

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**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 2023”.

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       “The 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 homeless-  
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 family, who participate in the project,  
20 including information on such youth who—

21 “(I) are victims of trafficking;

22 “(II) are pregnant or parenting;

23 “(III) have been involved in the  
24 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)—

2 (I) by striking “18 years” and  
3 inserting “23 years”; and

4 (II) by striking “18th” and in-  
5 serting “23rd”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20                       “(A) social service;

21                       “(B) law enforcement;

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

24                       “(D) vocational training, including services  
25          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-

1       pleting this application at the request of the youth.”;

2 and

3 (B) by striking subsection (b) and insert-

4 ing the following:

5 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible applicants to re-

6 ceive grants under this part, the Secretary shall give pri-

7 ority to entities that have experience in providing to home-

8 less youth shelter and services of the types described in

9 subsection (a)(1).”.

10 SEC. 5. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

11      Section 331 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

12 (34 U.S.C. 11231) is amended by inserting “, online, and

13 social media” after “telephone”.

## 14 SEC. 6. COORDINATING, TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND OTHER

15 **ACTIVITIES.**

16 Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34

17 U.S.C. 11241 et seq.) is amended—

18 (1) in section 341—

19 (A) by inserting “safety, well-being,” after

20 “health,”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking “other

22 Federal entities” and inserting “the Depart-

23                   ment of Housing and Urban Development, the

24 Department of Education, the Department of

25 Labor, and the Department of Justice”;

1 (2) in section 342—

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

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

6 (C) by striking “carrying out” and insert-  
7 ing “implementing in a trauma-informed man-  
8 ner”;

9 (3) in section 343(b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (5)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
12 “abuse” and all that follows through the  
13 semicolon at the end and inserting “abuse,  
14 sexual assault, and trafficking;”;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
16 “abuse” and all that follows through “;  
17 and” and inserting “abuse, sexual assault,  
18 and trafficking;”;

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

21 (iv) by adding at end the following:

22 “(D) best practices for identifying and pro-  
23 viding services that consider the age, gender,  
24 and social and developmental background of an

1 individual, and are culturally and linguistically  
2 appropriate, to the extent practicable, to—

3 “(i) vulnerable and underserved youth  
4 populations; and

5 “(ii) youth who are victims of traf-  
6 ficking; and

7 “(E) informing youth of their status as  
8 independent students under section 480 of the  
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
10 1087vv), providing verification of such status  
11 for the purposes of the Free Application for  
12 Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of  
13 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
14 1090), and assisting youth in completing this  
15 application at the request of the youth;”;

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

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

20 (D) by adding at end the following:

21 “(11) examining the intersection between the  
22 runaway and homeless youth populations and traf-  
23 ficking, including noting whether such youth who are  
24 victims of trafficking were previously involved in the  
25 child welfare system or juvenile justice system.”;



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

3           (5) in section 345—

4               (A) in subsection (a)—

5                   (i) by striking “Not later than” and  
6                   all that follows through “Homelessness”  
7                   and inserting “Not later than 2 years after  
8                   the date of enactment of the Runaway and  
9                   Homeless Youth and Trafficking Preven-  
10                  tion Act of 2023, and at 3-year intervals  
11                  thereafter, the Secretary, acting through  
12                  the Associate Commissioner of the Family  
13                  and Youth Services Bureau”;

14               (ii) in paragraph (1)—

15                   (I) by striking “13” and insert-  
16                   ing “12”; and

17                   (II) by striking “and” after the  
18                   semicolon;

19               (iii) in paragraph (2), by striking the  
20               period at the end and inserting a semi-  
21               colon; and

22               (iv) by adding at end the following:

23                   “(3) that includes demographic information of  
24                   such individuals, including youth who are victims of  
25                   trafficking; and

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

3 (B) in subsection (b)(1)—

4 (i) by striking “13” and inserting  
5 “12”;

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

8 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) in clause (ii), by striking “;  
10 and” and inserting “, including men-  
11 tal health services;”;

