

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8020

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish data on the Unaccompanied Children Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2024

Ms. ESHOO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish data on the Unaccompanied Children Program.

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 “Transparency for Un-
5 accompanied Children Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ONLINE PUBLICATION OF DATA ON THE UNACCOM-**
7 **PANIED CHILDREN PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the
10 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish, on

1 a publicly accessible webpage of the Department of Health
2 and Human Services, data on the Unaccompanied Chil-
3 dren Program.

4 (b) REQUIRED DATA.—The data published pursuant
5 to subsection (a) shall include the following:

6 (1) The total number of unaccompanied alien
7 children transferred to the Office of Refugee Reset-
8 tlement (ORR) during the previous month.

9 (2) The total number of unaccompanied alien
10 children discharged by ORR into the custody of
11 sponsors during the previous month, disaggregated
12 by the number of such children discharged to a
13 sponsor who is—

14 (A) a parent or legal guardian of the dis-
15 charged child;

16 (B) a brother, sister, or grandparent of the
17 discharged child, or an aunt, uncle, or first
18 cousin of the discharged child who previously
19 served as the child’s primary caregiver;

20 (C) an aunt, uncle, or first cousin of the
21 discharged child who was not previously the
22 child’s primary caregiver; or

23 (D) a distant relative of the discharged
24 child or not related to the discharged child.

1 (3) The total number of unaccompanied alien
2 children who were discharged by ORR into the cus-
3 tody of sponsors during the previous month, and
4 who meet the requirements for a mandatory home
5 study under section 235(c)(3)(B) of the William
6 Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reau-
7 thORIZATION Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)(B)),
8 disaggregated by the number of such children dis-
9 charged to a sponsor who is—

10 (A) a parent or legal guardian of the dis-
11 charged child;

12 (B) a brother, sister, or grandparent of the
13 discharged child, or an aunt, uncle, or first
14 cousin of the discharged child who previously
15 served as the child’s primary caregiver;

16 (C) an aunt, uncle, or first cousin of the
17 discharged child who was not previously the
18 child’s primary caregiver; or

19 (D) a distant relative of the discharged
20 child or not related to the discharged child.

21 (4) The average length of time spent in ORR
22 custody by unaccompanied alien children who were
23 discharged from ORR custody during the previous
24 month.

1 (5) The total number of home studies con-
2 ducted by ORR (or by an ORR grantee or con-
3 tractor) to assess whether potential sponsors are
4 able and willing to care for an unaccompanied alien
5 child, disaggregated by the number of such home
6 studies that are—

7 (A) mandatory under current law or exist-
8 ing ORR policies; or

9 (B) discretionary under current law and
10 existing ORR policies.

11 (6) The total number of sponsorship applica-
12 tions that were pending with ORR at any point dur-
13 ing the previous month, disaggregated by the num-
14 ber of such applications that—

15 (A) were approved during the previous
16 month;

17 (B) were denied during the previous
18 month; or

19 (C) remained pending as of the end of the
20 previous month.

21 (7) The total number of sponsorship applica-
22 tions that were pending with ORR at any point dur-
23 ing the previous month and submitted by any indi-
24 vidual seeking to become the sponsor of an unaccom-
25 panied alien child who meets the requirements for a

1 mandatory home study under section 1232(c)(3)(B)
2 of title 8, United States Code, disaggregated by the
3 number of such applications that—

4 (A) were approved during the previous
5 month;

6 (B) were denied during the previous
7 month; or

8 (C) remained pending as of the end of the
9 previous month.

10 (8) The total number of calls received by the
11 ORR National Call Center during the previous
12 month reporting instances of trafficking, neglect, or
13 abuse of children discharged into the custody of
14 sponsors by ORR.

15 (9) The total number of follow-up calls to dis-
16 charged children and their sponsors conducted by
17 ORR (or by an ORR grantee or contractor) during
18 the previous month, disaggregated by the number of
19 such calls conducted—

20 (A) in accordance with the timeframe re-
21 quired by ORR policy; or

22 (B) later than required by ORR policy.

23 (10) The total number of unaccompanied alien
24 children discharged from ORR custody who have re-
25 ceived post-release services furnished by ORR during

1 the previous month, disaggregated by the number of
2 such children who have received—

3 (A) one or more virtual check-ins;

4 (B) case management services; or

5 (C) intensive in-home services and engage-
6 ment.

7 (11) The total number of unaccompanied alien
8 children discharged from ORR custody who have re-
9 ceived full legal representation furnished by ORR
10 during the previous month.

11 (c) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
12 TEES.—Upon publishing new monthly data pursuant to
13 subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
14 ices shall notify the Chair and ranking member of—

15 (1) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
16 the House of Representatives;

17 (2) the Committee on Health, Education,
18 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

19 (3) the Committee on Oversight and Account-
20 ability of the House of Representatives; and

21 (4) the Committee on Homeland Security and
22 Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “ORR” means the Office of Ref-
2 ugee Resettlement of the Department of Health and
3 Human Services.

4 (2) The term “sponsor” means an individual
5 who has been selected by the Department of Health
6 and Human Services to be the custodian of an unac-
7 companied alien child under section 235(c)(3) of the
8 William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection
9 Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)).

10 (3) The term “sponsorship application” means
11 the application submitted to ORR by an individual
12 seeking to become the custodian of an unaccom-
13 panied alien child.

14 (4) The term “unaccompanied alien child” has
15 the meaning given to such term in section 462(g)(2)
16 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
17 279(g)(2)).

18 (5) The term “Unaccompanied Children Pro-
19 gram” means the program of ORR for the care and
20 custody of unaccompanied alien children under sec-
21 tion 235(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking
22 Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8
23 U.S.C. 1232(b)).

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