

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5060

To comprehensively combat child marriage in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2026

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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
10 wed to adult men and some were as young as 10

1 years of age, though most were 16 or 17 years of
2 age.

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

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

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

17 (5) Child marriage can facilitate physical, emo-
18 tional, and verbal abuse. Girls and young women 16
19 to 24 years of age experience the highest rates of in-
20 timate partner violence, and girls 16 to 19 years of
21 age experience intimate partner violence victimiza-
22 tion rates that are almost triple the national aver-
23 age. Further, the majority of States allow marriage
24 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 or fiancée visas that involved at
14 least one minor, though it remains unclear how
15 many of these visas were ultimately approved by the
16 Department of State. However, approximately 2.6
17 percent of fiancé or fiancée and spousal petitions
18 were returned unapproved to U.S. Citizenship and
19 Immigration Services between fiscal year 2007 and
20 fiscal year 2017. It is therefore reasonable to con-
21 clude that the United States issued a visa to a sig-
22 nificant number of the spouses and fiancés or
23 fiancéess named on the 8,686 petitions.

24 (10) Four States and 2 territories set no statu-
25 tory minimum age for marriage. In 10 States and

1 2 territories, clerks acting on their own—without
2 judges—can issue marriage licenses for all minors.
3 Four States and 1 territory permit pregnancy to
4 lower the minimum marriage age and in 1 State,
5 Mississippi, and 1 territory, the Northern Mariana
6 Islands, the statute sets different conditions for ap-
7 provals for girls and boys.

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

1 girls, at risk, given the ease with which they can be
2 taken out of their home State or territory into an-
3 other State or territory with lax or no laws.

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

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

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

productivity for individuals and nations at large. CEFM is a human rights abuse and a practice that undermines efforts to promote sustainable growth and development.”.

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

(i) to “prevent child marriages”; and

(ii) to “promote the empowerment of girls at risk of child marriage in developing countries”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

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

1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CHILD MAR-**
2 **RIAGE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
4 Department of Health and Human Services a commission,
5 to be known as the National Commission to Combat Child
6 Marriage in the United States (in this section referred to
7 as the “Commission”), which shall—

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

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

12 (B) the extent to which such marriages
13 currently occur; and

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

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

23 (3) submit a report outlining the most effective
24 strategies to eliminate child marriage in the United
25 States informed by the study required under para-
26 graph (1) to—

1 (A) the Committee on the Judiciary and
2 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
3 and Pensions of the Senate;

4 (B) the Committee on the Judiciary and
5 the Committee on Education and Workforce of
6 the House of Representatives; and

7 (C) the Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services; and

9 (4) carry out other duties as described in sub-
10 section (c).

11 (b) COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.—

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

14 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
15 President;

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

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

22 (D) 1 member shall be appointed by the
23 majority leader of the Senate;

24 (E) 1 member shall be appointed by the
25 minority leader of the Senate;

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

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

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

9 (3) COMMISSION REPRESENTATION.—The Com-
10 mission shall include at least—

11 (A) 1 survivor of child marriage;

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

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

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

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

4 (A) providing services to survivors of child
5 marriage in the United States;

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

8 (C) working with State governments to
9 limit child marriage;

10 (D) the medical challenges that survivors
11 of child marriage face;

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

14 (F) legal issues involving individuals who
15 were married or sought to marry before becom-
16 ing 18 years of age;

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

20 (H) risk factors that play a role in child
21 marriage; or

22 (I) issues of forced or coerced marriage,
23 family violence, sexual assault, human traf-
24 ficking, or child abuse.

1 (5) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 120
2 days after the appointment of members of the Com-
3 mission, the Commission shall—

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

10 (B) begin the operations of the Commis-
11 sion.

12 (6) QUORUM AND VACANCY.—

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

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

21 (c) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission
22 shall—

23 (1) conduct pursuant to subsection (a) a com-
24 prehensive study that examines and assesses the
25 adequacy of laws addressing child marriage and the

1 extent of child marriage across the country, includ-
2 ing making specific findings relating to—

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

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

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

21 (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

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

1 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

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

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

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

23 (3) LISTENING SESSIONS.—The Commission
24 shall organize and facilitate listening sessions with
25 survivors of child marriage and advocates and ex-

1 perts working towards the elimination of child mar-
2 riage in the United States in order to discharge its
3 duties under this section.

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

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

10 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-
11 mission shall serve without compensation, but shall receive
12 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
13 in accordance with applicable provisions in the same man-
14 ner as persons employed intermittently in the Government
15 service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title
16 5, United States Code.

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

21 (g) REPORTS OF COMMISSION AND TERMINATION.—

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

1 and recommendations required under this section as
2 have been agreed to by a majority of Commission
3 members to—

4 (A) the President;

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

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

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

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

21 (3) TERMINATION.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and
23 all the authorities of this section, shall termi-
24 nate 180 days after the date on which the final
25 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 individuals 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

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

“(C) develop policy recommendations for the eligible State to address negative impacts of child marriage on individuals and the intersection between child marriage and forced or coerced marriage, family violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, and human trafficking; and

“(D) prepare a report with the recommendations of the task force regarding how best to protect individuals who are younger than 18 years of age from the negative impacts of child marriage and forced or coerced marriages and enabling already-married individuals who are younger than 18 years of age to protect themselves from these forms of abuse.

