

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4426

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2021

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mrs. LURIA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

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 “Homeland Security
5 for Children Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR**
2 **STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS.**

3 Paragraph (6) of section 709(c) of the Homeland Se-
4 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 349(c)) is amended by insert-
5 ing “, including feedback from organizations representing
6 the needs of children,” after “stakeholder feedback”.

7 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL EXPERT AUTHORIZED.**

8 Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Se-
9 curity Act (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period
13 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 paragraph:

16 “(I) identify and integrate the needs of
17 children into activities to prepare for, protect
18 against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate
19 against the risk of natural disasters, acts of ter-
20 rorism, and other manmade disasters, including
21 catastrophic incidents, including by appointing
22 a technical expert, who may consult with rel-
23 evant outside organizations and experts, as nec-
24 essary, to coordinate such integration, as nec-
25 essary.”.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Under
4 Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans of the Depart-
5 ment of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee
6 on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transpor-
7 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
8 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
9 mental Affairs of the Senate a report describing the ef-
10 forts the Department has undertaken to review and incor-
11 porate feedback from organizations representing the needs
12 of children into Department policy in accordance with
13 paragraph (6) of section 709(c) of the Homeland Security
14 Act of 2002 (as amended by section 2 of this Act), includ-
15 ing information on the following:

16 (1) The designation of any individual respon-
17 sible for carrying out such paragraph (6).

18 (2) Any review, formal or informal, of Depart-
19 ment policies, programs, or activities to assess the
20 suitability of such policies, programs, or activities
21 for children and where feedback from organizations
22 representing the needs of children should be re-
23 viewed and incorporated.

24 (3) Any review, change, modification, or pro-
25 mulgation of Department policies, programs, or ac-

1 activities to ensure that such policies, programs, or ac-
2 tivities are appropriate for children.

3 (4) Coordination with organizations or experts
4 outside the Department pursuant to such paragraph
5 (6) conducted to inform any such review, change,
6 modification, or promulgation of such policies, pro-
7 grams, or activities.

○