

HR 1998

HERO Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Apr 23, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (May 15, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1998>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]

Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]	R · ND		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Murphy, Patrick [D-FL-18]	D · FL		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Apr 23, 2015
Resident Commissioner Pierluisi, Pedro R. [D-PR-At Large]	D · PR		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Jun 1, 2015
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jun 1, 2015
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jul 13, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jul 13, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2015
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 178	Related bill	May 29, 2015: Became Public Law No: 114-22.
114 S 575	Related bill	Feb 25, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Human Exploitation Rescue Operations Act of 2015 or the HERO Act of 2015

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to operate, within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a Cyber Crimes Center to provide investigative assistance, training, and equipment to support domestic and international investigations by ICE of cyber-related crimes.

Within the Cyber Crimes Center, DHS shall operate a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, which shall:

- coordinate all ICE child exploitation initiatives, including investigations into child exploitation, child pornography, child victim identification, traveling child sex offenders, and forced child labor, including the sexual exploitation of minors;
- focus on child exploitation prevention, investigative capacity building, enforcement operations, and training for law enforcement personnel;
- provide training and technical expertise to cooperating law enforcement agencies and personnel;
- provide psychological support and counseling services for ICE personnel engaged in child exploitation prevention initiatives;
- collaborate with the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Association to Protect Children to recruit, train, equip, and hire wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program;
- collaborate with other governmental and nongovernmental entities for the sponsorship of, and participation in, outreach and training activities; and
- collect and maintain data on the total number of suspects identified by ICE, the number of arrests and cases opened for investigation by ICE, and the number of cases resulting in prosecution and report on such data.

DHS shall operate, within the Cyber Crimes Center, a Computer Forensics Unit (CFU). The CFU is directed to: (1) provide training and technical support in digital forensics to ICE personnel and other law enforcement personnel investigating crimes; (2) provide computer hardware, software, and forensic licenses for all computer forensics personnel within ICE; (3) participate in research and development in the area of digital forensics; and (4) collaborate with DOD and the National Association to Protect Children to recruit, train, equip, and hire wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program.

DHS shall also operate, within the Cyber Crimes Center, a Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU). The CCU shall: (1) oversee the cyber security strategy and cyber-related operations and programs for ICE, (2) enhance the ability of ICE to combat criminal enterprises operating on or through the Internet, (3) provide training and technical support in cyber investigations to ICE personnel and other law enforcement personnel, (4) participate in research and development in the area of cyber investigations, and (5) recruit participants in the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program for investigative and forensic positions.

Congress declares that Homeland Security Investigations of ICE should hire, recruit, train, and equipment wounded, ill, or injured military veterans who are affiliated with the HERO Child Rescue Corps program for investigative, intelligence, analyst, and forensic positions.

The bill further amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to expand the purposes of the DHS Acceleration Fund for Research and Development of Homeland Security Technologies to include conducting research and development to advance technology for the investigation of child exploitation crimes, including child victim identification, trafficking in

persons, child pornography, and for advanced forensics.

Actions Timeline

- **May 15, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.
- **May 15, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies.
- **May 15, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Apr 23, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 23, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.