

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

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OFFERED BY MR. COSTA OF CALIFORNIA

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

1 **SEC. ____ . IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECU-**
2 **TION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.**

3 The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C.
4 20301 et seq.) is amended—

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

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) by striking “3,300,000” and in-
8 sserting “3,400,000”; and

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

12 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
13 through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), re-
14 spectively;

15 (C) by inserting afer paragraph (2) the fol-
16 lowing:

1 “(3) a key to a child victim healing from abuse
2 is access to supportive and healthy families and com-
3 munities;”; and

4 (D) in paragraph (9)(B), as so redesign-
5 ated, by inserting “, and operations of cen-
6 ters” before the period at the end;

7 (2) in section 212 (34 U.S.C. 20302)—

8 (A) in paragraph (5), by inserting “coordi-
9 nated team” before “response”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (8), by inserting “organi-
11 zational capacity” before “support”;

12 (3) in section 213 (34 U.S.C. 20303)—

13 (A) in subsection (a)—

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

16 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph
17 (1)—

18 (I) by striking “, in coordination
19 with the Director of the Office of Vic-
20 tims of Crime,”; and

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

23 (iii) in paragraph (3)—

24 (I) by striking “and victim advo-
25 cates” and inserting “victim advo-

1 cates, multidisciplinary team leader-
2 ship, and children’s advocacy center
3 staff”; and

4 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
5 (iv) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
6 paragraph (5);

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

9 “(4) provide technical assistance, training, co-
10 ordination, and organizational capacity support for
11 State chapters; and”; and

12 (vi) in paragraph (5), as so redesign-
13 ated, by striking “and oversight to” and
14 inserting “organizational capacity support,
15 and oversight of”;

16 (B) in subsection (b)—

17 (i) in paragraph (1)—

18 (I) in subparagraph (A), by in-
19 serting “and maintain” after “estab-
20 lish”; and

21 (II) in the matter following sub-
22 paragraph (B), by striking “and tech-
23 nical assistance to aid communities in
24 establishing” and inserting “training
25 and technical assistance to aid com-

1 communities in establishing and maintain-
2 ing”; and

3 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

4 (I) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

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

17 (C) in subsection (c)—

18 (i) in paragraph (2)—

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

24 (II) in subparagraph (E), by
25 striking “judicial handling of child

1 abuse and neglect” and inserting
2 “multidisciplinary response to child
3 abuse”;

4 (ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking
5 “so that communities can establish multi-
6 disciplinary programs that respond to child
7 abuse” and inserting “and chapters so that
8 communities can establish and maintain
9 multidisciplinary programs that respond to
10 child abuse and chapters can establish and
11 maintain children’s advocacy centers in
12 their State”;

13 (iii) in paragraph (4)(B)—

14 (I) in clause (iii), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (II) in by redesignating clause
17 (iv) as clause (v); and

18 (III) by inserting after clause
19 (iii) the following:

20 “(iv) best result in supporting chap-
21 ters in each State; and”;

22 (iv) in paragraph (6), by inserting
23 “under this Act” after “recipients”;

24 (4) in section 214 (34 U.S.C. 20304)—

1 (A) by striking subsection (a) and insert-
2 ing the following:

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

5 “(1) establish and maintain a network of care
6 for child abuse victims where investigation, prosecu-
7 tions, and interventions are continually occurring
8 and coordinating activities within local children’s ad-
9 vocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

10 “(2) develop, enhance, and coordinate multi-
11 disciplinary child abuse investigations, intervention,
12 and prosecution activities;

13 “(3) promote the effective delivery of the evi-
14 dence-based, trauma-informed Children’s Advocacy
15 Center Model and the multidisciplinary response to
16 child abuse; and

17 “(4) develop and disseminate practice standards
18 for care and best practices in programmatic evalua-
19 tion, and support State chapter organizational ca-
20 pacity and local children’s advocacy center organiza-
21 tional capacity and operations in order to meet such
22 practice standards and best practices.”;

23 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “, in co-
24 ordination with the Director of the Office of
25 Victims of Crime,”;

1 (C) in subsection (c)(2)—

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

6 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (D)
7 through (I) and inserting the following:

8 “(D) Forensic interviews of child victims
9 by trained personnel that are used by law en-
10 forcement, health, and child protective service
11 agencies to interview suspected abuse victims
12 about allegations of abuse.

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

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

23 “(G) Coordination of each step of the in-
24 vestigation process to eliminate duplicative fo-
25 rensic interviews with a child victim.

1 “(H) Designation of a director for the chil-
2 dren’s advocacy center.

3 “(I) Designation of a multidisciplinary
4 team coordinator.

5 “(J) Assignment of a volunteer or staff ad-
6 vocate to each child in order to assist the child
7 and, when appropriate, the child’s family,
8 throughout each step of intervention and judi-
9 cial proceedings.

10 “(K) Coordination with State chapters to
11 assist and provide oversight, and organizational
12 capacity that supports local children’s advocacy
13 centers, multidisciplinary teams, and commu-
14 nities working to implement a multidisciplinary
15 response to child abuse in the provision of evi-
16 dence-informed initiatives, including mental
17 health counseling, forensic interviewing, multi-
18 disciplinary team coordination, and victim advo-
19 cacy.

20 “(L) Such other criteria as the Adminis-
21 trator shall establish by regulation.”; and

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

24 “(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE
25 TO LOCAL CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In award-

1 ing grants under this section, the Administrator shall en-
2 sure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State
3 chapters to enable State chapters to provide oversight,
4 training, and technical assistance to local centers on evi-
5 dence-informed initiatives including mental health, coun-
6 seling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team co-
7 ordination, and victim advocacy.”;

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

9 (A) in subsection (a)—

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

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

16 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking sub-
17 paragraph (A) and inserting the following:

18 “(A) a significant connection to prosecu-
19 tors who handle child abuse cases in State
20 courts, such as a membership organization or
21 support service providers; and”;

22 (6) by striking section 214B (34 U.S.C. 20306)
23 and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 214B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 sections 213, 214, and 214A, \$40,000,000 for each of fis-
4 cal years 2023 through 2029.”.

