AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54

OFFERED BY MR. COSTA OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of title LVIII of division E the following:

1 SEC. _____. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

2 The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) is amended—

3 (1) in section 211 (34 U.S.C. 20301)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “3,300,000” and inserting “3,400,000”; and

6 (ii) by striking “, and drug abuse is associated with a significant portion of these”;

7 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), respectively;

8 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

9 
“(3) a key to a child victim healing from abuse is access to supportive and healthy families and communities;”; and

(D) in paragraph (9)(B), as so redesignated, by inserting “, and operations of centers” before the period at the end;

(2) in section 212 (34 U.S.C. 20302)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by inserting “coordinated team” before “response”; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by inserting “organizational capacity” before “support”;

(3) in section 213 (34 U.S.C. 20303)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting “AND MAINTENANCE” after “ESTABLISHMENT”; and

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,”; and

(II) by inserting “and maintain” after “establish”; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking “and victim advocates” and inserting “victim advoca-
cates, multidisciplinary team leadership, and children’s advocacy center staff”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(iv) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(v) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) provide technical assistance, training, coordination, and organizational capacity support for State chapters; and”; and

(vi) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking “and oversight to” and inserting “organizational capacity support, and oversight of”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and maintain” after “establish”; and

(II) in the matter following subparagraph (B), by striking “and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing” and inserting “training and technical assistance to aid com-
munities in establishing and maintain-

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A)—

(aa) in clause (ii), by insert-
ing “Center” after “Advocacy”; and

(bb) in clause (iii), by strik-
ing “of, assessment of, and inter-
vention in” and inserting “and
intervention in child”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by
striking “centers and interested com-
munities” and inserting “centers, in-
terested communities, and chapters”; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by
striking “evaluation, intervention, evi-
dence gathering, and counseling” and
inserting “investigation and interven-
tion in child abuse”; and

(II) in subparagraph (E), by
striking “judicial handling of child
abuse and neglect’’ and inserting
“multidisciplinary response to child
abuse’’;
(ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking
“so that communities can establish multi-
disciplinary programs that respond to child
abuse’’ and inserting “and chapters so that
communities can establish and maintain
multidisciplinary programs that respond to
child abuse and chapters can establish and
maintain children’s advocacy centers in
their State’’;
(iii) in paragraph (4)(B)—
(I) in clause (iii), by striking
“and” at the end;
(II) in by redesignating clause
(iv) as clause (v); and
(III) by inserting after clause
(iii) the following:
“(iv) best result in supporting chap-
ters in each State; and’’; and
(iv) in paragraph (6), by inserting
“under this Act” after “recipients”;
(4) in section 214 (34 U.S.C. 20304)—
(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall make grants to—

“(1) establish and maintain a network of care for child abuse victims where investigation, prosecutions, and interventions are continually occurring and coordinating activities within local children’s advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

“(2) develop, enhance, and coordinate multidisciplinary child abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecution activities;

“(3) promote the effective delivery of the evidence-based, trauma-informed Children’s Advocacy Center Model and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse; and

“(4) develop and disseminate practice standards for care and best practices in programmatic evaluation, and support State chapter organizational capacity and local children’s advocacy center organizational capacity and operations in order to meet such practice standards and best practices.”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,”;
(C) in subsection (e)(2)—

   (i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
   “to the greatest extent practicable, but in
   no case later than 72 hours,” after
   “hours”; and

   (ii) by striking subparagraphs (D)
   through (I) and inserting the following:
   “(D) Forensic interviews of child victims
   by trained personnel that are used by law en-
   forcement, health, and child protective service
   agencies to interview suspected abuse victims
   about allegations of abuse.

   “(E) Provision of needed follow up services
   such as medical care, mental healthcare, and
   victims advocacy services.

   “(F) A requirement that, to the extent
   practicable, all interviews and meetings with a
   child victim occur at the children’s advocacy
   center or an agency with which there is a link-
   age agreement regarding the delivery of multi-
   disciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecu-
   tion, and intervention services.

   “(G) Coordination of each step of the in-
   vestigation process to eliminate duplicative fo-
   rensic interviews with a child victim.
“(H) Designation of a director for the children’s advocacy center.

“(I) Designation of a multidisciplinary team coordinator.

“(J) Assignment of a volunteer or staff advocate to each child in order to assist the child and, when appropriate, the child’s family, throughout each step of intervention and judicial proceedings.

“(K) Coordination with State chapters to assist and provide oversight, and organizational capacity that supports local children’s advocacy centers, multidisciplinary teams, and communities working to implement a multidisciplinary response to child abuse in the provision of evidence-informed initiatives, including mental health counseling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination, and victim advocacy.

“(L) Such other criteria as the Administrator shall establish by regulation.”; and

(D) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In award-
ing grants under this section, the Administrator shall en-
sure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State
chapters to enable State chapters to provide oversight,
training, and technical assistance to local centers on evi-
dence-informed initiatives including mental health, coun-
seling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team co-
ordination, and victim advocacy.”;

(5) in section 214A (34 U.S.C. 20305)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “at-
torneys and other allied” and inserting
“prosecutors and other attorneys and al-
lied”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting
“Center” after “Advocacy”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking sub-
paragraph (A) and inserting the following:
“(A) a significant connection to prosecu-
tors who handle child abuse cases in State
courts, such as a membership organization or
support service providers; and”; and

(6) by striking section 214B (34 U.S.C. 20306)
and inserting the following:
SEC. 214B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

‘‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 213, 214, and 214A, $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2029.’’