

victims to begin the long process of healing with the knowledge that their government is standing with them and for them.

This legislation is about protecting the most vulnerable among us.

The time for action is now. I support the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6715, the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I thank my colleague from North Carolina for his leadership in advancing this important legislation.

Protecting our Nation's children is among the most solemn responsibilities entrusted to Congress.

Our criminal statutes must be clear and effective so that individuals who exploit children are held fully accountable under the law. When ambiguity exists, it can undermine enforcement and allow dangerous conduct to fall outside the reach of existing statutes.

Recently, a court decision in *United States v. Howard* highlighted a technical gap in Federal child exploitation law, one that exposed the need for greater clarity in how certain conduct is defined and prosecuted.

In that case, the Court interpreted existing statutory language in a way that limited accountability, even though a child's image was used in sexually exploitative conduct.

Mr. Speaker, that outcome underscores an important reality. A child is harmed whenever their image is intentionally placed into a sexualized setting. The absence of physical contact or active participation does not eliminate the harm or the violation.

This is an issue that I have personally heard about from law enforcement officers who work on these cases every day. I commend Mr. HARRIS, Chairman BIGGS, and Chairman JORDAN for ensuring that we address it through the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I thank my colleagues for joining with us in this important work.

H.R. 6715 closes a dangerous loophole. It restores clarity, strengthens enforcement, and reaffirms our commitment to protecting children and upholding justice.

Mr. Speaker, there should be no ambiguity when it comes to the criminal nature of the sexual exploitation of children. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6715.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we seem to have the bipartisan convergence that we need to reverse the error of the interpretation that is in the Howard decision to make sure we can always hold accountable the perpetrators of this seriously corrosive crime.

H.R. 6715 strives to right this wrong, and I am proud that we are acting in a bipartisan way to do that. I urge my

colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the Committee on the Judiciary for unanimously supporting this bill in markup. I am grateful for my colleagues who have all risen to speak today and to the ranking member and leadership on the other side that have worked together with us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of my legislation, the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6715, 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.

#### COERCION AND SEXUAL ABUSE FREE ENVIRONMENT ACT

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6732) to prohibit unlawful coercion of 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. 6732

*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 "Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act" or the "CSAFE Act".

#### SEC. 2. UNLAWFULLY COMPELLING CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2422 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) Whoever, using the mail or any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce, or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, intentionally compels a minor to—

"(A) engage in self-harm, including suicide or attempted suicide;

"(B) commit animal crushing (as defined in section 48);

"(C) engage in abusive or degrading non-sexual conduct (whether or not physical injury results) for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense; or

"(D) engage in sexually explicit conduct, as defined in section 2256(2)(A), shall be punished as provided in paragraph (2).

"(2) Whoever violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both;

"(B) if serious bodily injury results, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both; or

"(C) if death results, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both.

"(3) In this subsection, the term 'compel' includes the use of a threat, extortion, blackmail, fraud, deceit, or manipulation."

(b) JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5032 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "or 2241(c)," and inserting "2241(c), or 2242(c),".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the horror of child abuse and exploitation online continues to remain a significant problem across the country.

The Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance made combating child exploitation a top priority in the 118th Congress, and we continue to do so in the 119th Congress.

Unfortunately, criminals are continuously finding new ways to force minors to commit sexual or violent acts against themselves or others.

Violent online networks are methodically targeting vulnerable underage populations across the United States. These violent groups, often known as gore groups, target children and force them into unthinkable acts of violence against themselves, against others, and even against animals.

These groups use social media or other popular platforms such as Roblox or Discord to elicit private information or sexual images from minors, and they use that information and that material to blackmail victims into mutilating themselves or taking other violent action against friends, family members, or pets.

Many of these networks rapidly emerge, create alliances, and then quickly dissolve, making it difficult to determine leadership structure. Many criminal actors are located overseas, and many of these offenders are also minors themselves.

The most prominent example is the online extremist network known as 764. Mr. Speaker, 764 is a decentralized online network that glorifies violence and encourages participation in criminal activities such as sextortion and doxing. A disturbed young man, who has since been arrested and jailed, started the 764 network in 2020.

While decentralized, the group has grown into a vast array of online predators seemingly in a dark competition of who can manipulate children to commit the most violent acts.

