

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. WARNOCK)
introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, 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 “Runaway and Home-

5 less Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

8 (34 U.S.C. 11201) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 302. FINDINGS.**

10 “Congress finds that—

1 “(1) youth who have become homeless or who
2 leave and remain away from home without parental
3 permission are at risk of developing, and have a dis-
4 proportionate share of, trauma, substance use dis-
5 orders, and serious health, behavioral, social, and
6 emotional challenges because they lack sufficient re-
7 sources to obtain care and may live on the street for
8 extended periods of time, thereby endangering them-
9 selves;

10 “(2) many such young people, because of their
11 age and situation, are urgently in need of temporary
12 shelter and services, including services that consider
13 their age, gender, and social and developmental
14 needs, are culturally and linguistically appropriate,
15 and acknowledge the environment of youth seeking
16 these services;

17 “(3) research has documented the fluid experi-
18 ences of homelessness of youth, where many youth
19 experience 2 or more different types of homeles-
20 ness, including couch surfing, living in motels, and
21 staying on the streets;

22 “(4) research has documented that persons who
23 are members of historically marginalized and under-
24 served communities of color, LGBTQ youth, youth
25 who do not complete high school or achieve a high

1 school equivalency, youth involved in the child wel-
2 fare system, youth who have been involved with the
3 criminal justice system, and pregnant and parenting
4 youth are most likely to experience homelessness in
5 the United States while unaccompanied by a parent
6 or adult;

7 “(5) services to such young people should be de-
8 veloped and provided using a positive youth develop-
9 ment approach that ensures a young person a sense
10 of—

11 “(A) safety and structure;

12 “(B) belonging and membership;

13 “(C) self-worth, empowerment, voice, and
14 choice;

15 “(D) independence and control over one’s
16 life; and

17 “(E) closeness in interpersonal relation-
18 ships;

19 “(6) in view of the interstate nature of the
20 problem, it is the responsibility of the Federal Gov-
21 ernment to develop an accurate national reporting
22 system to report the prevalence of youth homeless-
23 ness, and to assist in the development of an effective
24 system of care (including prevention services and
25 aftercare services, short-term housing with services,

1 extended housing with supportive services, and street
2 outreach services) outside the welfare system and
3 the law enforcement system, in collaboration with
4 public assistance systems, the education system, and
5 the child welfare system;

6 “(7) to make a successful transition to adult-
7 hood, youth who run away, youth experiencing
8 homelessness, and youth living in the street need a
9 safe and stable place to live, connections to caring
10 adults, and opportunities to complete high school or
11 earn a general equivalency degree, learn job skills,
12 and obtain employment;

13 “(8) improved coordination and collaboration at
14 the Federal level between programs that serve run-
15 away and homeless youth are necessary for the de-
16 velopment of a long-term strategy for responding to
17 the needs of this population;

18 “(9) runaway and homeless youth are at a high
19 risk of substance use disorders and becoming victims
20 of sexual exploitation and trafficking;

21 “(10) since research has shown that the preva-
22 lence of homelessness among youth is similar in
23 rural and urban communities, runaway and homeless
24 youth programs, such as those funded under this
25 title, are integral services that every community

1 should provide, regardless of the size of the commu-
2 nity; and

3 “(11) runaway and homeless youth programs,
4 such as those funded under this title—

5 “(A) are expert adolescent service pro-
6 viders and integral community partners for the
7 child welfare and juvenile justice systems as
8 many youth exit these systems to homelessness;
9 and

10 “(B) work to reunify youth with their fam-
11 ily when safe and appropriate.”.

12 **SEC. 3. BASIC CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 Part A of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34
14 U.S.C. 11211 et seq.) is amended—

15 (1) in section 311, by striking subsection (a)
16 and inserting the following:

17 “(a) GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

19 “(A) not later than 90 days before the
20 start date of the grant, award 5-year grants to
21 public and nonprofit private entities, and com-
22 binations of such entities, to establish, operate,
23 and maintain (including renovate) local centers
24 to provide—

1 “(i) safe shelter and services for run-
2 away and homeless youth, including trau-
3 ma-informed services; and

4 “(ii) if appropriate, services for the
5 families of such youth, including individ-
6 uals identified by such youth as family;
7 and

8 “(B) establish an appeal process for grant-
9 ees.

