

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation,
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 “Preventing Child Sex
5 Abuse Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 The sense of Congress is the following:

8 (1) The safety of children should be a top pri-
9 ority for public officials and communities in the
10 United States.

1 (2) According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest Na-
2 tional Network, an individual in the United States is
3 sexually assaulted every 68 seconds. And every 9
4 minutes, that victim is a child. Meanwhile, only 25
5 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in pris-
6 on.

7 (3) The effects of child sexual abuse can be
8 long-lasting and affect the victim's mental health.

9 (4) Victims are more likely than non-victims to
10 experience the following mental health challenges:

11 (A) Victims are about 4 times more likely
12 to develop symptoms of drug abuse.

13 (B) Victims are about 4 times more likely
14 to experience post-traumatic stress disorder as
15 adults.

16 (C) Victims are about 3 times more likely
17 to experience a major depressive episode as
18 adults.

19 (5) The criminal justice system should and has
20 acted as an important line of defense to protect chil-
21 dren and hold perpetrators accountable.

22 (6) However, the horrific crimes perpetuated by
23 Larry Nassar demonstrate firsthand the loopholes
24 that still exist in the criminal justice system. While
25 Larry Nassar was found guilty of several State-level

1 offenses, he was not charged Federally for his illicit
2 sexual contact with minors, despite crossing State
3 and international borders to commit this conduct.

4 (7) The Department of Justice has also identi-
5 fied a growing trend of Americans who use chari-
6 table or missionary work in a foreign country as a
7 cover for sexual abuse of children.

8 (8) It is the intent of Congress to prohibit
9 Americans from engaging in sexual abuse or exploi-
10 tation of minors under the guise of work, including
11 volunteer work, with an organization that affects
12 interstate or foreign commerce, such as an inter-
13 national charity.

14 (9) Child sexual abuse does not require physical
15 contact between the abuser and the child. This is es-
16 pecially true as perpetrators turn increasingly to
17 internet platforms, online chat rooms, and webcams
18 to commit child sexual abuse.

19 (10) However, a decision of the United States
20 Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit found the
21 use of a webcam to engage in sexually provocative
22 activity with a minor did not qualify as “sexual ac-
23 tivity”.

24 (11) Congress can address this issue by amend-
25 ing the definition of the term “sexual activity” to

1 clarify that it does not require interpersonal, phys-
2 ical contact.

3 (12) It is the duty of Congress to provide clear-
4 er guidance to ensure that those who commit crimes
5 against children are prosecuted to the fullest extent
6 of the law.

7 **SEC. 3. INTERSTATE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.**

8 Section 2423 of title 18, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “with a moti-
11 vating purpose of engaging in any illicit sexual con-
12 duct with another person” and inserting “with in-
13 tent to engage in any illicit sexual conduct with an-
14 other person”;

15 (2) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f),
16 and (g) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (i), respec-
17 tively;

18 (3) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
19 striking “with a motivating purpose of engaging in
20 any illicit sexual conduct” and inserting “with intent
21 to engage in any illicit sexual conduct”; and

22 (4) by inserting after subsection (g), as so re-
23 designated, the following:

24 “(h) DEFINITION OF INTENT.—As used in sub-
25 sections (b) and (e), the term ‘intent’ means that an indi-

1 vidual has the intention to engage in illicit sexual conduct
2 at the time of the travel. This intention need not be a
3 primary, significant, dominant, or motivating purpose of
4 the travel.”.

5 **SEC. 4. ABUSE UNDER THE GUISE OF CHARITY.**

6 Section 2423 of title 18, United States Code, as
7 amended by section 3 of this Act, is amended—

8 (1) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(d) ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT IN CONNECTION
11 WITH CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS.—Any citizen of the
12 United States or alien admitted for permanent residence
13 who—

14 “(1) is an officer, director, employee, or agent
15 of an organization that affects interstate or foreign
16 commerce;

17 “(2) makes use of the mails or any means or
18 instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce
19 through the connection or affiliation of the person
20 with such organization; and

21 “(3) commits an act in furtherance of illicit sex-
22 ual conduct through the connection or affiliation of
23 the person with such organization,

24 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more
25 than 30 years, or both.”;

1 (2) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by
2 striking “or (d)” and inserting “(d), or (e)”; and
3 (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by
4 striking “(f)(2)” and inserting “(g)(2)”.

5 **SEC. 5. SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH MINORS.**

6 Section 2427 of title 18, United States Code, is
7 amended by inserting “does not require interpersonal
8 physical contact, and” before “includes”.