

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9532

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. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. RUTHERFORD) 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 computer forensics analysts to the Vic-
8 tim Identification Laboratory of the Child Exploi-
9 tation Investigations Unit of Homeland Security In-
10 vestigations;

11 (2) 30 criminal analysts to the Victim Identi-
12 fication Laboratory of the Child Exploitation Inves-
13 tigation Unit of Homeland Security Investigations;
14 and

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

20 (b) **EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-**
21 **ANTS.**—Section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of
22 2002 (6 U.S.C. 473) is amended—

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

25 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
26 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.

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

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

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

24 “(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall,
25 with the concurrence of the directors of affected

1 agencies within the Department, establish joint pro-
2 cedures to deconflict, coordinate, and synchronize
3 child sexual exploitation investigations with the Cen-
4 ter.”.

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

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

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

13 (1) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforce-
14 ment personnel; and

15 (2) Federal, State, local, Tribal, military, and
16 foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged
17 in the investigation of crimes within their respective
18 jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the avail-
19 ability of funds.

20 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Program shall
21 include—

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

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

3 (B) training on the capabilities of the
4 Video Identification Laboratory; and

5 (2) increasing personnel knowledge on how to
6 conduct audio and video enhancements.

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