

It is rare that it is a stranger offense with little kids. That is because that is how the offender got access to the child.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, on our watch, we prosecuted parents, we prosecuted grandparents, we prosecuted ministers, and we prosecuted coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the only evidence you have is what that child can testify to in front of a bunch of strangers in a jury box, a judge in a dark robe, and people in our adversarial system because you rarely have physical evidence in these cases. We sometimes, but rarely, have extraneous evidence.

That child has to be able to testify, or justice is never done, and that child cannot testify if he or she has not had the support and services of victim advocates at, for example, a child advocacy center to bring them to the point they can tell truthfully what happened to them.

This bill is about justice, and I am proud to support it.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that neither saving lives nor providing support to victims of crime are partisan issues. Victimization knows no political party.

The instability of the Crime Victims Fund threatens red states as well as blue states alike, urban centers and also rural communities equally. Passage of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act is a declaration of our own common values.

This bill says that our commitment to this Nation's victims is not just a line in a budget subject to prosecutorial trends.

I would like to say when my family and I spent the 2½ years in court that we did in Jacksonville, Florida, when my son was murdered in November of 2012, the Crime Victims Fund of Florida helped to support the representative and to provide the representative who spent day after day with us making sure that we had the resources and the means that we needed, making sure that we understood that the State of Florida was standing there to support us in spite of the terrible tragedy that we had suffered. That money, those funds, were allocated from the Crime Victims Fund.

So, once again, having actually lived through this experience, I know how important it is to make sure that we pass this legislation.

□ 1540

It says that our first thought is to bind the wounds of the injured, the helpless, and the innocent.

We owe it to the survivors who need counseling and stable housing to help

them sleep through the night again. We owe it to the parents who must bury their child or their children or their loved one, such as I have. We owe it to the countless silent sufferers who have yet to come forward but who must know that help will be there when they need it.

This is a commonsense solution that will ensure victims have access to the services that they need to heal, to reclaim their lives again, and to feel secure enough to speak out about their pursuing the justice that they deserve.

I ask all Members of this body to support this lifesaving bill. I hope that the Senate will take it up and pass it as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I note that in 2024, child advocacy centers provided assistance to over 370,000 children nationwide who suffered abuse. That is 370,000 children in one year alone. For those who might not be aware, after a child is tragically exploited or sexually assaulted by a predator, one of the first places a victim is taken is a child advocacy center, or CAC.

At CAC, specialized interviewers are able to work with the child victim to not only make them feel safe and secure but also to get vital information that can be used by law enforcement to identify and arrest the offender. These often horrifying details are then used by our prosecutors, who stand firmly with this legislation, to ensure the predator is put behind bars.

My most recent visit to a CAC was in October last year. I had the pleasure of meeting with the executive director of the Missouri Network Against Child Abuse, Jessica Seitz, and her team at the Union, Missouri, child advocacy center.

The work these incredible individuals do every single day to protect and help children going through unspeakable trauma deserves the highest recognition. I want to ensure that all of them are recognized on the floor of this Chamber for what they do in Missouri and beyond. I also want to recognize all of the CACs throughout the United States that open their doors every day to help those who need it most.

The legislation before all of us today will turn our gratitude into action, Mr. Speaker. We will get these organizations, the amazing people who work there, and the children who rely upon them the resources they so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I first thank my co-leads for their help in pursuing and pushing this legislation forward: Representatives DEREK SCHMIDT, who we heard from, and NATHANIEL MORAN, STEPHANIE BICE, JIM COSTA, and my dear, dear friend across the aisle, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who I wish could have joined us today for this debate.

I also thank the House Judiciary Committee and the Appropriations

Committee, who had a strong hand in this, and Leader SCALISE for working with my team to bring this bill to the floor. Of course, I thank Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH for her tremendous support and her testimony to just the terrible injustice and travesty that she has endured. I thank her for her support and her management of this piece of legislation, H.R. 909, across the aisle.

Through our collaboration, we were able to include strong language ensuring a comprehensive audit of the CVF will be delivered to Congress. The information from this audit will help us do our jobs as policymakers and properly plan for the future of the CVF and avoid another crisis like this.

To the dozens and dozens and dozens of supporting organizations that stood with me in this fight, including the National Children's Alliance, the National District Attorneys Association, RAINN, Covenant House, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the National Network to End Sexual Violence, and the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, our work is not done. We can and must get this bill through the Senate, as we discussed across the aisle, and signed into law. It has been an honor to lead this effort, and I am humbled to have gained cosponsors from well over a majority of the United States House Republican Conference and 75 percent of the entire House of Representatives.

This could not have been accomplished without dedication, teamwork, and a true get-stuff-done attitude. Representing our constituents in this Chamber is not a job, Mr. Speaker. It is a calling. There is no higher calling than helping the most vulnerable in our society.