10 “(2) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided
11 under paragraph (1)—

12 “(A) shall be provided to runaway youth,
13 street youth, homeless youth, or youth at risk
14 of separation from the family;

15 “(B) shall include—

16 “(i) safe and appropriate shelter for
17 not more than 30 days or the maximum al-
18 lowed by the State, whichever is greater;

19 “(ii) individual, family, or group coun-
20 seling, as appropriate, including counseling
21 for individuals identified by such youth as
22 family, that considers the age, gender, and
23 social and developmental needs of such
24 youth, and is culturally and linguistically
25 appropriate; and

1 “(iii) suicide prevention services; and

2 “(C) may include—

3 “(i) street-based services;

4 “(ii) home-based services for families
5 with youth at risk of separation from the
6 family, to the extent practicable, that con-
7 sider the ages, genders, and social and de-
8 velopmental needs of the family, and are
9 culturally and linguistically appropriate;

10 “(iii) prevention services;

11 “(iv) substance use disorder education
12 and prevention services;

13 “(v) at the request of runaway youth
14 or homeless youth, testing for sexually
15 transmitted infections;

16 “(vi) trauma-informed services, in-
17 cluding for such youth who are victims of
18 trafficking; and

19 “(vii) an assessment of—

20 “(I) family engagement in sup-
21 port and reunification, if reunification
22 is appropriate;

23 “(II) interventions; and

24 “(III) services for parents or
25 legal guardians of such youth or, if

1 appropriate, individuals identified by
2 such youth as family.”;

3 (2) in section 312—

4 (A) in subsection (b)—

5 (i) by striking paragraph (2) and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(2) shall use such assistance to establish,
8 strengthen, or fund a runaway and homeless youth
9 center that provides temporary shelter or a locally
10 controlled project, including a host family home,
11 that has—

12 “(A) a minimum capacity of not less than
13 4 youth, except if there is an established min-
14 imum number of beds per youth shelter or
15 project location;

16 “(B) a maximum capacity of not more
17 than 20 youth, except where the applicant dem-
18 onstrates that the State where the center or lo-
19 cally controlled project is located has a State or
20 local law or regulation that allows a higher
21 maximum to comply with licensure require-
22 ments for child and youth serving centers or
23 projects;

1 “(C) a ratio of staff to youth that is suffi-
2 cient to ensure adequate supervision and treat-
3 ment; and

4 “(D) if it is a mixed project, not more
5 than 20 youth per project, except where the ap-
6 plicant demonstrates that the project has a
7 State or local law or regulation that allows a
8 higher maximum to comply with licensure re-
9 quirements for child and youth serving
10 projects;”;

11 (ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “or
12 legal guardians” and inserting “, legal
13 guardians, or individuals identified by such
14 youth as family, if appropriate;”;

15 (iii) by striking paragraphs (6), (7),
16 and (8), and inserting the following:

17 “(6) shall develop an adequate plan, which may
18 include the use of online resources to reach and en-
19 gage youth, for establishing or coordinating with
20 outreach programs designed to attract persons, in-
21 cluding persons who are members of underserved
22 populations, who are eligible to receive services for
23 which a grant under section 311(a) may be ex-
24 pended;

1 “(7) shall keep adequate statistical records
2 profiling the runaway youth or homeless youth and
3 family members of such youth whom the applicant
4 serves, including demographic information and the
5 number of such youth who—

6 “(A) are not referred to out-of-home shel-
7 ter services;

8 “(B) are members of vulnerable or under-
9 served populations;

10 “(C) are victims of trafficking;

11 “(D) are pregnant or parenting;

12 “(E) have been involved in the child wel-
13 fare system; and

14 “(F) have been involved in the juvenile jus-
15 tice system;

16 “(8) shall ensure that—

17 “(A) the information maintained on indi-
18 vidual runaway youth or homeless youth con-
19 tained in the records described in paragraph (7)
20 shall not be disclosed without the consent of the
21 individual youth and the parent of the youth,
22 the legal guardian of the youth, or an individual
23 identified by such youth as family, to anyone
24 other than an agency compiling statistical
25 records or a government agency involved in the

1 disposition of criminal charges against such
2 youth; and

3 “(B) reports or other documents based on
4 the statistics described in paragraph (7) shall
5 not disclose the identity of any individual run-
6 away youth or homeless youth;”;

7 (iv) in paragraph (12), by striking
8 subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting
9 the following:

10 “(B) detailed information on how the ap-
11 plicant has been able to meet the goals of the
12 plan of the applicant; and

13 “(C) statistical summaries describing—

14 “(i) the data the Secretary requires to
15 be collected;

16 “(ii) the number and characteristics
17 of runaway youth, homeless youth, street
18 youth, and youth at risk of separation
19 from the family, who participate in the
20 project, including information on such
21 youth who—

22 “(I) are victims of trafficking;

23 “(II) are pregnant or parenting;

24 “(III) have been involved in the
25 child welfare system; or

1 “(IV) have been involved with the
2 criminal justice system; and

3 “(iii) the services provided to such
4 youth by the project;”;

5 (v) in paragraph (13), by striking the
6 period at the end and inserting “for nat-
7 ural disasters, inclement weather, and pub-
8 lic health emergencies;”; and

