

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5524

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## AN ACT

To amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to  
authorize appropriations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reconnecting Home-  
3 less Youth Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and  
8 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively, and

9 (2) inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

10 “(3) services to such young people should be de-  
11 veloped and provided using a positive youth develop-  
12 ment approach that ensures the young person a  
13 sense of—

14 “(A) safety and structure;

15 “(B) belonging and membership;

16 “(C) self-worth and social contribution;

17 “(D) independence and control over one’s  
18 life; and

19 “(E) closeness in interpersonal relation-  
20 ships;”.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.**

22 Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act  
23 (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B)(i) by inserting be-  
25 fore the semicolon the following:

1 “provided for a continuous period not to  
2 exceed 15 days, except that such shelter  
3 may be provided for a continuous period  
4 not to exceed 21 days if the State where  
5 the center is located has an applicable  
6 State or local law or regulation that per-  
7 mits a length of stay in excess of such 15  
8 days in compliance with licensure require-  
9 ments for child and youth serving facili-  
10 ties”,

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by striking “The” and inserting  
14 “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph  
15 (B) and to the extent that sufficient funds  
16 are available, the”,

17 (ii) by striking “\$100,000” and in-  
18 sserting “\$150,000”,

19 (iii) by striking “\$45,000” and insert-  
20 ing “\$70,000”, and

21 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
22 lowing:

23 “(B) For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the  
24 amount allotted under paragraph (1) with respect to  
25 a State for a fiscal year shall be not less than the

1 amount allotted with respect to such State for fiscal  
2 year 2008.”,

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
4 paragraph (4), and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
6 following:

7 “(3) Whenever the Secretary determines that  
8 any part of the amount allotted under paragraph (1)  
9 with respect to a State will not be obligated before  
10 the end of the fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate  
11 such part under paragraph (1) with respect to the  
12 remaining States for obligation for such fiscal  
13 year.”.

14 **SEC. 4. BASIC CENTER GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.**

15 Section 312(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth  
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 5712(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (11) by striking “and” at the  
18 end,

19 (2) in paragraph (12) by striking the period at  
20 the end and inserting “; and”, and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(13) shall develop an adequate emergency pre-  
23 paredness and management plan.”.

1 **SEC. 5. TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM ELIGI-**  
2 **BILITY.**

3 Section 322(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth  
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 2714-2(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “indirectly” the 1st place it  
7 appears and inserting “by contract”, and

8 (B) by striking “and services” and insert-  
9 ing “, and to provide, directly or indirectly,  
10 services”,

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) by striking “except that a youth” and  
13 inserting the following:

14 “except that in the case of—

15 “(i) a youth”,

16 (B) by inserting “such youth may” after  
17 “program,”, and

18 (C) by striking “period;” and inserting the  
19 following:

20 “period; and

21 “(ii) a program that is located in a  
22 State that has an applicable State or local  
23 law or regulation that permits a length of  
24 stay in excess of such 540-day period in  
25 compliance with licensure requirements for  
26 child and youth serving facilities, a youth

1           may remain in such program throughout a  
2           continuous period not to exceed 635  
3           days;”,

4           (3) in paragraph (14) by striking “and” at the  
5           end,

6           (4) in paragraph (15) by striking the period at  
7           the end and inserting “; and”, and

8           (5) by adding at the end the following:

9           “(16) to develop an adequate emergency pre-  
10          paredness and management plan.”.