I, again, urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 909, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3424) to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3424

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress has amended the laws governing bankruptcy fees as necessary to ensure that the bankruptcy system remains self-supporting, while also fairly allocating the costs of the system among those who use the system.

(2) Because of the importance for the bankruptcy system to be self-funded, at no cost to taxpayers, Congress has closely monitored the funding needs of the bankruptcy system, including by requiring periodic reporting by the Attorney General regarding the United States Trustee System Fund.

(3) Because the system governing bankruptcies of various types is interconnected, Congress has established fees, including filing fees, quarterly fees in chapter 11 cases, and other fees, that together fund the courts, judges, United States trustees, and trustees serving in bankruptcy cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code.

(4) Trustees serving in bankruptcy cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, are vital to the functioning of the bankruptcy system, as they provide services at the front lines of the bankruptcy process, administering thousands of cases.

(5) Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees provide valuable returns of assets to government creditors, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal, State, and municipal governments.

(6) Due to the work of the chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, millions of dollars are also disbursed annually to private creditors of all types, including medical providers, unsecured creditors, small businesses, and micro-enterprises such as domestic support providers.

(7) Despite the essential role of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, since 1994 the amount of compensation paid to these trustees has not been increased. As in 1994, bankruptcy trustees receive only \$60 per case (composed of \$45 from subsection 330(b)(1), and \$15 from subsection 330(b)(2), of title 11, United States Code) in nearly 90 percent of chapter 7 cases, and bankruptcy trustees receive no compensation at all for cases in which the filing fee is waived by the bankruptcy court.

(8) Since 1994, there have been significant increases in salaries, attorney fees, budget appropriations, filing fees, and court-related fees associated with chapter 7 bankruptcies. In contrast, the \$60 paid to chapter 7 trustees has remained the same and has not even been increased for inflation. In 2021, Congress attempted to implement a mechanism that would give chapter 7 trustees a raise, but the trustees only received increased compensation for 1 fiscal year. Based on Consumer Price Index estimates, the \$60 paid to trustees in 1994 would be the equivalent of over \$125 today.

(9) This Act and the amendments made by this Act—

(A) increase the compensation of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees to the level that is appropriate, overdue, and proportionate with the level that was intended in 1994, by increasing the total compensation of trustees to \$120 per case;

(B) ensure adequate funding of the United States trustee system through the increase of certain fees, which will also apply to districts that are not part of a United States trustee region as required by existing law; and

(C) support the preservation of existing bankruptcy judgeships that are urgently needed to handle existing and anticipated increases in business and consumer caseloads.

(10) This Act will not alter the filing fee under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, and will not modify, impair, or supersede the current authority of the district courts of the United States, or of bankruptcy courts, to waive the payment of filing fees by indigent individuals.

SEC. 3. TRUSTEE COMPENSATION.

(a) COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.—Section 330 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1) by striking “\$45” and inserting “\$105”; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

(b) REMAINDER OF FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the remainder of fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(A) of title 28, United States Code, after compensating trustees under section 330(b)(1) of title 11, United States Code, shall be deposited as follows:

(1) \$63.51 in the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(2) \$25.00 in the special fund established in accordance with section 10101(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (28 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(3) \$51.49 in the United States Trustee System Fund established under section 589a of title 28, United States Code.

(c) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “40.46 percent of the fees collected” and inserting “\$51.49 of the fees collected in each case”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D) by striking “Fourth” and inserting “Second”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (B).

SEC. 4. BANKRUPTCY FEES.

(a) QUARTERLY FEES.—Section 1930(a)(6)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “5-year” and inserting “10-year”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I)—

(i) by inserting “the greater of” before “0.4”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end and inserting “or”; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking “0.8” and inserting “0.9”.

(b) PERIOD FOR DEPOSITS.—Section 589a(f) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by section 3(c)(2), is amended by striking “2026” each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

(c) DEPOSITS OF CERTAIN FEES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2031.—Notwithstanding section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031—

(1) the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, less the amount specified in subparagraph (2) of this subsection, shall be deposited as specified in section 589a(f) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act; and

(2) \$5,400,000 of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TERM OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY OFFICES OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.

(a) BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020.—Section 4 of the Bank-

ruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2020 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(E) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(F) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(4) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(6) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

(b) BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2017.—Section 1003(b)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter that first occurs on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.—Section 3 and the amendments made by section 3 shall apply to any case under title 11, United States Code, commenced on or after October 1 that first occurs after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code; or

(B) under chapter 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, that is converted to a case under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code.

(2) BANKRUPTCY FEES.—Section 4 and the amendments made by section 4 shall apply to—

(A) any case commenced or pending under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, on the first day of the calendar quarter that first occurs on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) quarterly fees payable under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by section 4, for disbursements made in any calendar quarter that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 3424.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3424, the Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2025.

