

## S 1178

### Vulnerable Children and Families Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** May 18, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (May 18, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1178>

## Sponsor

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

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

## Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		May 18, 2017
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		May 18, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 18, 2017
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		May 18, 2017
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		May 18, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 18, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 18, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 18, 2017
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		May 18, 2017

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 18, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

International Affairs

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2532	Identical bill	May 18, 2017: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## **Vulnerable Children and Families Act of 2017**

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 Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children 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 such objectives with U.S. government agencies.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 18, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 18, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.