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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To enhance hiring authorities at the Department of Homeland Security,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To enhance hiring authorities 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”.

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 Identi-
8 fication 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 Homeland Security Investigations offices of
18 the Special Agent in Charge.

19 (b) **PROHIBITION ON REASSIGNMENT OF POSI-**
20 **TIONS.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—A position created under
22 subsection (a) may not be reassigned to another
23 component of the Department of Homeland Security
24 that is outside of the Child Exploitation Investiga-
25 tions Unit of Homeland Security Investigations or

1 the offices of the Special Agent in Charge of Home-
2 land Security Investigations, as applicable.

3 (2) REASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEES.—An em-
4 ployee serving in a position created under subsection
5 (a) may be reassigned to another component of the
6 Department of Homeland Security that is outside of
7 the Child Exploitation Investigations Unit of Home-
8 land Security Investigations or the offices of the
9 Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security In-
10 vestigations only if the employee elects to be so reas-
11 signed.

12 (c) EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-
13 ANTS.—Section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of
14 2002 (6 U.S.C. 473) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
16 section (i); and

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(g) EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-
20 ANTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
22 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates
23 not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for
24 grade GS–15 of the General Schedule under section
25 5332 of such title, the Secretary may procure by

1 contract the temporary (not in excess of 1 year) or
2 intermittent services of experts or consultants to
3 provide image and audio forensic analysis related to
4 victim identification to support efforts to identify, lo-
5 cate, and rescue children seen in videos images and
6 videos of sexual exploitation and abuse.

7 “(2) PLACEMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-
8 mulgate guidelines for assigning or detailing partici-
9 pants to positions at the Center, offices of the Spe-
10 cial Agent in Charge, offices of the Resident Agent
11 in Charge, and Attaché offices.”.

12 **SEC. 3. DECONFLICTION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**
13 **AND ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN THE**
14 **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

15 Section 890A(a) of the Homeland Security Act of
16 2002 (6 U.S.C. 473(a)) is amended by inserting after
17 paragraph (2) the following:

18 “(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall,
19 with the concurrence of the directors of affected
20 agencies within the Department, establish joint pro-
21 cedures to deconflict, coordinate, and synchronize
22 child sexual exploitation investigations with the Cen-
23 ter.

24 “(4) NCMEC COORDINATION.—The Center
25 may establish joint procedures with the National

1 Center for Missing and Exploited Children to
2 deconflict, coordinate, and synchronize child sexual
3 exploitation investigations with the Child Victim
4 Identification Program of the National Center for
5 Missing and Exploited Children.”.

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

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

11 (b) PROGRAM.—The Program shall provide training
12 used to identify victims of sexual exploitation and abuse
13 to—

14 (1) Homeland Security Investigations per-
15 sonnel;

16 (2) Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign
17 law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the in-
18 vestigation of crimes of child sexual exploitation and
19 abuse within their respective jurisdictions;

20 (3) civil service organizations engaged in the
21 prevention of child sexual exploitation and the iden-
22 tification of abuse victims; and

23 (4) the National Center for Missing and Ex-
24 ploited Children.

1 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Program shall
2 include—

3 (1) annual training for participants focused
4 on—

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 5. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR HOMELAND SECU-**
12 **RITY INVESTIGATIONS.**

13 (a) DIRECT HIRE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
15 graph (2), the head of Homeland Security Investiga-
16 tions may appoint, without regard to the provisions
17 of subchapter I of chapter 33 (other than sections
18 3303 and 3328 of such chapter) of title 5, United
19 States Code, qualified candidates to the positions de-
20 scribed in section 2(a).

21 (2) LIMITATION.—The authority under para-
22 graph (1) shall not be available to the head if, dur-
23 ing any period, at least 97 percent of such positions
24 are occupied.

(b) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and for each of the 4 following years, the head of Homeland Security Investigations shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and any other relevant congressional committee of jurisdiction. Each such report shall include the following:

(1) The total number of individuals appointed by the head under this section during the preceding year.

(2) How the direct hiring authority under this section is being used by the head.

SEC. 6. APPLICATION.

The requirements of each of sections 2 through 4 of this Act, and any amendment made by such sections, shall be carried out not later than the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered person shall—

(1) keep all identifying information and documents concerning a victim of child sexual exploitation or abuse in a secure place to which only indi-

1 viduals working to identify and rescue victims of
2 child sexual exploitation or abuse have access; and

3 (2) not disclose or use any information or docu-
4 ments concerning a victim of child sexual exploi-
5 tation or abuse other than for the purposes of—

6 (A) investigating or prosecuting individuals
7 for crimes of child sexual exploitation or abuse;

8 (B) connecting victims—

9 (i) to licensed and trained trauma in-
10 formed medical professions; or

11 (ii) with Federal resources available
12 through the Office of Victims of Crime at
13 the Department of Justice;

14 (C) complying with any mandatory victim
15 reporting requirements; or

16 (D) sharing information with other law en-
17 forcement personnel for the purpose of inves-
18 tigating or prosecuting individuals for crimes of
19 child sexual exploitation or abuse.

20 (b) COVERED PERSON DEFINED.—In this section,
21 the term “covered person” means—

22 (1) any Federal, State, or local law enforcement
23 officer; or

24 (2) any other personnel of the Department of
25 Homeland Security,

1 working in, employed by, or detailed to the Child Exploi-
2 tation Investigations Unit of Homeland Security Inves-
3 tigation or to the offices of the Special Agent in Charge
4 of Homeland Security Investigations.