

S 4926

Respect for Child Survivors Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Sep 22, 2022

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 117-354.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 117-354. (Jan 5, 2023)

Law: 117-354 (Enacted Jan 5, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4926>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 22, 2022
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Sep 22, 2022
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Sep 22, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 14, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7419	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
117 HR 9043	Identical bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
117 S 3975	Related bill	Mar 31, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Respect for Child Survivors Act

This act requires the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to use a multidisciplinary team with investigations of child abuse and related crimes. The act also reauthorizes grants for children's advocacy centers (CACs). CACs use a multidisciplinary response to coordinate the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases.

(Sec. 2) This section requires the FBI to use a multidisciplinary team with any investigation of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking. The FBI must also use a trained child adolescent forensic interviewer in these investigations. These requirements do not apply if a multidisciplinary team or an interviewer is unavailable or is otherwise inconsistent with applicable federal law.

In implementing these requirements, the FBI must use and coordinate with multidisciplinary teams based at CACs.

(Sec. 3) This section modifies and reauthorizes through FY2028 grants for regional and local CACs, as well as for technical assistance and training. Grants for CACs are administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the Department of Justice.

It adds a finding stating that a key to a child victim healing from abuse is access to supportive and healthy families and communities.

The section modifies grant provisions for regional CACs, including by

- directing the OJJDP to maintain (in addition to establish) regional CACs;
- adding, as a new program objective, the provision of technical assistance, training, coordination, and organizational capacity support for state chapters; and
- requiring the OJJDP to consider, as an additional selection criteria, proposals for regional CACs that best result in supporting state chapters.

The section also modifies grant provisions for local CACs, including by adding as new grant purposes (1) the establishment and maintenance of a network of care for child abuse victims, and (2) the development and dissemination of practice standards for care and best practices in program evaluation.

Finally, the section modifies the criteria that the OJJDP may use to evaluate local CAC programs.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 5, 2023:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 5, 2023:** Became Public Law No: 117-354.
- **Dec 28, 2022:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Mr. Nadler moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9927-9931)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 4926.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H9976-9977)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 385 - 28 (Roll no. 534).(text: CR H9927-9929)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 385 - 28 (Roll no. 534). (text: CR H9927-9929)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 13, 2022:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 13, 2022:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7149)
- **Dec 13, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S7146-7147)
- **Dec 13, 2022:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S7146-7147)
- **Sep 22, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 22, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.