9 (vi) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(14) shall provide services to runaway youth
12 and homeless youth that consider the age, gender,
13 and social and developmental needs of such youth,
14 and are culturally and linguistically appropriate, to
15 the extent practicable; and

16 “(15) shall inform youth of their status as inde-
17 pendent students under section 480 of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv), provide
19 verification of such status for the purposes of the
20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid described
21 in section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
22 (20 U.S.C. 1090), and assist youth in completing
23 this application at the request of the youth.”;

24 (B) in subsection (c)—

1 (i) in paragraph (3), by striking
2 “and” after the semicolon;

3 (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
5 and

6 (iii) by adding at end the following:

7 “(5) develop a plan, consistent with local needs,
8 for the use of online resources, if appropriate, to
9 reach and engage youth.”;

10 (C) in subsection (d)—

11 (i) by striking paragraph (1) and in-
12 serting the following:

13 “(1) provide counseling and information that
14 consider the age, gender, and social and develop-
15 mental needs of such youth, and are culturally and
16 linguistically appropriate, to the extent practicable,
17 to youth and the families of such youth (including
18 unrelated individuals in the family households of
19 such youth and individuals identified by such youth
20 as family), including services relating to basic life
21 skills, interpersonal skill building, educational ad-
22 vancement, job attainment skills, mental and phys-
23 ical health care, suicide prevention, parenting skills,
24 financial planning, and referral to sources of other
25 needed services;”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (4), by inserting “,
2 including training on trauma-informed
3 care” before the semicolon at the end; and

4 (iii) in paragraph (5)—

5 (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-
6 ing “and” after the semicolon;

7 (II) in subparagraph (B), by
8 striking the period at the end and in-
9 serting “; and”; and

10 (III) by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(C) youth are eligible for home-based
13 services when determined by the applicant to be
14 at risk of separation from family.”;

15 (D) in subsection (e), by striking the sub-
16 section enumerator and all that follows through
17 “(b)—” and inserting the following:

18 “(e) APPLICANTS PROVIDING SUBSTANCE USE DIS-
19 ORDER EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—To be
20 eligible to use assistance under section 311(a) to provide
21 substance use disorder education and prevention services,
22 an applicant shall include in the plan required by sub-
23 section (b)—”; and

24 (E) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(f) ONLINE RESOURCES FOR OUTREACH.—An ap-
2 plicant may develop a plan, consistent with local needs,
3 for the use of online resources to reach and engage youth.

4 “(g) DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED POPU-
5 LATIONS.—In this section, the term ‘underserved popu-
6 lations’ means victims of homelessness or trafficking or
7 runaway youth, who disproportionately face barriers in ac-
8 cessing and using victim services, including populations
9 who are underserved due to limited English proficiency or
10 are historically marginalized and underserved communities
11 of color, and any other population determined to be under-
12 served by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.”;
13 and

14 (3) in section 313, by striking subsection (b)
15 and inserting the following:

16 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applications for grants
17 under section 311(a), the Secretary shall give priority to
18 eligible applicants who have demonstrated experience in
19 providing services to runaway youth and homeless youth.”.

20 **SEC. 4. TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 Part B of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34
22 U.S.C. 11221 et seq.) is amended—

23 (1) in section 321—

24 (A) by inserting “5-year” after “to make”;

25 and

1 (B) by inserting “and runaway youth. The
2 Secretary shall award such grants not later
3 than 90 days before the start date of the grant
4 and establish an appeal process for grantees”
5 after “homeless youth”; and

6 (2) in section 322—

7 (A) in subsection (a)—

8 (i) by striking paragraph (1) and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(1) to provide to homeless youth, by grant,
11 agreement, or contract—

12 “(A) shelter, such as group homes, mater-
13 nity group homes, host family homes, and su-
14 pervised apartments; and

15 “(B) services, such as information and
16 counseling services in basic life skills, which
17 consider the age, gender, and social and devel-
18 opmental needs of such youth, and are cul-
19 turally and linguistically appropriate, including
20 topics on money management, budgeting, con-
21 sumer education, use of credit, parenting skills,
22 interpersonal skill building, educational ad-
23 vancement, job attainment skills, mental and
24 physical health care, and suicide prevention
25 services;”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting
2 “and runaway” after “to provide such
3 shelter and such services to individual
4 homeless”;

5 (iii) by striking paragraph (4) and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(4) that such shelter project used to carry out
8 such project shall—

9 “(A) have a minimum project capacity of
10 not fewer than 4 youth, except if there is an es-
11 tablished minimum number of beds per indi-
12 vidual shelter or project location;

13 “(B) have the capacity to accommodate
14 not more than 20 individuals, excluding staff,
15 within a single project, except where the appli-
16 cant demonstrates that the State where the
17 project is located has a State or local law or
18 regulation that allows a higher maximum to
19 comply with licensure requirements for child
20 and youth serving projects; and

