

HR 2735

Strengthening Child Exploitation Enforcement Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Apr 8, 2025

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Apr 8, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2735>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Nehls, Troy E. [R-TX-22]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Davis, Donald G. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		Apr 8, 2025
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Apr 8, 2025
Rep. Moore, Barry [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Apr 8, 2025
Rep. Tiffany, Thomas P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Apr 8, 2025
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Jun 17, 2025
Rep. Vindman, Eugene Simon [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Aug 12, 2025
Rep. Gillen, Laura [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Oct 10, 2025
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Feb 9, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 8, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 1333	Related bill	Oct 10, 2025: Held at the desk.

Strengthening Child Exploitation Enforcement Act

This bill makes changes to federal criminal laws related to various offenses, particularly sexual abuse offenses against minors.

The bill revises the federal kidnapping statute by specifying that obtaining a victim by defrauding or deceiving a third party constitutes the offense of kidnapping. Additionally, for a kidnapping offense that involves a victim who has not attained the age of 16, the bill specifies that it is not a defense that the victim consented to the conduct of the offender, unless the offender establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the offender reasonably believed that the victim had attained the age of 16.

The bill also revises statutes related to sexual abuse offenses against minors to specify the following:

- that crossing international lines with the intent to engage in a sexual act with a child who has not attained the age of 12 constitutes aggravated sexual abuse (currently, the statute only references crossing state lines),
- that the offense of sexual abuse of a minor also includes knowingly causing the intentional touching of any person by a person who has not attained the age of 16, and
- that attempting to commit abusive sexual contact is also a crime that is subject to the same penalty as the completed offense.

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