

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4602

To prohibit the obstruction of emergency vehicles.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit the obstruction of emergency vehicles.

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 “Stop Blocking Hos-
5 pitals Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OBSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United
8 States Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 40C. Obstruction of an emergency vehicle**

2 “(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person,
3 using a channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate
4 or foreign commerce or otherwise affecting interstate or
5 foreign commerce, to knowingly obstruct, delay, or pre-
6 vent—

7 “(1) any ambulance or emergency vehicle from
8 responding to a call or transporting an individual to
9 a hospital;

10 “(2) any vehicle used by a fire department, or
11 any officer or member of a fire department, from re-
12 sponding to a call or transporting an individual to
13 a hospital; or

14 “(3) any vehicle used by a State or local law en-
15 forcement agency, or any officer of the State or local
16 law enforcement agency, from responding to a call or
17 transporting an individual to a hospital.

18 “(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection
19 (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not less than
20 1 year nor more than 5 years, or both.”.

21 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
22 The table of sections for chapter 2 of title 18, United
23 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
24 ing to section 40B the following:

“40C. Obstruction of an emergency vehicle.”.