21 “(C) if it is a mixed project, limit runaway
22 and homeless youth shelter beds to 20 youth
23 per project with segregated access and pro-
24 gramming, except where the applicant dem-
25 onstrates that the State where the project is lo-

1 cated has a State or local law or regulation that
2 allows a higher maximum to comply with licen-
3 sure requirements for child and youth serving
4 projects;”;

5 (iv) by striking paragraphs (6), (7),
6 (8), and (9), and inserting the following:

7 “(6) to develop a written transitional living plan
8 in partnership with each youth based on an assess-
9 ment of the needs of each youth, designed to help
10 the transition from supervised participation in such
11 project to independent living or another appropriate
12 living arrangement;

13 “(7) to develop an adequate plan to ensure
14 proper coordination, integration, and referral of
15 homeless youth and runaway youth, which considers
16 the age, gender, and social and developmental needs
17 of such youth, and are culturally and linguistically
18 appropriate, to the extent practicable, to—

19 “(A) social service;

20 “(B) law enforcement;

21 “(C) educational training, including post-
22 secondary education;

23 “(D) vocational training, including services
24 and programs for youth available under the

1 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
2 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);

3 “(E) welfare, including programs amended
4 under the Personal Responsibility and Work
5 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public
6 Law 104–193);

7 “(F) legal service;

8 “(G) mental health service and health care
9 programs;

10 “(H) substance use disorder treatment;
11 and

12 “(I) programs providing wrap-around serv-
13 ices to victims of trafficking and gender-based
14 violence;

15 “(8) to provide for the establishment of out-
16 reach programs designed to attract individuals who
17 are eligible to participate in the project, which may
18 include the use of online and social media engage-
19 ments;

20 “(9) to submit to the Secretary an annual re-
21 port that includes information regarding the activi-
22 ties carried out with funds under this part, the
23 achievements of the project under this part carried
24 out by the applicant and statistical summaries de-
25 scribing the number, characteristics, and demo-

1 graphic information of the homeless youth and run-
2 away youth who participate in such project, includ-
3 ing the prevalence of trafficking of such youth, and
4 the services provided to such youth by such project,
5 in the year for which the report is submitted;”;

6 (v) in paragraph (15), by striking
7 “and” after the semicolon;

8 (vi) by striking paragraph (16) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(16) to develop an adequate emergency pre-
11 paredness and management plan regarding re-
12 sponses to natural disasters, inclement weather, and
13 mental health emergencies; and”;

14 (vii) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
15 through (5) and (6) through (16), as para-
16 graphs (5) through (7) and (9) through
17 (19), respectively;

18 (viii) by inserting after paragraph (2)
19 the following:

20 “(3) to provide counseling to homeless and run-
21 away youth and to encourage, if appropriate, the in-
22 volvement in such counseling of their parents, legal
23 guardians, or individuals identified by such youth as
24 family;

1 “(4) to provide aftercare services, if possible, to
2 homeless and runaway youth who have received shel-
3 ter and services from a transitional living youth
4 project, including, to the extent practicable, such
5 youth who, after receiving such shelter and services,
6 relocate to a geographic area or State other than the
7 geographic area or State in which such project is lo-
8 cated;”;

9 (ix) by inserting after paragraph (7),
10 as redesignated by clause (vii), the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(8) to develop a plan to provide services, which
13 consider the age, gender, and social and develop-
14 mental needs of such youth, and are culturally and
15 linguistically appropriate, that address the needs of
16 runaway, homeless, and street youth;”;

17 (x) by adding at end the following:

18 “(20) to inform youth of their status as inde-
19 pendent students under section 480 of the Higher
20 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv), provide
21 verification of such status for the purposes of the
22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid described
23 in section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
24 (20 U.S.C. 1090), and assist the youth in com-
25 pleting this application at the request of the youth.”;

1 (B) by striking subsection (b) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible applicants to re-
4 ceive grants under this part, the Secretary shall give pri-
5 ority to entities that have experience in providing to home-
6 less youth shelter and services of the types described in
7 subsection (a)(1).”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(d) PRIORITY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH LESS THAN
10 22 YEARS OF AGE.—An entity that receives a grant under
11 this part—

12 “(1) shall, in carrying out activities under the
13 grant, prioritize service to homeless youth who are
14 less than 22 years of age, but not less than 15 years
15 of age; and

16 “(2) may use grant funds to serve homeless
17 youth who are ages 22 to less than 26.”.

18 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.**

19 Section 331 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
20 (34 U.S.C. 11231) is amended by inserting “, online, and
21 social media” after “telephone”.

