

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5049

To provide incentives for States to eliminate statutes of limitation related to child sexual abuse, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 17, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide incentives for States to eliminate statutes of limitation related to child sexual abuse, 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 “No Time Limit for
5 Justice Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the Children’s Bureau of the
9 Administration on Children, Youth and Families of
10 the Department of Health and Human Services,

1 every 9 minutes, a child is sexually assaulted in the
2 United States, and 93 percent of victims know the
3 perpetrator, who is often related to the victim.

4 (2) Child sexual abuse can have a serious im-
5 pact on the physical and mental health of victims,
6 who often experience post-traumatic stress disorder,
7 shame, guilt, anxiety, and depression.

8 (3) A study from the National Institutes of
9 Health found that between 60 and 80 percent of vic-
10 tims of childhood sexual abuse wait until adulthood
11 to disclose their abuse.

12 (4) Due to the especially heinous nature of
13 child sexual abuse, it is imperative that perpetrators
14 of this crime are punished and prevented from re-
15 offending, and that victims have the opportunity to
16 see their abusers brought to justice.

17 (5) Statutes of limitations for felony sex crimes
18 against minors differ by State, and some end as lit-
19 tle as 3 years after the crime occurred, even for
20 crimes like production of child sexual abuse imagery.
21 For victims, statutes of limitations can hinder their
22 ability to seek justice and hold their perpetrator ac-
23 countable.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) COVERED GRANT PROGRAM.—The term
 2 “covered grant program” means the grant program
 3 under part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
 4 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10441
 5 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “STOP Vio-
 6 lence Against Women Formula Grant Program”).

7 (2) SEXUAL ABUSE.—The term “sexual abuse”
 8 has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the
 9 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42
 10 U.S.C. 5106g).

11 **SEC. 4. INCREASED FUNDING FOR GRANTS AUTHORIZED**
 12 **UNDER STOP GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, in ac-
 14 cordance with subsection (b), increase the total amount
 15 of each grant awarded to a State under the covered grant
 16 program, if, as of the first day of the fiscal year for which
 17 the grant is being awarded—

18 (1) child sexual abuse criminal offenses under
 19 the laws of the State are not subject to a statute of
 20 limitations; and

21 (2) civil actions authorizing damages for victims
 22 of child sexual abuse under the laws of the State are
 23 not subject to a statute of limitations.

24 (b) GRANT INCREASE.—The amount of an increase
 25 provided to a State under subsection (a) shall be equal

1 to not more than 5 percent of the average of the total
2 amount of funding provided to the State under the covered
3 grant program during the 3 most recent fiscal years in
4 which the State was awarded a grant under the covered
5 grant program.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each
8 of 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

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