

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3398

To amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims.

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 Sextortion Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CRIMINALIZING THREATS TO DISTRIBUTE CHILD**
6 **SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.**

7 Title 18, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in section 2252—

2 (A) in subsection (a)(2)—

3 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
4 graph (A)—

5 (I) by inserting “, or threatens to
6 distribute any visual depiction with in-
7 tent to intimidate, coerce, extort, or
8 cause substantial emotional distress to
9 any person,” after “distributes, any
10 visual depiction”;

11 (II) by striking “foreign com-
12 merce or that” and inserting “foreign
13 commerce, or involving a visual depic-
14 tion that”; and

15 (III) by striking “, or which con-
16 tains materials which have been
17 mailed or so shipped or transported,”;
18 and

19 (B) in subsection (b)—

20 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking
21 “Whoever” and inserting “Except as pro-
22 vided in paragraph (3), whoever”; and

23 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(3) Whoever violates, or attempts or conspires to
 2 violate, subsection (a)(2) for threatening to distribute any
 3 visual depiction, as described in that subsection, shall be
 4 punished as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection
 5 if no such visual depiction existed.”; and

6 (2) in section 2252A—

7 (A) in subsection (a)(2)(A)—

8 (i) by inserting “, or threatens to dis-
 9 tribute any child pornography with intent
 10 to intimidate, coerce, extort, or cause sub-
 11 stantial emotional distress to any person,”
 12 after “any child pornography”; and

13 (ii) by striking “foreign commerce or
 14 that” and inserting “foreign commerce, or
 15 involving any child pornography that”; and

16 (B) in subsection (b)—

17 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking
 18 “Whoever” and inserting “Except as pro-
 19 vided in paragraph (4), whoever”; and

20 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(4) Whoever violates, or attempts or conspires to
 23 violate, subsection (a)(2)(A) for threatening to distribute
 24 any child pornography, as described in that subsection,

1 shall be punished as provided in paragraph (2) of this sub-
2 section if no such child pornography existed.”.

3 **SEC. 3. PENALTIES FOR THREATS TO DISTRIBUTE CHILD**
4 **SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 18, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in section 1466A—

8 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
9 ceding subsection (b), by inserting “, but if the
10 offense involves the knowing use of a visual de-
11 piction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit
12 conduct, with the intent to intimidate, coerce,
13 extort, or cause substantial emotional distress
14 to any person, the maximum term of imprison-
15 ment provided in section 2252A(b)(1) shall be
16 increased by 10 years” before the period at the
17 end; and

18 (B) in subsection (b), in the matter pre-
19 ceding subsection (c), by inserting “, but if the
20 offense involves the knowing use of a visual de-
21 piction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit
22 conduct, with the intent to intimidate, coerce,
23 extort, or cause substantial emotional distress
24 to any person, the maximum term of imprison-
25 ment provided in section 2252A(b)(2) shall be

1 increased by 10 years” before the period at the
 2 end; and

3 (2) in section 2260A—

4 (A) in the section heading, by striking
 5 **“Penalties for registered sex offend-**
 6 **ers”** and inserting **“Other offenses and**
 7 **penalties”**;

8 (B) by striking “Whoever” and inserting
 9 the following:

10 “(1) OFFENSES BY REGISTERED SEX OFFEND-
 11 ERS.—Whoever”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(2) ADDITIONAL PENALTIES.—If any offense
 14 under section 875(d), 2251, 2252, 2252A, or 2260
 15 involves the knowing use of child pornography with
 16 the intent to intimidate, coerce, extort, or cause sub-
 17 stantial emotional distress to any person, the max-
 18 imum term of imprisonment provided in section
 19 875(d), 2251(e), 2252(b), 2252A(b), or 2260(c)
 20 shall be increased by 10 years.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 22 for chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-
 23 ed by striking the item relating to section 2260A and in-
 24 serting the following:

“2260A. Other offenses and penalties.”.

1 **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.**

2 If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by
3 this Act, or the application of such provision or amend-
4 ment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconsti-
5 tutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made
6 by this Act, and the application of the provisions of such
7 to any person or circumstance shall not be affected there-
8 by.

○