT OF STATE
21 WEBSITE.—The Secretary of State
22 shall post the updated pamphlet on
23 each relevant website of the Depart-
24 ment of State, including—

1 (aa) the website of the Na-
2 tional Visa Center;

3 (bb) [https://travel.state.gov/](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html)
4 [content/travel.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html);

5 (cc) [https://travel.state.gov/](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html)
6 [content/travel/en/us-visas.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html);

7 (dd) [https://travel.state.gov/](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies/forced-marriage.html)
8 [content/travel/en/international-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies/forced-marriage.html)
9 [travel/emergencies/forced-mar-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies/forced-marriage.html)
10 [riage.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies/forced-marriage.html); and

11 (ee) the website of each con-
12 sular post that processes visa pe-
13 titions.

14 (IV) VIDEO ADVISORIES.—The
15 Secretary of State shall incorporate
16 the information contained in the up-
17 dated pamphlet into video advisories
18 on immigration requirements shown
19 at United States embassies, con-
20 sulates, and ports of entry.

21 (g) PUBLIC EDUCATION ON CHILD MARRIAGE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the
23 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
24 Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
25 ices, and the Attorney General, in coordination with

1 the head of any other appropriate Federal agency,
2 shall immediately, and on an ongoing basis, provide
3 information to the public on—

4 (A) the harmful impacts of child marriage
5 described in section 2; and

6 (B) the governmental and nongovern-
7 mental resources an individual may contact to
8 receive support services relating to such im-
9 pacts.

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—The information provided
11 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be—

12 (A) made available in multiple languages
13 on the website of U.S. Citizenship and Immi-
14 gration Services;

15 (B) presented through U.S. Citizenship
16 and Immigration Services community forums
17 with immigrant communities in the United
18 States;

19 (C) incorporated into video advisories on
20 immigration requirements shown at United
21 States embassies, consulates, and ports of
22 entry;

23 (D) provided to all immigration legal serv-
24 ices providers and refugee resettlement agencies

1 in the United States for distribution to the
2 community; and

3 (E) made available on all relevant pages of
4 the website of the Department of State.

5 (h) UPDATES TO IMMIGRATION FORMS.—The in-
6 structions for Form I–130 (Petition for Alien Relatives)
7 and Form I–129F (Petition for Alien Fiancé(e)) shall be
8 updated to reflect the amendments made by this section.

○