

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9523

To provide for the hiring and training of certain personnel at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Ms. LEE of Florida (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. LATURNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for the hiring and training of certain personnel at the Department of Homeland Security, 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 “Renewed Hope Act
5 of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMAGE AUDIO FORENSICS HIRING AND TRAINING**
2 **PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME-**
3 **LAND SECURITY.**

4 (a) **ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary of
5 Homeland Security shall hire, train, and assign not fewer
6 than—

7 (1) 40 forensics analysts to the Victim Identifi-
8 cation Laboratory of the Child Exploitation Inves-
9 tigation Unit of Homeland Security Investigations;

10 (2) 30 child exploitation investigators to the
11 Victim Identification Laboratory of the Child Exploi-
12 tation Investigations Unit of Homeland Security In-
13 vestigations; and

14 (3) 130 additional forensics analysts and child
15 exploitation investigators to support identification
16 and rescue of victims of child sexual exploitation and
17 abuse at offices of the Special Agent in Charge of
18 Homeland Security Investigations.

19 (b) **EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-**
20 **ANTS.**—Section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of
21 2002 (6 U.S.C. 473) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
23 section (i); and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(g) EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-
2 ANTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
4 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates
5 not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for
6 grade GS–15 of the General Schedule under section
7 5332 of such title, the Secretary may procure by
8 contract the temporary (not in excess of 1 year) or
9 intermittent services of experts or consultants to
10 provide image and audio forensic analysis related to
11 victim identification to support efforts to identify, lo-
12 cate, and rescue children seen in abusive images and
13 videos.

14 “(2) PLACEMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-
15 mulgate guidelines for assigning or detailing partici-
16 pants to positions at the Center, offices of the Spe-
17 cial Agent in Charge, offices of the Resident Agent
18 in Charge, and Attaché offices.”.

19 **SEC. 3. DECONFLICTION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**
20 **AND ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN THE**
21 **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

22 Section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
23 (6 U.S.C. 473) is amended by inserting after subsection
24 (a)(2) the following:

1 “(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall,
2 with the concurrence of the directors of affected
3 agencies within the Department, establish joint pro-
4 cedures to deconflict, coordinate, and synchronize
5 child sexual exploitation investigations with the Cen-
6 ter.”.

7 **SEC. 4. VICTIM IDENTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
9 rity shall establish a Victim Identification Training Pro-
10 gram (referred to in this section as the “Program”) in
11 the Cyber Crimes Center.

12 (b) PROGRAM.—The Program shall provide training
13 on new and advanced technology used to identify victims
14 to—

15 (1) Homeland Security Investigations per-
16 sonnel; and

17 (2) Federal, State, local, Tribal, military, and
18 foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged
19 in the investigation of child sexual exploitation and
20 abuse within their respective jurisdictions, upon re-
21 quest and subject to the availability of funds.

22 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Program shall
23 include—

1 (1) annual training for a minimum of 24
2 Homeland Security Investigations special agents and
3 analysts focused on—

4 (A) training on the most current tools and
5 techniques used in victim identification; and

6 (B) training on the capabilities of the Vic-
7 tim Identification Laboratory; and

8 (2) increasing personnel knowledge on how to
9 conduct image, audio, and video enhancements.

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