

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R.** _____

To provide incentives for States to eliminate statutes of limitation related to child sexual abuse, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide incentives for States to eliminate statutes of limitation related to child sexual abuse, 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 “No Time Limit for
5 Justice Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the Children’s Bureau of the
2 Administration on Children, Youth and Families of
3 the Department of Health and Human Services,
4 every 9 minutes, a child is sexually assaulted in the
5 United States, and 93 percent of victims know the
6 perpetrator, who is often related to the victim.

7 (2) Child sexual abuse can have a serious im-
8 pact on the physical and mental health of victims,
9 who often experience post-traumatic stress disorder,
10 shame, guilt, anxiety, and depression.

11 (3) A study from the National Institutes of
12 Health found that between 60 and 80 percent of vic-
13 tims of childhood sexual abuse wait until adulthood
14 to disclose their abuse.

15 (4) Due to the especially heinous nature of
16 child sexual abuse, it is imperative that perpetrators
17 of this crime are punished and prevented from re-
18 offending, and that victims have the opportunity to
19 see their abusers brought to justice.

20 (5) Statutes of limitations for felony sex crimes
21 against minors differ by State, and some end as lit-
22 tle as 3 years after the crime occurred, even for
23 crimes like production of child sexual abuse imagery.
24 For victims, statutes of limitations can hinder their

1 ability to seek justice and hold their perpetrator ac-
2 countable.

3 **SEC. 3. INCREASED FUNDING FOR GRANTS AUTHORIZED**
4 **UNDER STOP GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall in-
6 crease the amount provided to a State under a covered
7 grant program in accordance with subsection (b) if—

8 (1) child sexual abuse criminal offenses under
9 the laws of the State are not subject to a statute of
10 limitations; and

11 (2) civil actions authorizing damages for victims
12 of child sexual abuse under the laws of the State are
13 not subject to a statute of limitations.

14 (b) GRANT INCREASE.—The amount of the increase
15 provided to a State under the covered formula grant under
16 this section shall be equal to not more than 5 percent of
17 the average of the total amount of funding provided to
18 the State under the covered formula grant under the 3
19 most recent awards to the State.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of
22 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) The term “sexual abuse” has the meaning
2 given the term under section 111(a)(4) of the Child
3 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5106g(a)(4)).

5 (2) The term “covered grant program” means
6 a grant under part T of title I of the Omnibus
7 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34
8 U.S.C. 10441 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the
9 “STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant
10 Program”).