

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish an interagency working group to study Federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and to make recommendations on the harmonization of those efforts, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish an interagency working group to study Federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and to make recommendations on the harmonization of those efforts, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improve Data on Sex-
5 ual Violence Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FED-**
2 **ERAL EFFORTS TO COLLECT DATA ON SEX-**
3 **UAL VIOLENCE.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

5 (1) the term “harmonize” includes coordinating
6 the collection of data on sexual violence by Federal
7 agencies to produce complementary information, as
8 appropriate, without compromising programmatic
9 needs;

10 (2) the term “sexual violence” includes any un-
11 wanted sexual act, regardless of whether the act in-
12 volves physical contact, about which the Federal
13 Government collects data; and

14 (3) the term “Working Group” means the
15 interagency working group established by the Direc-
16 tor of the Office of Management and Budget under
17 subsection (b).

18 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-
20 fice of Management and Budget shall establish an inter-
21 agency working group to—

22 (1) study Federal efforts to collect data on sex-
23 ual violence; and

24 (2) make recommendations on the harmoni-
25 zation of Federal efforts to collect data on sexual vi-
26 olence.

1 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be
2 composed of not less than 1 representative, who shall be
3 selected by the head of the Federal agency of which the
4 representative is a representative, from each of the fol-
5 lowing Federal agencies:

6 (1) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
7 vention.

8 (2) The Department of Defense.

9 (3) The Department of Education.

10 (4) The Department of Health and Human
11 Services.

12 (5) The Department of Justice.

13 (d) DUTIES.—In carrying out the purposes of the
14 Working Group described in subsection (b), the Working
15 Group shall—

16 (1) consider—

17 (A) what acts constitute different acts of
18 sexual violence;

19 (B) whether Federal reports that use the
20 same terms for acts of sexual violence are col-
21 lecting the same data on those acts;

22 (C) whether the context in which an act of
23 sexual violence occurs should impact how that
24 act is accounted for in a Federal report;

1 (D) whether the data collected is presented
2 in a way that allows the general public to un-
3 derstand what acts of sexual violence are in-
4 cluded in each measurement;

5 (E) steps that Federal agencies that collect
6 data on or compile Federal reports relating to
7 sexual violence can take to avoid double count-
8 ing any incident of sexual violence in a single
9 Federal report;

10 (F) best practices for collecting data on
11 acts of sexual violence;

12 (G) the extent to which Federal efforts to
13 collect data on sexual violence incorporate the
14 best practices described in subparagraph (F);

15 (H) steps that Federal agencies that col-
16 lect data on sexual violence can take to ensure
17 that Federal reports on sexual violence are able
18 to provide comparisons to data contained in
19 Federal reports on sexual violence for prior
20 years if changes are made to the methodology
21 used to prepare those Federal reports; and

22 (I) steps that Federal agencies that collect
23 data on sexual violence can take to harmonize
24 Federal efforts to collect data on sexual vio-
25 lence; and

1 (2) consult with stakeholders that have—

2 (A) expertise in the study of sexual vio-
3 lence; or

4 (B) experience working with victims of sex-
5 ual violence.

6 (e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working
8 Group shall publish and submit to Congress a report that
9 contains—

10 (1) a description of the activities of the Work-
11 ing Group;

12 (2) the findings and recommendations of the
13 Working Group with respect to each of the topics
14 described in subsection (d)(1), including the findings
15 and recommendations of the Working Group relating
16 to harmonizing Federal efforts to collect data on
17 sexual violence; and

18 (3) the recommendations of the Working Group
19 relating to actions that Federal agencies and Con-
20 gress can take to implement the recommendations
21 described in paragraph (2).

22 (f) TERMINATION.—The Working Group shall termi-
23 nate 30 days after the date on which the Working Group
24 submits the report under subsection (e).