The bill before us today is an important piece of legislation that will help ensure the bankruptcy system continues to function efficiently and without taxpayer funding.

Congress designed the bankruptcy system to be funded through the fees imposed on those who utilize the system. From time to time, Congress has passed legislation to respond to how the bankruptcy system is operating.

S. 3424 responds to the current bankruptcy climate in three ways: First, the bill extends the temporary quarterly fees used to pay for the United States Trustee Program within the Department of Justice and bankruptcy judgeships. Ensuring taxpayers are not on the hook for the administration of the Bankruptcy Code is critical. The only way to ensure the bankruptcy system is funded far into the future is to maintain the current fee schedule.

Second, S. 3424 extends for an additional 5-year period numerous temporary bankruptcy judgeships across the country. These bankruptcy judges ensure that bankruptcy cases are quickly and efficiently administered. While bankruptcy filings in recent years have slowed, early data suggests that bankruptcy filings will likely increase in the coming years. Maintaining these temporary bankruptcy judgeships for the next 5 years will ensure that the bankruptcy system can continue to operate at full capacity if necessary.

Finally, and most importantly, S. 3424 increases the pay per case for Chapter 7 trustees. Chapter 7 trustees play a critical role in the bankruptcy system, ensuring that creditors recover as much as possible from bankruptcy debtors. Chapter 7 trustees also ensure that the government receives unpaid taxes, fines, and fees or whatever else it may be owed during a bankruptcy case. In around 90 percent of the cases, Chapter 7 trustees receive the statutory minimum payment for their services, \$60 per case. This rate was established in 1994 and has never been permanently increased.

S. 3424 increases the pay per case by adjusting chapter 7 trustee compensation for inflation since 1994 to \$120. This change is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1550

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation, which will help ensure that Americans have access to bankruptcy relief when financial disaster strikes and they need it.

The legislation would increase compensation for chapter 7 trustees for the first time in more than 30 years, extend vital temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and ensure that our bankruptcy system continues to be self-funded and poses no cost to the American taxpayer.

Chapter 7 proceedings are designed for people who are most in need of financial relief. In chapter 7 bankruptcy, an individual debtor who has fallen on hard times, rather than go to debtor prison, which was the old-school method, can settle his or her debts, pay off back taxes, stop further collection actions, and secure a fresh start.

The process is means-tested, so it is available only for those who really need it, and it often comes with credit counseling and debtor education courses that can help our constituents achieve financial literacy and avoid bankruptcy a second time.

Nationwide, this process is overseen by trustees who help to distribute millions of dollars annually to local, State, and Federal Government agencies and private creditors of all types. In 1994, Congress set the pay for trustees at \$60 per case, and we have not revisited that \$60 pay rate in the decades since.

This bill would increase that paltry amount at long last. By doubling their fee to \$120, we help to ensure that debtors will have the assistance they need to navigate the complicated and convoluted world of bankruptcy proceedings.

The bill also extends 29 temporary bankruptcy judgeships that are set to expire. In my State of Maryland alone, we are on track to lose three out of seven temporary judgeships. That is nearly half of our entire bankruptcy bench. We cannot afford to lose these judges at the very moment that bankruptcy filings are rising everywhere, up 30 percent in our State alone over the last couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill to increase the access and opportunity provided to all Americans under the bankruptcy system. I ask all of our colleagues to read it and to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, again, I restate my strong support for this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, again, this important legislation promotes efficient government rather than expanding it, reinforces user-funded government services, strengthens accountability and oversight, and reduces market distortions caused by uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3424.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMBATING ONLINE PREDATORS ACT

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6719) to prohibit threats to a minor, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6719

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Online Predators Act" or the "COP Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING THREATS TO A MINOR.

(a) MATERIAL INVOLVING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS.—Section 2252A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking "illegal; or" and inserting "illegal;";

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) knowingly distributes, offers, sends, or provides, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a threat to distribute—

"(A) a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, or

"(B) a visual depiction of a person the defendant believes is a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct,

with the intent that the minor, or the person the defendant believes is a minor, create or transmit a visual depiction of any minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct,"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "or (6)" and inserting "(6), or (8)".

(b) MATERIAL CONSTITUTING OR CONTAINING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—Section 2252 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking "or" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by inserting "or" after the semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) knowingly distributes, offers, sends, or provides, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a threat to distribute—

"(A) a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, or

"(B) a visual depiction of a person the defendant believes is a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct,

with the intent that the minor, or the person the defendant believes is a minor, create or transmit a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct,";

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting "or (5)" after "paragraph (4)"; and

(3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "or (5)" after "paragraph (4)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.