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

14 (III) by adding at end the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(iv) connections to caring adults; and

17 “(v) access to secondary education,  
18 higher education, and job training; and”;

19 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph  
20 (B) as subparagraph (E); and

21 (v) by inserting after subparagraph  
22 (A) the following:

23 “(B) incidences, if any, of such individuals  
24 who—

25 “(i) are victims of trafficking;

1 “(ii) are victims of sexual exploitation;

2 or

3 “(iii) were involved in the child wel-

4 fare or foster care system;

5 “(C) demographic characteristics, including

6 race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender

7 identity (as defined in section 249(c) of title 18,

8 United States Code), sexual orientation, and

9 disability;

10 “(D) statistics on youth who are or were

11 pregnant or parenting; and”.

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

13 **PROGRAM; STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM.**

14 Part E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34

15 U.S.C. 11261 et seq.) is amended by striking section 351

16 and inserting the following:

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

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make 5-year

19 grants to public and nonprofit private entities, and com-

20 binations of such entities, for the purpose of providing

21 street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street

22 youth who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being

23 subjected to, sexual abuse or trafficking. The Secretary

24 shall award such grants not later than 90 days before the

1 start date of the grant and establish an appeal process  
2 for grantees.

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

8 “(c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to  
9 receive a grant under subsection (a), an applicant shall  
10 certify to the Secretary that such applicant has expertise  
11 in serving runaway, homeless, and street youth and has  
12 systems in place to ensure that such applicant can provide  
13 services that consider the age, gender, and social and de-  
14 velopmental background of youth described in subsection  
15 (a), and are culturally and linguistically appropriate.”.

16 **SEC. 8. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

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

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

21 (2) in section 381—

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

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

4 (3) in section 382(a)—

5 (A) by striking “2000” and inserting  
6 “2024”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
9 (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C)  
10 through (E), respectively; and

11 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
12 (A) the following:

13 “(B) identifying youth who are victims of  
14 trafficking;”; and

15 (C) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and  
17 inserting the following:

18 “(A) the number and characteristics of  
19 youth served by such projects, including such  
20 youth who—

21 “(i) are victims of trafficking;

22 “(ii) are pregnant or parenting;

23 “(iii) have been involved in the child  
24 welfare system; or

1 “(iv) have been involved in the juve-  
2 nile or adult criminal justice system, the  
3 incarceration system, or legal proceedings  
4 related to such systems;”; and

5 (ii) by striking subparagraph (F) and  
6 inserting the following:

7 “(F) the ability of such projects to encour-  
8 age the resolution of problems within the fam-  
9 ily, including with individuals identified by such  
10 youth as family, through counseling and devel-  
11 opment of self-sufficient living skills; and”;

12 (4) in section 383(a) by striking “facility’s  
13 budget” and inserting “budget of the center or  
14 project”;

15 (5) in section 384, by adding at the end the fol-  
16 lowing: “Grantees are encouraged to share data with  
17 other programs and systems, without identifying in-  
18 dividual youth in any shared records, to improve co-  
19 ordination and maximize the use of resources.”;

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

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

22 “(a) REQUEST FOR RELIEF.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
24 through the Associate Commissioner of the Family  
25 and Youth Services Bureau, may waive any provi-

1 sion under this title for a period of not more than  
2 3 years, unless an extension is granted under para-  
3 graph (6), if—

4 “(A) a potential grantee requests a waiver  
5 that describes 1 or more conflicting or duplica-  
6 tive requirements or circumstances that prevent  
7 the effective delivery of services to runaway and  
8 homeless youth, such as an extraordinary cir-  
9 cumstance, natural disaster, public health emer-  
10 gency, or financial crisis;

11 “(B) the Secretary determines that the  
12 waiver will, by itself, contribute to or enhance  
13 the ability of the grantee to carry out the pur-  
14 poses of this title; and

15 “(C) the Secretary determines that the  
16 waiver will not be inconsistent with the objec-  
17 tives of this title.