22 **SEC. 6. COORDINATING, TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND OTHER**
23 **ACTIVITIES.**

24 Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34
25 U.S.C. 11241 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 341—

2 (A) by inserting “safety, well-being,” after
3 “health,”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking “other
5 Federal entities” and inserting “the Depart-
6 ment of Housing and Urban Development, the
7 Department of Education, the Department of
8 Labor, and the Department of Justice”;

9 (2) in section 342—

10 (A) by inserting “5-year” after “make”;

11 (B) by inserting “(including onsite and
12 web-based techniques, such as on-demand and
13 online learning)” after “training”; and

14 (C) by striking “carrying out” and insert-
15 ing “implementing in a trauma-informed man-
16 ner”;

17 (3) in section 343(b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (5)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
20 “abuse” and all that follows through the
21 semicolon at the end and inserting “abuse,
22 sexual assault, and trafficking;”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
24 “abuse” and all that follows through “;

1 and” and inserting “abuse, sexual assault,
2 and trafficking;”;

3 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
4 “who have been sexually victimized”; and

5 (iv) by adding at end the following:

6 “(D) best practices for identifying and pro-
7 viding services that consider the age, gender,
8 and social and developmental background of an
9 individual, and are culturally and linguistically
10 appropriate, to the extent practicable, to—

11 “(i) vulnerable and underserved youth
12 populations; and

13 “(ii) youth who are victims of traf-
14 ficking; and

15 “(E) informing youth of their status as
16 independent students under section 480 of the
17 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18 1087vv), providing verification of such status
19 for the purposes of the Free Application for
20 Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of
21 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 1090), and assisting youth in completing this
23 application at the request of the youth;”;

24 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking “and”
25 after the semicolon;

25

1 (C) in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-
2 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (D) by adding at end the following:

4 “(11) examining the intersection between the
5 runaway and homeless youth populations and traf-
6 ficking, including noting whether such youth who are
7 victims of trafficking were previously involved in the
8 child welfare system or juvenile justice system.”;

9 (4) in section 344(a)(2)(A), by striking
10 “\$100,000” and inserting “\$200,000”;

11 (5) in section 345—

12 (A) in subsection (a)—

13 (i) by striking “Not later than” and
14 all that follows through “Homelessness”
15 and inserting “Not later than 2 years after
16 the date of enactment of the Runaway and
17 Homeless Youth and Trafficking Preven-
18 tion Act of 2025, and at 3-year intervals
19 thereafter, the Secretary, acting through
20 the Associate Commissioner of the Family
21 and Youth Services Bureau”;

22 (ii) in paragraph (1)—

23 (I) by striking “13” and insert-
24 ing “12”; and

26

1 (II) by striking “and” after the
2 semicolon;

3 (iii) in paragraph (2), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting a semi-
5 colon; and

6 (iv) by adding at end the following:

7 “(3) that includes demographic information of
8 such individuals, including youth who are victims of
9 trafficking; and

10 “(4) that does not disclose the identity of any
11 such individual.”; and

12 (B) in subsection (b)(1)—

13 (i) by striking “13” and inserting
14 “12”;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “and” after the semicolon;

17 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (I) in clause (ii), by striking “;
19 and” and inserting “, including men-
20 tal health services;”;

21 (II) in clause (iii), by striking
22 “and” after the semicolon; and

23 (III) by adding at end the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(iv) connections to caring adults; and

1 “(v) access to secondary education,
2 higher education, and job training; and”;

3 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
4 (B) as subparagraph (E); and

5 (v) by inserting after subparagraph
6 (A) the following:

7 “(B) incidences, if any, of such individuals
8 who—

9 “(i) are victims of trafficking;

10 “(ii) are victims of sexual exploitation;

11 or

12 “(iii) were involved in the child wel-
13 fare or foster care system;

14 “(C) demographic characteristics, including
15 race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender
16 identity (as defined in section 249(c) of title 18,
17 United States Code), sexual orientation, and
18 disability;

19 “(D) statistics on youth who are or were
20 pregnant or parenting; and”.

21 **SEC. 7. SEXUAL ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION**

22 **PROGRAM; STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM.**

23 Part E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34
24 U.S.C. 11261 et seq.) is amended by striking section 351
25 and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 351. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make 5-year
3 grants to public and nonprofit private entities, and com-
4 binations of such entities, for the purpose of providing
5 street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street
6 youth who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being
7 subjected to, sexual abuse or trafficking. The Secretary
8 shall award such grants not later than 90 days before the
9 start date of the grant and establish an appeal process
10 for grantees.

11 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applicants to receive
12 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pri-
13 ority to public and nonprofit private entities that have ex-
14 perience in providing services to runaway, homeless, and
15 street youth.

16 “(c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to
17 receive a grant under subsection (a), an applicant shall
18 certify to the Secretary that such applicant has expertise
19 in serving runaway, homeless, and street youth and has
20 systems in place to ensure that such applicant can provide
21 services that consider the age, gender, and social and de-
22 velopmental background of youth described in subsection
23 (a), and are culturally and linguistically appropriate.”.

