

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 566

To amend section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant to a nonprofit entity for a national child abuse hotline.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mrs. MCBATH (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant to a nonprofit entity for a national child abuse hotline.

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. NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.**

4 Section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)) is amended by adding  
6 at the end the following:

7 “(8) NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
2           award a grant under this subsection to a non-  
3           profit entity to provide for the ongoing oper-  
4           ation of a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone  
5           hotline to provide information and assistance to  
6           youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents,  
7           caregivers, mandated reporters, and other con-  
8           cerned community members, including through  
9           alternative modalities for communications (such  
10          as texting or chat services) with such victims  
11          and other information seekers.

12          “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants de-  
13          scribed in this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
14          give priority to applicants with experience in  
15          operating a hotline that provides assistance to  
16          victims of child abuse, parents, caregivers, and  
17          mandated reporters.

18          “(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-  
19          ceive a grant described in this paragraph, a  
20          nonprofit entity shall submit an application to  
21          the Secretary that shall—

22                 “(i) contain such assurances and in-  
23                 formation, be in such form, and be sub-  
24                 mitted in such manner, as the Secretary  
25                 shall prescribe;

1 “(ii) include a complete description of  
2 the entity’s plan for the operation of a na-  
3 tional child abuse hotline, including de-  
4 scriptions of—

5 “(I) the professional development  
6 program for hotline personnel, includ-  
7 ing technology professional develop-  
8 ment to ensure that all persons affili-  
9 ated with the hotline are able to effec-  
10 tively operate any technological sys-  
11 tems used by the hotline;

12 “(II) the qualifications for hot-  
13 line personnel;

14 “(III) the methods for the cre-  
15 ation, maintenance, and updating of a  
16 comprehensive list of prevention and  
17 treatment service providers;

18 “(IV) a plan for publicizing the  
19 availability of the hotline throughout  
20 the United States;

21 “(V) a plan for providing service  
22 to non-English speaking callers, in-  
23 cluding service through hotline per-  
24 sonnel who have non-English language  
25 capability;

1 “(VI) a plan for facilitating ac-  
2 cess to the hotline and alternative mo-  
3 dality services by persons with hearing  
4 impairments and disabilities;

5 “(VII) a plan for providing crisis  
6 counseling, general assistance, and re-  
7 ferrals to youth victims of child abuse;  
8 and

9 “(VIII) a plan to offer alternative  
10 services to calling, such as texting or  
11 live chat;

12 “(iii) demonstrate that the entity has  
13 the capacity and the expertise to maintain  
14 a child abuse hotline and a comprehensive  
15 list of service providers;

16 “(iv) demonstrate the ability to pro-  
17 vide information and referrals for contacts,  
18 directly connect contacts to service pro-  
19 viders, and employ crisis interventions;

20 “(v) demonstrate that the entity has a  
21 commitment to providing services to indi-  
22 viduals in need; and

1 “(vi) demonstrate that the entity com-  
2 plies with State privacy laws and has es-  
3 tablished quality assurance practices.”.

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