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

SEC. 7. STATE INCENTIVES TO ELIMINATE CHILD MARRIAGE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered 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 of the amount of the increase is
17 provided under the program described in subsection
18 (a)(1); and

19 (2) 75 percent of 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 OR FIANCÉESS AND
 9 SPOUSES.—

10 (A) K VISAS.—Section 101(a)(15)(K) of
 11 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 12 1101(a)(15)(K)) is amended to read as follows:

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

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

19 “(II) who—

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

24 “(bb) is at least 18 years of age;

1 “(ii)(I) who has concluded a valid marriage
2 with a citizen of the United States who is the
3 petitioner who is at least 18 years of age and
4 was at least 18 years of age on the date of the
5 marriage (other than a citizen described in sec-
6 tion 204(a)(1)(A)(viii)(I)); and

7 “(II) who—

8 “(aa) is the beneficiary of a petition
9 to accord a status under section
10 201(b)(2)(A)(i) that was filed under sec-
11 tion 204 by the petitioner;

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

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

24 “(dd) is at least 18 years of age or,
25 if residing in a State described in item

(cc), is at least 16 years of age and establishes a compelling, urgent humanitarian reason for the issuance of a visa, arising from a risk of individualized and targeted harm to such noncitizen if such visa is denied, which reason may not include parental consent, a child in common with the petitioner, pregnancy, or any combination of such factors; or

“(iii) who is the minor child of a noncitizen described in clause (i) or (ii) and is accompanying, or following to join, the noncitizen.”.

(B) IMMEDIATE RELATIVES.—Section 201(b)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

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

“(II) the noncitizen spouse—

“(aa) was at least 18 years of age on the date of his or her marriage to a United

1 States citizen spouse unless the State of
 2 the United States in which the petitioner
 3 and beneficiary seek to reside together
 4 would have permitted them to marry under
 5 the laws in effect in such State at the time
 6 of filing; and

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

18 (C) SPOUSES OF LAWFUL PERMANENT
 19 RESIDENTS.—Section 203(a)(2) of the Immi-
 20 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 21 1153(a)(2)) is amended by striking subpara-
 22 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

23 “(A) who—

24 “(i) are the spouses of noncitizens
 25 lawfully admitted for permanent residence

1 who are 18 years of age or older and were
2 at least 18 years of age at the time of
3 marriage; and

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

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

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

1 “(C) who are the unmarried sons or un-
2 married daughters (but are not the children) of
3 noncitizens lawfully admitted for permanent
4 residence,”.

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

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

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

1 (1) petitions or applications for any status or
2 benefit under the immigration laws that are filed or
3 otherwise submitted on or after the date of the en-
4 actment of this Act; and

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

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

17 (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION ON CHANGES TO IMMIGRA-
18 TION LAW.—

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

1 changes to the immigration laws made by the
2 amendments under this section.

3 (2) UPDATES TO ADVISORY PAMPHLET.—

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

15 (B) DISTRIBUTION OF UPDATED PAM-
16 PHLET.—

17 (i) U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRA-
18 TION SERVICES.—

19 (I) PETITIONERS AND BENE-
20 FICIARIES.—

21 (aa) IN GENERAL.—Except
22 as provided in item (bb), on re-
23 ceipt of a spousal or fiancé or
24 fiancée visa petition, the Director
25 of U.S. Citizenship and Immigra-

tion Services (referred to in this subsection as the “Director”) shall mail and email the pamphlet updated under subparagraph (A) (referred to in this subsection as the “updated pamphlet”) to the petitioner and beneficiary of such petition, in the primary languages of such petitioner and beneficiary.

(bb) EXCEPTION.—If the updated pamphlet is unavailable in the primary language of a petitioner or beneficiary, the Director shall mail and email the English version of the updated pamphlet to the petitioner or beneficiary.

(II) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(aa) U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES OFFICES.—The Director shall display and make available to the public, in a publicly accessible location of each U.S. Citizenship

and Immigration Services office,
the updated pamphlet—

(AA) in English; and

(BB) in multiple addi-

tional languages, including,

in the case of a U.S. Citi-

zenship and Immigration

Services office located in a

foreign country, the 1 or

more primary languages of

such country.

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

(aa) the homepage of U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration

Services; and

(bb) <https://www.uscis.gov/>

humanitarian/forced-marriage.

(IV) COMMUNITY FORUMS.—The
Director shall present the updated
pamphlet through U.S. Citizenship

1 and Immigration Services community
2 forums with immigrant communities
3 in the United States.

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

10 (ii) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—

11 (I) APPLICANTS.—

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

22 (bb) EXCEPTION.—If the
23 updated pamphlet is unavailable
24 in the primary language of an
25 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.

○