24 **SEC. 8. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

25 Part F of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34
26 U.S.C. 11271 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in the heading, by striking “**PART F**” and
2 inserting “**PART G**”;

3 (2) in section 381—

4 (A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “facil-
5 ity” and inserting “center or project”; and

6 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “facil-
7 ity” both places it appears and inserting “cen-
8 ter or project”;

9 (3) in section 382(a)—

10 (A) by striking “2000” and inserting
11 “2026”;

12 (B) by striking “the Workforce” and in-
13 serting “Workforce”;

14 (C) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
16 (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C)
17 through (E), respectively; and

18 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph

19 (A) the following:

20 “(B) identifying youth who are victims of
21 trafficking;”; and

22 (D) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and
24 inserting the following:

1 “(A) the number and characteristics of
2 youth served by such projects, including such
3 youth who—

4 “(i) are victims of trafficking;

5 “(ii) are pregnant or parenting;

6 “(iii) have been involved in the child
7 welfare system; or

8 “(iv) have been involved in the juve-
9 nile or adult criminal justice system, the
10 incarceration system, or legal proceedings
11 related to such systems;”;

12 (ii) by striking subparagraph (F) and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(F) the ability of such projects to encour-
15 age the resolution of problems within the fam-
16 ily, including with individuals identified by such
17 youth as family, through counseling and devel-
18 opment of self-sufficient living skills; and”;

19 (4) in section 383(a) by striking “facility’s
20 budget” and inserting “budget of the center or
21 project”;

22 (5) in section 384, by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing: “Grantees are encouraged to share data with
24 other programs and systems, without identifying in-

1 dividual youth in any shared records, to improve co-
2 ordination and maximize the use of resources.”;

3 (6) by inserting after section 384 the following:

4 **“SEC. 384A. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
6 the Associate Commissioner of the Family and Youth
7 Services Bureau, may waive any provision under this title
8 for a period of not more than 3 years, unless an extension
9 is granted under subsection (f), if—

10 “(1) a potential grantee requests a waiver that
11 describes 1 or more conflicting or duplicative re-
12 quirements or circumstances that prevent the effec-
13 tive delivery of services to runaway and homeless
14 youth, such as an extraordinary circumstance, nat-
15 ural disaster, public health emergency, or financial
16 crisis;

17 “(2) the Secretary determines that the waiver
18 will, by itself, contribute to or enhance the ability of
19 the grantee to carry out the purposes of this title;
20 and

21 “(3) the Secretary determines that the waiver
22 will not be inconsistent with the objectives of this
23 title.

1 “(b) CONTENTS.—A request made under subsection
2 (a) shall be provided to the Secretary in writing and
3 shall—

4 “(1) detail each provision within this title for
5 which the grantee seeks relief;

6 “(2) describe how a waiver from such provision
7 will, by itself, improve delivery of services to run-
8 away and homeless youth; and

9 “(3) certify that the health, safety, and well-
10 being of runaway and homeless youth served
11 through assistance received under this title will not
12 be compromised as a result of the waiver.

13 “(c) NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL OR DIS-
14 APPROVAL.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days
16 after the receipt of a waiver request made under
17 subsection (a), the Secretary shall inform the grant-
18 ee of approval or disapproval of the request.

19 “(2) DISAPPROVAL.—If the request is dis-
20 approved, the Secretary shall inform the grantee, the
21 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the
22 Committee on Education and Workforce of the
23 House of Representatives of the reasons for the dis-
24 approval and give the grantee the opportunity to
25 amend the request or appeal the decision.

1 “(3) APPROVAL.—If the request is approved,
2 the Secretary shall grant a waiver and, not later
3 than 30 days after granting such waiver, notify and
4 submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary
5 of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and
6 Workforce of the House of Representatives that de-
7 scribes—

8 “(A) each specific provision waived;

9 “(B) the reason given by the grantee for
10 the need for a waiver; and

11 “(C) the expected impact of the waiver on
12 youth served under this program.

13 “(d) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall
14 not require or impose any new or additional requirements
15 in exchange for receipt of a waiver if such requirements
16 are not specified in this title.

17 “(e) TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall terminate
18 approval of a request for a waiver authorized under this
19 section if the Secretary determines, after notice and op-
20 portunity for a hearing, that the performance of a grantee
21 who was granted relief under this section has been inad-
22 equated, or if such relief is no longer necessary to achieve
23 its original purposes.

24 “(f) WAIVER EXTENSION.—

1 (C) by inserting “ or virtually when appro-
2 priate,” after “on-site,”;

3 (8) in section 386A—

4 (A) in subsection (a)—

5 (i) by striking “Reconnecting Home-
6 less Youth Act of 2008” and inserting
7 “Runaway and Homeless Youth and Traf-
8 ficking Prevention Act of 2025”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “371,” after “sec-
10 tions”; and

11 (B) in subsection (c), by inserting “371,”
12 after “sections”;

13 (9) by inserting after section 386A the fol-
14 lowing:

15 **“SEC. 386B. NONDISCRIMINATION.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—No person in the United States
17 shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the bene-
18 fits of, or be subjected to discrimination under this title
19 on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion,
20 national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in section
21 249(c) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation,
22 or disability.

23 “(b) EXCEPTION.—If sex-segregation or sex-specific
24 programming is necessary to the essential operation of a
25 program, nothing in this section shall prevent any such

1 program or activity from considering the sex of an indi-
2 vidual. In such circumstances, grantees may meet the re-
3 quirements of this section by providing comparable serv-
4 ices to individuals who cannot participate in the sex-seg-
5 regated or sex-specific programming.

6 “(c) DISQUALIFICATION.—The Secretary shall en-
7 force this section pursuant to section 654 of the Head
8 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9849). The provisions of such section
9 relating to the procedure for review of an action taken by
10 the Secretary shall apply.

11 “(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
12 be construed as supplanting, displacing, preempting, or
13 otherwise limiting the responsibilities and liabilities under
14 other Federal or State civil rights laws with respect to dis-
15 crimination on a basis described in subsection (a).”;

16 (10) in section 387—

17 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (4),
18 (5), (6), (7), and (8), as paragraphs (9), (6),
19 (7), (8), (11), and (13), respectively;

20 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) the
21 following:

22 “(1) CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY AP-
23 PROPRIATE.—The term ‘culturally and linguistically
24 appropriate’, with respect to services, has the mean-
25 ing given the term ‘culturally and linguistically ap-

1 appropriate services’ in the ‘National Standards for
2 Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in
3 Health and Health Care’, issued in April 2013, by
4 the Office of Minority Health of the Department of
5 Health and Human Services.”;

6 (C) in paragraph (3)(A)—

7 (i) in clause (i), by striking “21” and
8 inserting “26”; and

9 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
10 ing the following:

11 “(ii) for the purposes of part B, not
12 less than 15 years of age but less than 26
13 years of age, subject to section 322(d);”;

14 (D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
15 following:

16 “(4) MIXED PROJECTS.—The term ‘mixed
17 projects’ means a building, structure, or campus
18 that may house multiple programs serving youth
19 under the age of 26. Any of these programs may be
20 funded as authorized under this Act as well as fund-
21 ed by other entities, including private, public, and
22 other government funding.

23 “(5) PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term ‘pre-
24 vention services’ means services to prevent youth

1 from becoming runaway, homeless, or street youth
2 and may include—

3 “(A) individual, family, group, and peer
4 counseling;

5 “(B) family mediation;

6 “(C) assessing the strengths,
7 vulnerabilities, and needs of youth;

8 “(D) connecting youth to public services
9 and housing options;

10 “(E) emergency respite care for clients
11 within the allowable age range of the underlying
12 grant award, including care that provides par-
13 ents and other caregivers with emergency serv-
14 ices and temporary shelter that offer relief;

15 “(F) connecting youth to education and
16 employment programs;

17 “(G) case management and resource navi-
18 gation; and

19 “(H) activities to improve access to local
20 mental health and substance use treatment and
21 prevention.”;

22 (E) in paragraph (7)(B), as redesignated
23 by subparagraph (A)—

24 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-
25 ing the use of online methods of engage-

1 ment, as appropriate, based on the needs
2 of the community and population served”
3 after “street youth”; and

4 (ii) by striking clause (v) and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(v) advocacy, education, and preven-
7 tion services related to—

8 “(I) substance use disorder;

9 “(II) trafficking;

10 “(III) sexually transmitted infec-
11 tions, including human immuno-
12 deficiency virus;

13 “(IV) violence, including physical
14 assault, sexual assault, domestic vio-
15 lence, and gender-based violence; and

16 “(V) suicide.”;

17 (F) in paragraph (8)(B), as redesignated
18 by subparagraph (A), by striking “prostitution,
19 or drug abuse” and inserting “trafficking, or
20 substance use disorder”;

21 (G) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by
22 subparagraph (A), by striking the paragraph
23 (9) enumerator and all that follows through
24 “services’—”, and inserting the following:

1 “(9) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER EDUCATION
2 AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term ‘substance
3 use disorder education and prevention services’—”;

4 (H) by inserting after paragraph (9), as
5 redesignated by subparagraph (A), the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(10) TRAFFICKING.—The term ‘trafficking’
8 has the meaning given the terms ‘severe forms of
9 trafficking in persons’ and ‘sex trafficking’ in section
10 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
11 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).”;