18 “(2) CONTENTS.—A request made under para-  
19 graph (1) shall be provided to the Secretary in writ-  
20 ing and shall—

21 “(A) detail each provision within this title  
22 for which the grantee seeks relief;

23 “(B) describe how a waiver from such pro-  
24 vision will, by itself, improve delivery of services  
25 to runaway and homeless youth; and

1           “(C) certify that the health, safety, and  
2           well-being of runaway and homeless youth  
3           served through assistance received under this  
4           title will not be compromised as a result of the  
5           waiver.

6           “(3) NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL OR DIS-  
7           APPROVAL.—Not later than 30 days after the receipt  
8           of a waiver request made under paragraph (1), the  
9           Secretary shall inform the grantee of approval or  
10          disapproval of the request.

11          “(A) DISAPPROVAL.—If the request is dis-  
12          approved, the Secretary shall inform the grant-  
13          ee, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-  
14          ate, and the Committee on Education and the  
15          Workforce of the House of Representatives of  
16          the reasons for the disapproval and give the  
17          grantee the opportunity to amend the request  
18          or appeal the decision.

19          “(B) APPROVAL.—If the request is ap-  
20          proved, the Secretary shall grant a waiver and,  
21          not later than 30 days after granting such  
22          waiver, notify and submit a report to the Com-  
23          mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the  
24          Committee on Education and the Workforce of  
25          the House of Representatives that describes—



1 “(i) each specific provision waived;

2 “(ii) the reason given by the grantee  
3 for the need for a waiver; and

4 “(iii) the expected impact of the waiver  
5 on youth served under this program.

6 “(4) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary  
7 shall not require or impose any new or additional re-  
8 quirements in exchange for receipt of a waiver if  
9 such requirements are not specified in this title.

10 “(5) TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall ter-  
11 minate approval of a request for a waiver authorized  
12 under this subsection if the Secretary determines,  
13 after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the  
14 performance of a grantee who was granted relief  
15 under this subsection has been inadequate, or if such  
16 relief is no longer necessary to achieve its original  
17 purposes.

18 “(6) WAIVER EXTENSION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
20 grant an extension to an existing waiver author-  
21 ized under this subsection for a period of not  
22 more than 1 year upon a request for a waiver  
23 extension from the grantee.

24 “(B) EXTENSION REQUEST.—A request  
25 for a waiver extension described under subpara-

1 graph (A) shall be submitted to the Secretary  
2 not later than 30 days before the expiration  
3 date of the existing waiver, and shall re-certify  
4 the provisions in paragraph (2) and explain the  
5 need for additional time of relief from such pro-  
6 visions provided in this title.

7 “(7) RESTRICTIONS.—Nothing in this title shall  
8 be construed as authorizing the Secretary to permit  
9 a grantee to alter the eligibility requirements for eli-  
10 gible youth. Nothing in this subsection shall be con-  
11 strued as authorizing the Secretary to waive any-  
12 thing related to the Secretary’s authority under this  
13 title.”;

14 (7) in section 386(a)—

15 (A) by striking “3 consecutive” and insert-  
16 ing “5 consecutive” both places it appears;

17 (B) by inserting “, acting through the As-  
18 sociate Commissioner of the Family and Youth  
19 Services Bureau,” after “Secretary”; and

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

22 (8) in section 386A—

23 (A) in subsection (a)—

24 (i) by striking “Reconnecting Home-  
25 less Youth Act of 2008” and inserting

1 “Runaway and Homeless Youth and Traf-  
2 ficking Prevention Act of 2023”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “371,” after “sec-  
4 tions”; and

5 (B) in subsection (c), by inserting “371,”  
6 after “sections”;

7 (9) by inserting after section 386A the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 **“SEC. 386B. NONDISCRIMINATION.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—No person in the United States  
11 shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the bene-  
12 fits of, or be subjected to discrimination under this title  
13 on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion,  
14 national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in section  
15 249(c) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation,  
16 or disability.

