

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1666

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require a study and report on State mandatory reporting laws.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2021

Ms. WILD (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require a study and report on State mandatory reporting laws.

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 “Working to End Child
5 Abuse and Neglect Act” or the “WE CAN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY RE-**
7 **PORTING LAWS.**

8 Section 110 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
9 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106f) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

1 “(e) STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY
2 REPORTING LAWS.—

3 “(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall collect infor-
4 mation on, and otherwise study, State laws for man-
5 datory reporting of incidents of child abuse or ne-
6 glect. Such study shall examine trends in referrals
7 and investigations of child abuse and neglect due to
8 differences in such State laws with respect to the in-
9 clusion, as mandatory reporters, of the following in-
10 dividuals:

11 “(A) Individuals licensed or certified to
12 practice in any health-related field licensed by
13 the State, employees of health care facilities or
14 providers licensed by the State, who are en-
15 gaged in the admission, examination, care or
16 treatment of individuals, including mental
17 health and emergency medical service providers.

18 “(B) Individuals employed by a school who
19 have direct contact with children, including
20 teachers, administrators, and independent con-
21 tractors.

22 “(C) Peace officers and law enforcement
23 personnel.

1 “(D) Clergy, including Christian Science
2 practitioners, except where prohibited on ac-
3 count of clergy-penitent privilege.

4 “(E) Day care and child care operators
5 and employees.

6 “(F) Employees of social services agencies
7 who have direct contact with children in the
8 course of employment.

9 “(G) Foster parents.

10 “(H) Court appointed special advocates
11 (employees and volunteers).

12 “(I) Camp and after-school employees.

13 “(J) An individual, paid or unpaid, who,
14 on the basis of the individual’s role as an inte-
15 gral part of a regularly scheduled program, ac-
16 tivity, or service, accepts responsibility for a
17 child.

18 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the
19 date of enactment of the Working to End Child
20 Abuse and Neglect Act, the Secretary shall submit
21 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
22 Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Edu-
23 cation and Labor of the House of Representatives a
24 report containing the findings of the study required
25 by this subsection, including any best practices re-

- 1 lated to the inclusion, as mandatory reporters, of in-
- 2 dividuals described in paragraph (1).”.

