

## S 3279

### Vulnerable Children and Families Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Jul 14, 2016

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Jul 14, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3279>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** MO • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Sep 12, 2016
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Sep 26, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 14, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Vulnerable Children and Families Act of 2016

This bill redesignates the Office of Children's Issues of the Department of State as the Office of Vulnerable Children and Family Security (VCFS).

The President shall appoint an Ambassador-at-Large to promote: (1) oversight of the VCFS; (2) the implementation in foreign countries of child welfare laws and policies in keeping with the goals of the United States Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity; and (3) addressing the gap in U.S. diplomacy, policy, and operations regarding permanent family care for children living without families.

The Ambassador-at-Large shall: (1) advise the State Department and the President about vulnerable children and family security in foreign countries; (2) represent the United States regarding international child welfare, family preservation and reunification, and provision of permanent, safe parental care; (3) develop related policies and programs; and (4) submit an annual report on implementation of such action plan.

The bill provides the VCFS with lead responsibility for: (1) representing the U.S. government regarding intercountry adoptions, and (2) determining whether a country has met its obligations under the Hague Convention of Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption and is eligible to participate in intercountry adoptions in accordance with U.S. law.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended to: (1) include in the annual country reports on human rights practices information on the conditions of children living in orphanages and group homes, and (2) repeal certain provisions providing assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Center of Excellence on Children in Adversity shall work with the Ambassador-at-Large to ensure that U.S. assistance and development programs are focused on:

- child development through the integration of health, nutrition, and family support;
- facilitating government efforts to protect children from violence, exploitation, and neglect;
- building integrated child welfare and protection systems; and
- integrating this plan with U.S. government agencies.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 14, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.