11 **SEC. 6. RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND**  
12 **SERVICE PROJECTS.**

13          Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act  
14 (42 U.S.C. 5714-23) is amended—

15          (1) in subsection (b)—

16                (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

17                (1)—

18                      (i) by striking “special consideration”  
19                      and inserting “priority”, and

20                      (ii) by striking “relating to” and in-  
21                      serting “focused on”,

22                (B) in paragraph (8)—

23                      (i) by inserting “quality” after “ac-  
24                      cess to”,

1 (ii) by striking “mental” and inserting  
2 “behavioral”, and

3 (iii) by striking “and” at the end,

4 (C) in paragraph (9) by striking the period  
5 at the end and inserting the following:

6 “, including educational and workforce programs  
7 with outcomes such as decreasing the secondary  
8 school drop-out rate, increasing diploma or equiva-  
9 lent attainment rates, or increasing placement and  
10 retention in postsecondary education or advanced  
11 workforce training; or”, and

12 (D) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(10) programs, including innovative programs,  
14 that assist youth in obtaining and maintaining safe  
15 and stable housing, and may include programs with  
16 supportive services that continue after program com-  
17 pletion.”, and

18 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
19 lows:

20 “(c) In selecting among applicants for grants under  
21 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

22 “(1) give priority to applicants who have experi-  
23 ence working with runaway youth or homeless youth;  
24 and

25 “(2) ensure that the applicants selected—

1           “(A) are geographically representative of  
2           different regions of the United States; and

3           “(B) carry out projects that serve diverse  
4           populations of runaway or homeless youth.”.

5 **SEC. 7. ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF**  
6 **YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

7           Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42  
8 U.S.C. 5714-21–5714-24) is amended by adding at the  
9 end the following:

10 **“SEC. 345. PERIODIC ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVA-**  
11 **LENCE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

12           “(a) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Not later than 2 years  
13 after the effective date of this section, and at 5-year inter-  
14 vals thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the  
15 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, shall  
16 prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and  
17 Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
18 on Judiciary of the Senate, and make public, a report—

19           “(1) by using the best quantitative and quali-  
20           tative social science research method available, con-  
21           taining an estimate of the incidence and prevalence  
22           of runaway and homeless individuals who are less  
23           than 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of  
24           age; and

1           “(2) that includes with such estimate an assess-  
2           ment of the characteristics of such individuals.

3           “(b) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection  
4 (a) shall include—

5           “(1) the results of conducting a survey of, and  
6           direct interviews with, a representative sample of  
7           runaway and homeless individuals who are less than  
8           26 years of age and not less than 13 years of age,  
9           to determine past and current—

10           “(A) socioeconomic characteristics of such  
11           individuals;

12           “(B) barriers to such individuals obtain-  
13           ing—

14           “(i) safe, quality, and affordable hous-  
15           ing;

16           “(ii) comprehensive and affordable  
17           health insurance and health services; and

18           “(iii) incomes, public benefits, sup-  
19           portive services, and connections to caring  
20           adults; and

21           “(C) such other information that the Sec-  
22           retary determines, in consultation with States,  
23           units of local government, and national non-  
24           governmental organizations concerned with  
25           homelessness, may be useful.

1       “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary enters into  
 2 any contract with a non-Federal entity for purposes of car-  
 3 rying out subsection (a), such entity shall be a nongovern-  
 4 mental organization, or an individual, determined by the  
 5 Secretary to have appropriate expertise in quantitative  
 6 and qualitative social science research.”.

7 **SEC. 8. SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

8       Section 351(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth  
 9 Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(b)) is amended by inserting  
 10 “public and” after “priority to”.

11 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**  
 12 **PAIGN.**

13       The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.  
 14 5701 et seq.) is amended—

15               (1) by redesignating part F as part G, and

16               (2) by inserting after part E the following:

17       **“PART F—NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH**  
 18 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

19 **“SEC. 361. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**  
 20 **PAIGN.**

21       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, directly or  
 22 through grants or contracts, conduct a national homeless  
 23 youth awareness campaign (referred to in this section as  
 24 the ‘national awareness campaign’) in accordance with  
 25 this section for purposes of—

1           “(1) increasing awareness of individuals of all  
2           ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and geographic lo-  
3           cations, of the issues facing runaway and homeless  
4           youth, the resources available for these youth, and  
5           the tools available for the prevention of youth run-  
6           away and homeless situations; and

7           “(2) encouraging parents, guardians, educators,  
8           health care professionals, social service professionals,  
9           law enforcement officials, and other community  
10          members to seek to prevent runaway youth and  
11          youth homelessness by assisting youth in averting or  
12          resolving runaway and homeless situations.