In 2024, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMIC,

Cyber Tipline, the Nation's centralized reporting system for the online abuse and exploitation of minors, received more than 1,300 reports of exploitation with a connection to a violent online group. By August of 2025, NCMIC had already received more than 1,000 similar reports.

A law enforcement officer stated of these groups: "If you can get someone to self-harm, you are doing quite well in that group. If you can get them to kill themselves, you are reaching the pinnacle."

In April 2025, the FBI Richmond field office shared a public information video warning parents about a "new threat to kids' safety." According to former Deputy Director Dan Bongino, the FBI has more than 300 active investigations into these groups, and that number continues to grow, but they were having difficulty preparing for prosecution because of gaps in our law.

I applaud the FBI for taking crucial steps to both raise awareness of this issue and hold predators accountable. However, more tools are needed from Congress to ensure that these heinous individuals are prosecuted.

The conduct of groups such as the 764 network do not always fit neatly into existing criminal statutes, which potentially jeopardizes prosecutions.

The Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act, CSAFE, criminalizes compelling or enticing a minor to engage in self-harm, engage in animal crushing, or to commit acts of self-mutilation or self-branding.

We can all find common ground with this commonsense legislation. These are grotesque crimes that must be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I commend both sides of the aisle for working on this legislation. It is my hope and fondest wish that we pass this bill out of this House today, get it to the Senate, and get it up to the President for signing and enactment.

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

□ 1630

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6732, the CSAFE Act, which creates a new crime to prohibit people from compelling children into physically harming themselves or animals.

Coercing kids online to hurt themselves or others is spreading harm that all of us need to take seriously. We have seen an alarming rise in episodes of this in recent years, and it has become clear that there is no Federal statute that effectively addresses this extreme misconduct.

Violent online groups have emerged on popular platforms geared toward children and teenagers. These groups, and individuals acting alone, encourage kids to commit horrifying acts, including cutting themselves, creating child sex abuse material, sexually ex-

ploiting other children, harming animals, swatting, doxing, and, in the most extreme cases, taking their own lives.

This happened to Jay Taylor, a 13-year-old who was struggling with an eating disorder, gender identity problems, and a sense of isolation. He found a connection on the online platform Discord. Members of 764, an online network that targets and exploits vulnerable young people, got their hooks into him and devastatingly coerced Jay into taking his own life while live-streaming.

The FBI agents who worked on his case repeatedly encountered roadblocks while attempting to get prosecutors to file charges in the case, with one U.S. attorney telling the agents that it simply was not possible to do anything.

The bill before us now, the CSAFE Act, seeks to address the shortcomings in existing Federal criminal law when it comes to investigating cases and prosecuting criminals who coerce and extort children online.

I thank the chairman for working with me to address some of the constitutional concerns I raised at our committee's markup of this legislation back in December of last year. I am very pleased to support this bill today, which I think is legally seaworthy and will survive any constitutional challenges.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6732, the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act, and I thank my colleague from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for his leadership on this critical issue.

Madam Speaker, as technology advances, so do the tactics of predators who seek to harm our children. Current Federal statutes were not written with this kind of remote, organized, and coercive abuse in mind. When the law lags behind the tactics of predators, Congress has an obligation to act.

We are now confronting a deeply disturbing trend in which organized online networks target vulnerable minors, manipulate them through fear and blackmail, and coerce them into committing acts of violence against themselves, others, or even animals.

These online groups use mainstream platforms to gain access to children, extract personal information or images, and then weaponize that material.

The result is severe psychological coercion and abuse—children forced into self-mutilation, cruelty to animals, or even suicide, all at the direction of anonymous criminals who often operate across borders and behind ever-changing online identities.

Our laws must be able to meet this threat head-on. H.R. 6732 does exactly

that. This bill modernizes Federal criminal law by clearly criminalizing the coercion or enticement of a minor to engage in self-harm, animal crushing, or other abusive or degrading conduct.

This legislation closes dangerous gaps in current law and sends an unmistakable message: Compelling a child to destroy themselves or to harm others is child abuse. It is criminal, and it will be prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, protecting children is one of Congress' most solemn responsibilities. H.R. 6732 is a necessary, targeted, and responsible response to a real and growing threat.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6732, the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act, or, as we all call it, the CSAFE Act.

