

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To establish a National Child Abuse Hotline.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**A BILL**

To establish a National Child Abuse Hotline.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Child Abuse  
5 Help Hotline Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
9 retary”) may award a grant to a nonprofit entity to pro-  
10 vide for the establishment and ongoing operation of a Na-  
11 tional Child Abuse Hotline, which shall provide a 24-hour,  
12 national, toll-free telephone hotline to improve capacity for

1 the provision of crisis intervention, assistance, and infor-  
2 mation services with respect to child abuse or neglect, to  
3 victims of child abuse or neglect, and to parents, care-  
4 givers, mandated reporters, and other concerned commu-  
5 nity members, including through implementation of other  
6 communication technologies to improve access for such  
7 victims and other individuals.

8 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive the grant  
9 under subsection (a), an entity shall have experience in  
10 operating a hotline that provides information and assist-  
11 ance to victims of child abuse or neglect, and to parents,  
12 caregivers, and mandated reporters.

13 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
14 under subsection (a), a nonprofit entity shall submit an  
15 application to the Secretary, at such time and in such  
16 manner as the Secretary may require, and containing—

17 (1) a complete description of the entity's plan  
18 for the operation of a national child abuse hotline,  
19 including descriptions of—

20 (A) the professional development program  
21 for hotline personnel, including technology pro-  
22 fessional development to ensure that all individ-  
23 uals affiliated with the hotline are able to effec-  
24 tively operate any technological systems used by  
25 the hotline;

1 (B) the qualifications for hotline personnel;

2 (C) the methods for the creation, maintenance,  
3 and updating of a resource database;

4 (D) a plan for publicizing the availability  
5 of the hotline throughout the United States;

6 (E) a plan for providing service to non-  
7 English speaking callers, including service  
8 through hotline personnel who have non-English  
9 language capability;

10 (F) a plan for facilitating access to the  
11 hotline and alternative modality services by in-  
12 dividuals with hearing impairments and disabili-  
13 ties;

14 (G) a plan for providing crisis counseling,  
15 general assistance, and referrals to youth vic-  
16 tims of child abuse; and

17 (H) a plan for utilizing available commu-  
18 nications technologies other than the telephone  
19 hotline, as appropriate, such as texting or live  
20 chat;

21 (2) information to demonstrate that the enti-  
22 ty—

23 (A) has the capacity and the expertise to  
24 maintain a child abuse and neglect hotline;

1           (B) has the ability to provide information  
2           and referrals for contacts, directly connect con-  
3           tacts to such service providers, and employ cri-  
4           sis interventions; and

5           (C) complies with Federal privacy laws and  
6           has established quality assurance practices; and

7           (3) such other information, assurances, and  
8           agreements as the Secretary may require.

9           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For pur-  
10          poses of carrying out this section, there are authorized to  
11          be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
12          through 2025.