

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4426

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Received, read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Homeland Security
3 for Children Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND
5 SECURITY.**

6 Section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
7 (6 U.S.C. 112) is amended by adding at the end of the
8 following new subsection:

9 “(h) **PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary
10 shall ensure the head of each office and component of the
11 Department takes into account the needs of children, in-
12 cluding children within under-served communities, in mis-
13 sion planning and mission execution. In furtherance of
14 this subsection, the Secretary shall require each such head
15 to seek, to the extent practicable, advice and feedback
16 from organizations representing the needs of children. The
17 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
18 apply whenever such advice or feedback is sought in ac-
19 cordance with this subsection.”.

20 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL EXPERT AUTHORIZED.**

21 Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Se-
22 curity Act (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” at
24 the end;

25 (2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period
26 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 paragraph:

3 “(I) identify, integrate, and implement the
4 needs of children, including children within
5 under-served communities, into activities to pre-
6 pare for, protect against, respond to, recover
7 from, and mitigate against the risk of natural
8 disasters, acts of terrorism, and other disasters,
9 including catastrophic incidents, including by
10 appointing a technical expert, who may consult
11 with relevant outside organizations and experts,
12 as necessary, to coordinate such integration, as
13 necessary.”.

14 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

15 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years,
17 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the
18 Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on
19 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
21 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report describ-
22 ing the efforts the Department has undertaken to review
23 and incorporate feedback from organizations representing
24 the needs of children, including children within under-
25 served communities, into Department policy in accordance

1 with subsection (h) of section 102 of the Homeland Secu-
2 rity Act of 2002 (as amended by section 2 of this Act),
3 including information on the following:

4 (1) The designation of any individual respon-
5 sible for carrying out such subsection (h).

6 (2) Any review, formal or informal, of Depart-
7 ment policies, programs, or activities to assess the
8 suitability of such policies, programs, or activities
9 for children and where feedback from organizations
10 representing the needs of children should be re-
11 viewed and incorporated.

12 (3) Any review, change, modification, or pro-
13 mulgation of Department policies, programs, or ac-
14 tivities to ensure that such policies, programs, or ac-
15 tivities are appropriate for children.

16 (4) Coordination with organizations or experts
17 outside the Department pursuant to such subsection
18 (h) conducted to inform any such review, change,
19 modification, or promulgation of such policies, pro-
20 grams, or activities.

Passed the House of Representatives September 29,
2021.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk.