

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend title 18 of the United States Code and other provisions of law to strengthen provisions of the Violence Against Women Act and improve justice for crime victims.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—112th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 1925

To reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. CORNYN (for
himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. BENNET)

Viz:

1 At the end, add the following:

2 **TITLE XI—THE SAFER ACT**

3 **SECTION 1101. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Sexual Assault Foren-
5 sic Evidence Registry Act of 2012” or the “SAFER Act
6 of 2012”.

7 **SEC. 1102. DEBBIE SMITH GRANTS FOR AUDITING SEXUAL**
8 **ASSAULT EVIDENCE BACKLOGS.**

9 Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination
10 Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
2 following new paragraph:

3 “(6) To conduct an audit consistent with sub-
4 section (n) of the samples of sexual assault evidence
5 that are in the possession of the State or unit of
6 local government and are awaiting testing.”;

7 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
8 following new paragraph:

9 “(4) ALLOCATION OF GRANT AWARDS FOR AU-
10 DITS.—For each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016,
11 not less than 7 percent of the grant amounts distrib-
12 uted under paragraph (1) shall be awarded for the
13 purpose described in subsection (a)(6).”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(n) USE OF FUNDS FOR AUDITING SEXUAL AS-
17 SAULT EVIDENCE BACKLOGS.—

18 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—The Attorney General may
19 award a grant under this section to a State or unit
20 of local government for the purpose described in
21 subsection (a)(6) only if the State or unit of local
22 government—

23 “(A) submits a plan for performing the
24 audit of samples described in such subsection;
25 and

1 “(B) includes in such plan a good-faith es-
2 timate of the number of such samples.

3 “(2) GRANT CONDITIONS.—A State or unit of
4 local government receiving a grant for the purpose
5 described in subsection (a)(6) shall—

6 “(A) not later than 1 year after receiving
7 such grant—

8 “(i) complete the audit referred to in
9 paragraph (1)(A) in accordance with the
10 plan submitted under such paragraph; and

11 “(ii) for each sample of sexual assault
12 evidence identified in such audit, subject to
13 paragraph (4), enter into the Sexual As-
14 sault Forensic Evidence Registry estab-
15 lished under subsection (o) the information
16 listed in subsection (o)(2);

17 “(B) not later than 21 days after receiving
18 possession of a sample of sexual assault evi-
19 dence that was not in the possession of the
20 State or unit of local government at the time of
21 such audit, subject to paragraph (4), enter into
22 the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry
23 the information listed in subsection (o)(2) with
24 respect to the sample; and

1 “(C) not later than 30 days after a change
2 in the status referred to in subsection
3 (o)(2)(A)(v) of a sample with respect to which
4 the State or unit of local government has en-
5 tered information into such Registry, update
6 such status.

7 “(3) EXTENSION OF INITIAL DEADLINE.—The
8 Attorney General may grant an extension of the
9 deadline under paragraph (2)(A) to a State or unit
10 of local government that demonstrates that more
11 time is required for compliance with such paragraph.

12 “(4) SAMPLES EXEMPT FROM REGISTRY RE-
13 QUIREMENT.—A State or unit of local government is
14 not required under paragraph (2) to enter into the
15 Registry described in such paragraph information
16 with respect to a sample of sexual assault evidence
17 if—

18 “(A) the sample is not considered criminal
19 evidence (such as a sample collected anony-
20 mously from a victim who is unwilling to make
21 a criminal complaint); or

22 “(B) the sample relates to a sexual assault
23 for which the prosecution of each perpetrator is
24 barred by a statute of limitations.

25 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) AWAITING TESTING.—The term
2 ‘awaiting testing’ means, with respect to a sam-
3 ple of sexual assault evidence, that—

4 “(i) the sample has been collected and
5 is in the possession of a State or unit of
6 local government;

7 “(ii) DNA and other appropriate fo-
8 rensic analyses have not been performed on
9 such sample; and

10 “(iii) the sample is related to a crimi-
11 nal case or investigation in which final dis-
12 position has not yet been reached.

13 “(B) FINAL DISPOSITION.—The term ‘final
14 disposition’ means, with respect to a criminal
15 case or investigation to which a sample of sex-
16 ual assault evidence relates—

17 “(i) the conviction or acquittal of all
18 suspected perpetrators of the crime in-
19 volved;

20 “(ii) a determination by the State or
21 unit of local government in possession of
22 the sample that the case is unfounded; or

23 “(iii) a declaration by the victim of
24 the crime involved that the act constituting
25 the basis of the crime was not committed.

1 “(C) POSSESSION.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘possession’, used with respect to possession of a
3 sample of sexual assault evidence by a
4 State or unit of local government, includes
5 possession by an individual who is acting
6 as an agent of the State or unit of local
7 government for the collection of the sam-
8 ple.
9

10 “(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—
11 Nothing in clause (i) shall be construed to
12 create or amend any Federal rights or
13 privileges for non-governmental vendor lab-
14 oratories described in regulations promul-
15 gated under section 210303 of the DNA
16 Identification Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.
17 14131).”.

18 **SEC. 1103. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE REG-**
19 **ISTRY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the DNA Analysis
21 Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135), as
22 amended by section 1102 of this title, is further amended
23 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

24 “(o) SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE REG-
25 ISTRY.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (j),
2 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
3 the SAFER Act of 2012, the Attorney General shall
4 establish a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reg-
5 istry (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Registry’)
6 that—

7 “(A) allows States and units of local gov-
8 ernment to enter information into the Registry
9 about samples of sexual assault evidence that
10 are in the possession of such States or units of
11 local government and are awaiting testing; and

12 “(B) tracks the testing and processing of
13 such samples.

14 “(2) INFORMATION IN REGISTRY.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or unit of
16 local government that chooses to enter informa-
17 tion into the Registry about a sample of sexual
18 assault evidence shall include the following in-
19 formation:

20 “(i) The date of the sexual assault to
21 which the sample relates.

22 “(ii) The city, county, or other appro-
23 priate locality in which the sexual assault
24 occurred.

1 “(iii) The date on which the sample
2 was collected.

3 “(iv) The date on which information
4 relating to the sample was entered into the
5 Registry.

6 “(v) The status of the progression of
7 the sample through testing and other
8 stages of the evidentiary handling process,
9 including the identity of the entity in pos-
10 session of the sample.

11 “(vi) The date or dates after which
12 the State or unit of local government
13 would be barred by any applicable statutes
14 of limitations from prosecuting a pepe-
15 trator of the sexual assault for the sexual
16 assault.

17 “(vii) Such other information as the
18 Attorney General considers appropriate.

19 “(B) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-
20 MATION.—The Attorney General shall ensure
21 that the Registry does not include personally
22 identifiable information or details about a sex-
23 ual assault that might lead to the identification
24 of the individuals involved, except for the infor-
25 mation listed in subparagraph (A).

1 “(3) SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or unit of
3 local government that chooses to enter informa-
4 tion about a sample of sexual assault evidence
5 into the Registry shall assign to the sample a
6 unique numeric or alphanumeric identifier.

7 “(B) UNIQUE IDENTIFIER REQUIRED.—In
8 assigning the identifier under subparagraph
9 (A), a State or unit of local government may
10 use a case-numbering system used for other
11 purposes, but the Attorney General shall ensure
12 that the identifier assigned to each sample is
13 unique with respect to all samples entered by
14 all States and units of local government.

15 “(4) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—A State or
16 unit of local government that chooses to enter infor-
17 mation about a sample of sexual assault evidence
18 into the Registry shall, not later than 30 days after
19 a change in the status of the sample referred to in
20 paragraph (2)(A)(v), update such status.

21 “(5) INTERNET ACCESS.—The Attorney Gen-
22 eral shall make publicly available aggregate non-indi-
23 vidualized and non-personally identifying data gath-
24 ered from the Registry, to allow for comparison of

1 backlog data by State and unit of local government,
2 on an appropriate Internet website.

3 “(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Attorney
4 General shall—

5 “(A) provide a means by which an entity
6 that does not have access to the Internet may
7 enter information into the Registry; and

8 “(B) provide the technical assistance nec-
9 essary to allow States and units of local govern-
10 ment to participate in the Registry.”.

11 (b) FUNDING.—Section 2(j) of the DNA Analysis
12 Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135(j)) is
13 amended—

14 (1) by inserting “and for carrying out sub-
15 section (o)” after “for grants under subsection (a)”;
16 and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new sen-
18 tence: “For each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016,
19 not less than 1 percent of the amount authorized to
20 be appropriated under the previous sentence for such
21 fiscal year shall be for carrying out subsection (o).”

22 **SEC. 1104. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

23 Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal
24 year for which a grant is made for the purpose described
25 in section 2(a)(6) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimini-

1 nation Act of 2000, as added by section 1102 of this title,
2 the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report
3 that—

4 (1) lists the States and units of local govern-
5 ment that have been awarded such grants and the
6 amount of the grant received by each such State or
7 unit of local government;

8 (2) states the number of extensions granted by
9 the Attorney General under section 2(n)(3) of the
10 DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000, as
11 added by section 1102 of this title; and

12 (3) summarizes the processing status of the
13 samples of sexual assault evidence about which in-
14 formation has been entered into the Sexual Assault
15 Forensic Evidence Registry established under section
16 2(o) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act
17 of 2000, as added by section 1103(a) of this title,
18 including the number of samples that have not been
19 tested.

20 **TITLE XII—JUSTICE FOR** 21 **VICTIMS**

22 **SEC. 1201. REDUCING THE RAPE KIT BACKLOG.**

23 Section 2(c)(3) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimi-
24 nation Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135(c)(3)) is amended
25 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(C) For each of fiscal years 2012 through
2 2014, not less than 75 percent of the total
3 grant amounts shall be awarded for a combina-
4 tion of purposes under paragraphs (2) and (3)
5 of subsection (a).”.

6 **SEC. 1202. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR AGGRAVATED**
7 **INTERSTATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

8 Section 2261(b) of title 18, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “not less
11 than 15 years” after “any term of years”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “20 years”
13 and inserting “25 years”; and

14 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “10 years”
15 and inserting “15 years”.

16 **SEC. 1203. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR AGGRAVATED SEX-**
17 **UAL ABUSE.**

18 Section 2241 of title 18, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a), in the undesignated mat-
21 ter following paragraph (2), by striking “any term
22 of years or life” and inserting “not less than 10
23 years or imprisoned for life”; and

24 (2) in subsection (b), in the undesignated mat-
25 ter following paragraph (2), by striking “any term

1 of years or life” and inserting “not less than 5 years
2 or imprisoned for life”.

3 **SEC. 1204. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR INTERSTATE TRANS-**
4 **PORTATION OF CHILD PROSTITUTES.**

5 Section 2423(a) of title 18, United States Code, is
6 amended by striking the period at the end and inserting
7 the following: “, but if the individual who was transported
8 in interstate or foreign commerce had not attained 12
9 years of age, imprisoned not less than 20 years or for
10 life.”.

11 **SEC. 1205. FINDING FUGITIVE SEX OFFENDERS.**

12 (a) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY FOR THE UNITED
13 STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.—Section 566(e)(1) of title
14 28, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
16 the end;

17 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
18 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(C) issue administrative subpoenas in ac-
21 cordance with section 3486 of title 18 solely for
22 the purpose of investigating unregistered sex of-
23 fenders (as that term is defined in section 3486
24 of title 18).”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE
2 SUBPOENA STATUTE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3486(a)(1) of title
4 18, United States Code, is amended—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in clause (i)(II), by striking “or”
7 at the end;

8 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
9 clause (iii); and

10 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
11 following:

12 “(ii) an unregistered sex offender con-
13 ducted by the United States Marshals Service,
14 the Director of the United States Marshals
15 Service; or”; and

16 (B) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
17 serting the following:

18 “(D) As used in this paragraph—

19 “(i) the term ‘Federal offense involving the
20 sexual exploitation or abuse of children’ means
21 an offense under section 1201, 1591, 2241(c),
22 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260,
23 2421, 2422, or 2423, in which the victim is an
24 individual who has not attained the age of 18
25 years; and

1 “(ii) the term ‘sex offender’ means an indi-
2 vidual required to register under the Sex Of-
3 fender Registration and Notification Act (42
4 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).”.

5 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
6 MENTS.—Section 3486(a) of title 18, United States
7 Code, is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking
9 “United State” and inserting “United States”;

10 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking “or
11 (1)(A)(ii)” and inserting “or (1)(A)(iii)”; and

12 (C) in paragraph (10), by striking “para-
13 graph (1)(A)(ii)” and inserting “paragraph
14 (1)(A)(iii)”.

15 (c) REPORT.—Section 3486 of title 18, United States
16 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(f) REPORTS.—The Attorney General shall submit
18 to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the
19 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
20 tives an annual report containing—

21 “(1) the number of subpoenas issued by the
22 United States Marshals pursuant to section
23 566(e)(1)(C) of title 28;

24 “(2) the crime being investigated pursuant to
25 the issuance of each subpoena; and

1 “(3) the number of unregistered sex offenders
2 arrested by the United States Marshals subsequent
3 to the issuance of a subpoena pursuant to section
4 566(e)(1)(C) of title 28 and the information that led
5 to each individual’s arrest.”.

6 **SEC. 1206. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE DNA FIN-**
7 **GERPRINT ACT OF 2005.**

8 Not later than 180 days after date of the enactment
9 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pre-
10 pare and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the
11 Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House
12 of Representatives a report that—

13 (1) describes, in detail, the measures and proce-
14 dures taken by the Secretary to comply with any
15 regulation promulgated pursuant to section 3(e)(1)
16 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of
17 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135a(e)(1)); and

18 (2) provides a detailed explanation of the cir-
19 cumstances and specific cases, if available, in
20 which—

21 (A) the Secretary failed to comply with any
22 regulation promulgated pursuant to such sec-
23 tion 3(e)(1);

24 (B) the Secretary requested the Attorney
25 General approve additional limitations to, or ex-

1 ceptions from, any regulation promulgated pur-
2 suant to such section 3(e)(1); or

3 (C) the Secretary consulted with the Attor-
4 ney General to determine that the collection of
5 DNA samples is not feasible because of oper-
6 ational exigencies or resource limitations.

7 **SEC. 1207. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) According to the Department of Justice,
10 there was a 59 percent increase in identified victims
11 of human trafficking worldwide between 2009 and
12 2010.

13 (2) According to the Department of Health and
14 Human Services, human trafficking is the fastest
15 growing criminal enterprise in the world.

16 (3) Experts estimate that up to 300,000 chil-
17 dren are at risk of sexual exploitation each year in
18 the United States.

19 (4) Experts estimate that the average female
20 victim of sex trafficking is forced into prostitution
21 for the first time between the ages of 12 and 14 and
22 the average male victim is forced into prostitution
23 for the first time between the ages of 11 and 13.

24 (5) The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that
25 40 percent of incidents investigated by federally

1 funded task forces on human trafficking between
2 2008 and 2010 involved the sexual exploitation of a
3 child.

4 (6) According to the classified advertising con-
5 sultant Advanced Interactive Media Group (referred
6 to in this subsection as “AIM Group”),
7 Backpage.com is the leading United States website
8 for prostitution advertising.

9 (7) Backpage.com is owned by Village Voice
10 Media Holdings, LLC (referred to in this section as
11 “Village Voice Media”).

12 (8) The National Association of Attorneys Gen-
13 eral has tracked more than 50 cases in which
14 charges were filed against those trafficking or at-
15 tempting to traffic minors on Backpage.com.

16 (9) In February 2011, Myrelle and Tyrelle
17 Locket were each sentenced to 4 years in prison on
18 charges of trafficking of persons for forced labor or
19 services for operating an Illinois sex trafficking ring
20 that included minors. The Lockets used
21 Backpage.com to facilitate the prostitution.

22 (10) In March 2011, Arthur James Chappell
23 was sentenced to 28 years in prison on charges of
24 sex trafficking of a minor for running a prostitution
25 ring with at least 1 juvenile victim in Minnesota. Ar-

1 thur Chappell used Backpage.com to facilitate the
2 prostitution.

3 (11) In April 2011, Brandon Quincy Thompson
4 was sentenced to life imprisonment for sex traf-
5 ficking a child by force and an additional 120
6 months for soliciting the murder of a Federal wit-
7 ness. Brandon Thompson ran a South Dakota pros-
8 titution ring involving multiple underage girls. Bran-
9 don Thompson used Backpage.com to facilitate the
10 prostitution.

11 (12) In May 2011, Clint Eugene Wilson was
12 sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of sex
13 trafficking of a minor by force, fraud or coercion for
14 forcing a 16-year old Dallas girl into prostitution.
15 Clint Wilson threatened to assault the girl and
16 forced her to get a tattoo that branded her as his
17 property. Clint Wilson used Backpage.com to facili-
18 tate the prostitution.