13          “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry  
14          out this section for the national awareness campaign may  
15          be used only for the following:

16               “(1) The dissemination of educational informa-  
17               tion and materials through various media, including  
18               television, radio, the Internet and related tech-  
19               nologies, and emerging technologies.

20               “(2) Partnerships, including outreach activities,  
21               with national organizations concerned with youth  
22               homelessness, community-based youth service orga-  
23               nizations (including faith-based organizations), and  
24               government organizations related to the national  
25               awareness campaign.

1           “(3) In accordance with applicable laws and  
2 regulations, the development and placement of public  
3 service announcements in telecommunications media,  
4 including the Internet and related technologies and  
5 emerging technologies, that educate the public on  
6 the issues facing runaway and homeless youth (or  
7 youth considering running away) and on the oppor-  
8 tunities that adults have to assist such youth.

9           “(4) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the na-  
10 tional awareness campaign.

11          “(c) PROHIBITIONS.—None of the funds made avail-  
12 able under subsection (b) may be obligated or expended  
13 for any of the following:

14           “(1) To supplant pro bono public service time  
15 donated by national or local broadcasting networks,  
16 advertising agencies, production companies, or other  
17 pro bono work for the national awareness campaign.

18           “(2) For partisan political purposes, or express  
19 advocacy in support of or to defeat any clearly iden-  
20 tified candidate, clearly identified ballot initiative, or  
21 clearly identified legislative or regulatory proposal.

22           “(3) To fund advertising that features any  
23 elected officials, persons seeking elected office, cabi-  
24 net level officials, or other Federal employees em-  
25 ployed in positions in schedule C of part 213 of title

1 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations (January 1,  
2 2008), as amended from time to time.

3 “(4) To fund advertising that does not contain  
4 a primary message intended to educate the public on  
5 the issues facing runaway and homeless youth (or  
6 youth considering running away) or on the opportu-  
7 nities for adults to help such youth.

8 “(5) To fund advertising that solicits contribu-  
9 tions to support the national awareness campaign.

10 “(d) FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE ACCOUNT-  
11 ABILITY.—The Secretary shall perform—

12 “(1) audits and reviews of costs of the national  
13 awareness campaign pursuant to section 304C of the  
14 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of  
15 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254d); and

16 “(2) an audit to determine whether the costs of  
17 the national awareness campaign are allowable  
18 under section 306 of such Act (41 U.S.C. 256).

19 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each  
20 report submitted under section 382 a summary of the na-  
21 tional awareness campaign that describes—

22 “(1) the activities undertaken by the national  
23 awareness campaign;

24 “(2) steps taken to ensure that the national  
25 awareness campaign operates in an effective and ef-

1        ficient manner consistent with the overall strategy  
2        and focus of the national awareness campaign; and  
3            “(3) each grant made to, or contract entered  
4        into with, a particular corporation, partnership, or  
5        individual working on the national awareness cam-  
6        paign.”.

7        **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

8            Section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act  
9        (42 U.S.C. 5732a) is amended—

10            (1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

11                    (A) in clause (i)—

12                            (i) by striking “not more than” each  
13                            place it appears and inserting “less than”,  
14                            and

15                            (ii) by inserting after “age” the last  
16                            place it appears the following:

17                            “, or until attaining a higher maximum  
18                            age if the State where the center is located  
19                            has an applicable State or local law or reg-  
20                            ulation that permits such higher maximum  
21                            age in compliance with licensure require-  
22                            ments for child and youth serving facili-  
23                            ties”, and

24                            (B) in clause (ii) by striking “age;” and in-  
25                            serting the following:

1 “age and either—  
2 “(I) less than 22 years of age; or  
3 “(II) an age exceeding 22 years  
4 of age as of the expiration of the maximum  
5 period of stay permitted under  
6 section 322(a)(2)(ii) if such individual  
7 commences such stay before attaining  
8 22 years of age;”, and

9 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through  
10 (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively.