17 “(b) EXCEPTION.—If sex-segregation or sex-specific  
18 programming is necessary to the essential operation of a  
19 program, nothing in this section shall prevent any such  
20 program or activity from considering the sex of an indi-  
21 vidual. In such circumstances, grantees may meet the re-  
22 quirements of this section by providing comparable serv-  
23 ices to individuals who cannot participate in the sex-seg-  
24 regated or sex-specific programming.

1       “(c) DISQUALIFICATION.—The Secretary shall en-  
2 force this section pursuant to section 654 of the Head  
3 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9849). The provisions of such section  
4 relating to the procedure for review of an action taken by  
5 the Secretary shall apply.

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

11               (10) in section 387—

12                       (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (4),  
13                       (5), (6), (7), and (8), as paragraphs (9), (6),  
14                       (7), (8), (11), and (13), respectively;

15                       (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) the  
16 following:

17               “(1) CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY AP-  
18 PROPRIATE.—The term ‘culturally and linguistically  
19 appropriate’, with respect to services, has the mean-  
20 ing given the term ‘culturally and linguistically ap-  
21 propriate services’ in the ‘National Standards for  
22 Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in  
23 Health and Health Care’, issued in April 2013, by  
24 the Office of Minority Health of the Department of  
25 Health and Human Services.”;

1 (C) in paragraph (3)(A)—

2 (i) in clause (i), by striking “21” and  
3 inserting “26”; and

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

6 “(ii) for the purposes of part B, not  
7 less than 15 years of age but less than 26  
8 years of age;”;

9 (D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
10 following:

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

18 “(5) PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term ‘pre-  
19 vention services’ means services to prevent youth  
20 from becoming runaway, homeless, or street youth  
21 and may include—

22 “(A) individual, family, group, and peer  
23 counseling;

24 “(B) family mediation;

1                   “(C)        assessing        the        strengths,  
2                   vulnerabilities, and needs of youth;

3                   “(D) connecting youth to public services  
4                   and housing options;

5                   “(E) emergency respite care for clients  
6                   within the allowable age range of the underlying  
7                   grant award, including care that provides par-  
8                   ents and other caregivers with emergency serv-  
9                   ices and temporary shelter that offer relief;

10                  “(F) connecting youth to education and  
11                  employment programs;

12                  “(G) case management and resource navi-  
13                  gation; and

14                  “(H) activities to improve access to local  
15                  mental health and substance use treatment and  
16                  prevention.”;

17                  (E) in paragraph (7)(B), as redesignated  
18                  by subparagraph (A)—

19                       (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-  
20                       ing the use of online methods of engage-  
21                       ment, as appropriate, based on the needs  
22                       of the community and population served”  
23                       after “street youth”; and

24                       (ii) by striking clause (v) and insert-  
25                       ing the following:

1 “(v) advocacy, education, and preven-  
2 tion services related to—

3 “(I) substance use disorder;

4 “(II) trafficking;

5 “(III) sexually transmitted infec-  
6 tions, including human immuno-  
7 deficiency virus;

8 “(IV) violence, including physical  
9 assault, sexual assault, domestic vio-  
10 lence, and gender-based violence; and

11 “(V) suicide.”;

12 (F) in paragraph (8)(B), as redesignated  
13 by subparagraph (A), by striking “prostitution,  
14 or drug abuse” and inserting “trafficking, or  
15 substance use disorder”;

16 (G) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by  
17 subparagraph (A), by striking the paragraph  
18 (9) enumerator and all that follows through  
19 “services—”, and inserting the following:

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

23 (H) by inserting after paragraph (9), as  
24 redesignated by subparagraph (A), the fol-  
25 lowing:

1           “(10) TRAFFICKING.—The term ‘trafficking’  
2           has the meaning given the terms ‘severe forms of  
3           trafficking in persons’ and ‘sex trafficking’ in section  
4           103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of  
5           2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).”;