12 (I) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by
13 subparagraph (A), by inserting “, to establish
14 family or community supports,” after “self-suf-
15 ficient living”;

16 (J) by inserting after paragraph (11), as
17 redesignated by subparagraph (A), the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(12) TRAUMA-INFORMED.—The term ‘trauma-
20 informed’ has the meaning given the term in section
21 103 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven-
22 tion Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11103).”; and

23 (K) in paragraph (13)(B), as redesignated
24 by subparagraph (A)—

25 (i) in clause (ii)—

1 (I) by inserting “or able” after
2 “willing”; and

3 (II) by striking “or” after the
4 semicolon;

5 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking the pe-
6 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

7 (iii) by adding at end the following:

8 “(iv) who is involved in the child wel-
9 fare system, juvenile justice system, or
10 criminal justice system, but who is not
11 being housed by any such system.”.

12 **SEC. 9. PREVENTION SERVICES.**

13 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34 U.S.C.
14 11201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after part E the
15 following:

16 **“PART F—PREVENTION SERVICES**

17 **“SEC. 371. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
19 make 5-year grants to an eligible entity, as described
20 under subsection (e), that applies for an optional, addi-
21 tional prevention services grant. Any funds provided under
22 this part are in addition to other funds grantees receive
23 under other parts in this title.

1 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting grantees to receive
2 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pri-
3 ority to eligible entities that are—

4 “(1) public entities and nonprofit, private enti-
5 ties that have experience in providing services to
6 runaway, homeless, and street youth, and youth at
7 risk of separation from the family; and

8 “(2) public entities and nonprofit, private enti-
9 ties that request prevention services grants of not
10 more than \$75,000 per year.

11 “(c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to
12 receive a grant under subsection (a)—

13 “(1) the potential grantee shall—

14 “(A) be a successful basic center program
15 or transitional living program, which may in-
16 clude a program that operates a maternity
17 group home, that wants to establish, strength-
18 en, or provide prevention services for youth at
19 risk of homelessness and youth at risk of run-
20 ning away; and

21 “(B) submit to the Secretary a plan agree-
22 ing, as part of such program, to provide preven-
23 tion services; and

24 “(2) the potential grantee shall certify to the
25 Secretary that such grantee has systems in place to

1 provide services to youth described in subsection (a)
2 that consider the age, gender, and social and devel-
3 opmental background of such youth, and are cul-
4 turally and linguistically appropriate.”.

5 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
7 Act (34 U.S.C. 11280(a)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

9 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
10 be appropriated to carry out this title (other than
11 parts E and F) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2026,
12 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fis-
13 cal years 2027 through 2030.

14 “(2) ALLOCATION.—

15 “(A) PARTS A AND B.—From the amount
16 appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal
17 year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than
18 90 percent to carry out parts A and B.

19 “(B) PART B.—Of the amount reserved
20 under subparagraph (A), 45 percent and, in
21 those fiscal years in which continuation grant
22 obligations and the quality and number of ap-
23 plicants for parts A and B warrant not more
24 than 55 percent, shall be reserved to carry out
25 part B.

1 “(3) PARTS C AND D.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In each fiscal year,
3 after reserving the amounts required by para-
4 graph (2), the Secretary shall use the remain-
5 ing amount (if any) to carry out parts C and
6 D (other than section 345).

7 “(B) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Of the
8 amount authorized to be appropriated under
9 paragraph (1), \$2,000,000 shall be made avail-
10 able to carry out section 345 for each of fiscal
11 years 2025, 2028, and 2030.

12 “(4) PART E.—There are authorized to be ap-
13 propriated to carry out part E \$50,000,000 for fis-
14 cal year 2026, and such sums as may be necessary
15 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

16 “(5) PART F.—There are authorized to be ap-
17 propriated to carry out part F \$67,500,000 for fis-
18 cal year 2026, and such sums as may be necessary
19 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.”.

20 **SEC. 11. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.**

21 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34 U.S.C.
22 11201 et seq.) is amended by adding at end the following:

23 **“SEC. 390. APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An application by a public or
25 private nonprofit entity for a grant under section 311,

1 321, or 351, may be approved by the Secretary for an
2 amount for a fiscal year that is—

3 “(1) not less than \$225,000 and not more than
4 \$275,000 if the amount appropriated to carry out
5 this title (other than parts E and F) for the fiscal
6 year is equal to or greater than \$200,000,000; or

7 “(2) not less than \$200,000 and not more than
8 \$250,000 if the amount appropriated to carry out
9 this title (other than parts E and F) for the fiscal
10 year is less than \$200,000,000.

11 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applications for grants
12 under sections 311, 321, and 351, the Secretary shall give
13 priority to eligible grantees who have demonstrated experi-
14 ence in providing services to runaway and homeless
15 youth.”.