11 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth  
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

14 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:  
15

16 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to  
17 be appropriated to carry out this title (other than  
18 parts E and F, and section 345) \$150,000,000 for  
19 fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary  
20 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”,

21 (2) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:  
22

23 “(4) PART E.—There are authorized to be appropriated  
24 to carry out part E \$30,000,000 for fis-

1 cal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary  
2 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”, and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(5) PART F.—There is authorized to be appro-  
5 priated to carry out part F \$3,000,000 for each of  
6 the fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

7 “(6) SECTION 345.—There are authorized to be  
8 appropriated to carry out section 345 such sums as  
9 may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011,  
10 2012, and 2013.”.

11 **SEC. 12. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

12 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 5701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 **“SEC. 390. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE STAND-  
17 ARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of  
18 this section, the Secretary shall establish by rule perform-  
19 ance standards applicable to public and nonprofit private  
20 entities and agencies that receive grants under sections  
21 311, 321, and 351.

22 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STAND-  
23 ARDS.—The Secretary shall integrate performance stand-  
24 ards established under subsection (a) into the Secretary’s

1 processes for grant-making, monitoring, and evaluation  
2 for programs under sections 311, 321, and 351.

3 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult  
4 with representatives of public and private entities and  
5 agencies that receive grants under this title, statewide and  
6 regional nonprofit organizations (and combinations of  
7 such organizations) that receive grants under this title,  
8 and national nonprofit organizations concerned with youth  
9 homelessness in developing the performance standards re-  
10 quired by subsection (a).

11 “(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-  
12 vide an opportunity for public comment concerning the es-  
13 tablishment of the performance standards required by sub-  
14 section (a) before issuing rules to establish such stand-  
15 ards, and shall maintain an official record of such public  
16 comment.”.

17 **SEC. 13. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.**

18 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct  
19 a study of, and make findings and recommendations relat-  
20 ing to, the process for making grants under parts A, B,  
21 and E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, with re-  
22 spect to—

23 (1) the written responses made by the Secretary  
24 of Health and Human Services to (and any other  
25 methods for communicating with) grant applicants

1 who are do not receive a grant under part A, B, or  
2 E of such Act, to determine if the information pro-  
3 vided in such responses to such applicants is con-  
4 veyed clearly,

5 (2) the structure of the grant application and  
6 associated documents (including announcements that  
7 grants are available under such parts), to determine  
8 if such application is structured so that the appli-  
9 cant has a clear understanding of what is required  
10 in each provision to successfully complete the appli-  
11 cation, including a clear explanation of terminology  
12 required to be used by the applicant throughout the  
13 document,

14 (3) the peer review process (if any) used to re-  
15 view grant applications (including the selection of  
16 peer reviewers) and the oversight of the peer review  
17 process by employees of the Department of Health  
18 and Human Services, as well as the extent to which  
19 such employees make funding determinations based  
20 on the comments and scores of the individuals who  
21 perform peer reviews,

22 (4) the typical time frame and the process used  
23 by such employees, including employee responsibil-  
24 ities, for responding to applicants and the efforts  
25 taken to communicate with applicants when there is

1 a delay of decisions on applications or when funds  
2 to carry out this title are not appropriated before  
3 the beginning of the then current fiscal year, and

4 (5) the plans for and implementation of, where  
5 practicable, the new training and technical assist-  
6 ance programs and their effect on the grant applica-  
7 tion process.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
9 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
10 submit a report to the Committee on Education and Labor  
11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
12 Judiciary of the Senate, containing a summary of the re-  
13 sults of the study conducted under subsection (a), together  
14 with the findings and recommendations made by the  
15 Comptroller General based on such results.

Passed the House of Representatives June 9, 2008.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 5524**

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**AN ACT**

To amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations, and for other purposes.