6           (I) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by  
7           subparagraph (A), by inserting “, to establish  
8           family or community supports,” after “self-suf-  
9           ficient living”;

10           (J) by inserting after paragraph (11), as  
11           redesignated by subparagraph (A), the fol-  
12           lowing:

13           “(12) TRAUMA-INFORMED.—The term ‘trauma-  
14           informed’ has the meaning given the term in section  
15           103 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven-  
16           tion Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11103).”; and

17           (K) in paragraph (13)(B), as redesignated  
18           by subparagraph (A)—

19           (i) in clause (ii)—

20                   (I) by inserting “or able” after  
21                   “willing”; and

22                   (II) by striking “or” after the  
23                   semicolon;

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



1 (iii) by adding at end the following:

2 “(iv) who is involved in the child wel-  
3 fare system, juvenile justice system, or  
4 criminal justice system, but who is not  
5 being housed by any such system.”.

6 **SEC. 9. PREVENTION SERVICES.**

7 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34 U.S.C.  
8 11201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after part E the  
9 following:

10 **“PART F—PREVENTION SERVICES**

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

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to  
13 make 5-year grants to an eligible entity, as described  
14 under subsection (c), that applies for an optional, addi-  
15 tional prevention services grant. Any funds provided under  
16 this part are in addition to other funds grantees receive  
17 under other parts in this title.

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

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

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

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

6           “(1) the potential grantee shall—

7                   “(A) be a successful basic center program  
8                   or transitional living program, which may in-  
9                   clude a program that operates a maternity  
10                  group home, that wants to establish, strength-  
11                  en, or provide prevention services for youth at  
12                  risk of homelessness and youth at risk of run-  
13                  ning away; and

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

17           “(2) the potential grantee shall certify to the  
18           Secretary that such grantee has systems in place to  
19           provide services to youth described in subsection (a)  
20           that consider the age, gender, and social and devel-  
21           opmental background of such youth, and are cul-  
22           turally and linguistically appropriate.”.

23   **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

2 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to  
3 be appropriated to carry out this title (other than  
4 part E and F) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2024,  
5 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fis-  
6 cal years 2025 through 2028.

7 “(2) ALLOCATION.—

8 “(A) PARTS A AND B.—From the amount  
9 appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal  
10 year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than  
11 90 percent to carry out parts A and B.

12 “(B) PART B.—Of the amount reserved  
13 under subparagraph (A), 45 percent and, in  
14 those fiscal years in which continuation grant  
15 obligations and the quality and number of ap-  
16 plicants for parts A and B warrant not more  
17 than 55 percent, shall be reserved to carry out  
18 part B.

19 “(3) PARTS C AND D.—

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

1                   “(B) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Of the  
2                   amount authorized to be appropriated under  
3                   paragraph (1), \$2,000,000 shall be made avail-  
4                   able to carry out section 345 for each of fiscal  
5                   years 2024, 2026, and 2028.

6                   “(4) PART E.—There are authorized to be ap-  
7                   propriated to carry out part E \$50,000,000 for fis-  
8                   cal year 2024, and such sums as may be necessary  
9                   for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2028.

10                  “(5) PART F.—There are authorized to be ap-  
11                  propriated to carry out part F \$67,500,000 for fis-  
12                  cal year 2024, and such sums as may be necessary  
13                  for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2028.”.

14   **SEC. 11. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.**

15       The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34 U.S.C.  
16 11201 et seq.) is amended by adding at end the following:

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

18       “(a) IN GENERAL.—An application by a public or  
19 private nonprofit entity for a grant under section 311,  
20 321, or 351, may be approved by the Secretary for an  
21 amount for a fiscal year that is—

22                  “(1) not less than \$225,000 and not more than  
23                  \$275,000 if the amount appropriated to carry out  
24                  this title (other than parts E and F) for the fiscal  
25                  year is equal to or greater than \$200,000,000; or

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

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