

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4602

To prohibit the obstruction of emergency vehicles.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To prohibit the obstruction of emergency vehicles.

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 “Stop Blocking Hos-  
5 pitals Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OBSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United  
8 States Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 40C. Obstruction of an emergency vehicle**

2 “(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person,  
3 using a channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate  
4 or foreign commerce or otherwise affecting interstate or  
5 foreign commerce, to knowingly obstruct, delay, or pre-  
6 vent—

7 “(1) any ambulance or emergency vehicle from  
8 responding to a call or transporting an individual to  
9 a hospital;

10 “(2) any vehicle used by a fire department, or  
11 any officer or member of a fire department, from re-  
12 sponding to a call or transporting an individual to  
13 a hospital; or

14 “(3) any vehicle used by a State or local law en-  
15 forcement agency, or any officer of the State or local  
16 law enforcement agency, from responding to a call or  
17 transporting an individual to a hospital.

18 “(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection  
19 (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not less than  
20 1 year nor more than 5 years, or both.”.

21 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
22 The table of sections for chapter 2 of title 18, United  
23 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
24 ing to section 40B the following:

“40C. Obstruction of an emergency vehicle.”.