As technology has become more sophisticated, online threats against children have become more complicated, malicious, and sometimes deadly.

The harm has moved beyond just simple bullying. Today, groups of people online, like the so-called 764 network, seek out and coerce vulnerable kids to photograph, record, or live stream acts of violence or self-harm to the world.

Take, for example, a horrific case that happened just last summer on the online platform Roblox. Several people associated with 764 located in Tennessee allegedly used the platform to entice a 13-year-old, located hundreds of miles away in New Jersey, to carve the initials of each person into her leg and send the group pictures and videos of her self-inflicted wounds.

According to the criminal complaint, the content was shared with the leader of the 764 group, or the so-called boss, so that the perpetrators could become full-fledged members of the group.

Mind you, Roblox is a massive online platform that actually allows users to design, create, and play millions of different games. With roughly half of its user base being under the age of 13, the platform is used by nearly 90 million children every day and has repeatedly been found to be at the top of its class in safety features.

Just imagine the potential harm that could be inflicted on our children on platforms and websites that have subpar safety features.

Let's be clear. State and Federal prosecutors have brought charges in these types of cases. For example, on November 20, 2025, the Department of Justice announced that a grand jury returned an indictment charging a 20-year-old man in Maryland, who identifies himself as a member of the 764 group, with three counts of sexual exploitation of a child, three counts of

coercion and enticement of a child, and one count of cyberstalking.

Still, there is no law that specifically prohibits the coercion of children to inflict harm on themselves or others, which sometimes makes it hard for prosecutors to pursue these charges.

The CSAFE Act is meant to fill in the gaps in our Federal law by creating a new crime that prohibits individuals from compelling, attempting to compel, or conspiring to compel children into physically harming themselves, others, or animals.

□ 1640

While the original bill considered by the Judiciary Committee raised several constitutional concerns, I am pleased to see that this bill before us today includes several improvements that address the concerns that we raised during our bill markup.

As the internet and online platforms continue to evolve and create new challenges that we have to deal with every single day, it is our job as policymakers to be responsive to those challenges, ensuring that these seemingly benign tools are not used for nefarious purposes. We must also make sure that our criminal justice system is capable of holding to account those who dare to exploit these platforms and these tools and prey on our children and cause harm to others.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in this body to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, bad actors often prey on the most vulnerable: our children. It is our job to stand up for them. That is why I rise today in support of the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act introduced by my colleague and friend, Chairman ANDY BIGGS.

This bill will ensure accountability for anyone who intentionally compels a minor to engage in self-harm or other degrading acts. As child abuse continues in this country and takes many forms, prosecutors must have the proper tools to go after these predators.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. I have no further speakers, Madam Speaker. I will just restate my strong support for this legislation. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Arizona for bringing it forward. It is certainly a lot more fun to be with him on legislation, and I am delighted we were able to work on this bipartisan bill together.

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member

RASKIN for his helpful suggestions that will make this bill much better and has made it much better. I thank Ranking Member MCBATH for her support as well.

It is our desire to bring these malevolent-hearted people who are filled with evil and criminal intention to justice and to protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill out of the House and the Senate and to get it signed and enacted, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.) The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6732, 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.

#### ENDING IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED PEOPLE ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 269) to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 269

*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 “Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”.

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

“(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may

be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.”.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act.

This bipartisan bill continues a bipartisan policy that has already enabled the Federal Government to identify, prevent, and recover hundreds of millions of dollars of improper payments made to dead people.

Currently, the Social Security Administration has temporary authority to share its death data with the Treasury Department’s Do Not Pay Portal to identify, prevent, and recover improper payments. In its first year alone, Treasury reported this data exchange saved American taxpayers over \$108 million.

Unfortunately, Social Security’s authority to share its data with Treasury is temporary and lapses at the end of this year if Congress doesn’t pass this bill. That would only increase the likelihood that more taxpayer money is erroneously sent to dead people. In 2023 alone, before this policy was implemented, the Office of Management and Budget found the Federal Government sent \$1.3 billion to dead people. That is unacceptable. The American people expect Congress to safeguard their hard-earned tax money from waste, fraud, and abuse.

I thank Representative HIGGINS for his leadership on this issue as well as