19 (13) In August 2011, Demetrius Darnell
20 Homer was sentenced to 20 years in prison on
21 charges of sex trafficking of a minor for violently
22 forcing a 14-year-old Atlanta girl into prostitution.
23 Demetrius Homer controlled the girl through beat-
24 ings, threatened her with a knife, shocked her with
25 a taser in front of another underage girl he placed

1 in prostitution, and forced the girl to engage in pros-
2 titution while she was pregnant with his child. De-
3 metrius Homer used Backpage.com to facilitate the
4 prostitution.

5 (14) In February 2012, Leighton Martin Curtis
6 was sentenced to 30 years in prison on charges of
7 sex trafficking of a minor and production of child
8 pornography for pimping a 15-year- girl throughout
9 Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina for more than
10 a year. Leighton Curtis prostituted the girl to ap-
11 proximately 20 to 35 customers per week through
12 advertisements on Backpage.com. Leighton Curtis
13 used Backpage.com to facilitate the prostitution.

14 (15) In March 2012, Ronnie Leon Tramble was
15 sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of sex
16 trafficking through force, fraud and coercion for
17 forcing more than 5 young women and minors into
18 prostitution over a period of at least 5 years
19 throughout the State of Washington. Ronnie
20 Tramble constantly subjected the victims to brutal
21 physical and emotional abuse during this time pe-
22 riod. Ronnie Tramble used Backpage.com to facili-
23 tate the prostitution.

1 (16) According to AIM Group, 80 percent of
2 online prostitution advertising revenue for the month
3 of February 2012 was attributed to Backpage.com.

4 (17) According to AIM Group, the number of
5 Backpage.com advertisements for “escorts” and
6 “body rubs,” a thinly veiled code for prostitution, in-
7 creased by nearly 5 percent from February 2011 to
8 February 2012.

9 (18) According to AIM Group, Backpage.com
10 earned an estimated \$26,000,000 between February
11 2011 and February 2012 from prostitution ads.

12 (19) Backpage.com vice president, Carl Ferrer
13 acknowledged to the National Association of Attor-
14 neys General that the company identifies more than
15 400 “adult entertainment” posts every month that
16 may involve minors. The actual figure could be far
17 greater.

18 (20) According to the National Association of
19 Attorneys General, Missouri investigators found that
20 Backpage.com’s review procedures are ineffective in
21 policing illegal activity.

22 (21) In September 2010, Craigslist.com re-
23 moved the adult services section of its website fol-
24 lowing calls from law enforcement and advocacy or-
25 ganizations.

1 (22) As of September 16, 2011, 51 Attorneys
2 General of States and territories had called on
3 Backpage.com to shut down the “adult entertain-
4 ment” section of its website.

5 (23) On September 16, 2011, the Tri-City Her-
6 ald published an editorial, “Attorneys general target
7 sexual exploitation of kids,” writing, “...we’d also en-
8 courage the owners of Backpage.com to give the at-
9 torneys general what they are asking for”.

10 (24) On October 25, 2011, 36 clergy members
11 from across the country published an open letter to
12 Village Voice Media in the New York Times, calling
13 on the company to shut down Backpage.com’s
14 “adult entertainment” section.

15 (25) On December 2, 2011, 55 anti-trafficking
16 organizations called on Village Voice Media to shut
17 down Backpage.com’s “adult entertainment” section.

18 (26) On December 29, 2011, the Seattle Times
19 published an editorial, “Murders strengthen case
20 against Backpage.com,” writing, “Backpage.com
21 cannot continue to dismiss the women and children
22 exploited through the website, nor the three women
23 in Detroit who are dead possibly because they were
24 trafficked on the site. Revenue from the exploitation
25 and physical harm of women and minors is des-

1 picable. Village Voice Media, which owns
2 Backpage.com, must shut this site down. Until then,
3 all the pressure that can be brought to bear must
4 continue.”

5 (27) On March 18, 2012, Nicholas Kristof of
6 the New York Times wrote in an opinion piece enti-
7 tled “Where Pimps Peddle Their Goods,” that
8 “[t]here are no simple solutions to end sex traf-
9 ficking, but it would help to have public pressure on
10 Village Voice Media to stop carrying prostitution ad-
11 vertising.”

12 (28) On March 29, 2012, Change.org delivered
13 a petition signed by more than 240,000 individuals
14 to Village Voice Media, calling on the company to
15 shut down Backpage.com’s “adult entertainment”
16 section.

17 (29) On January 12, 2012, John Buffalo Mail-
18 er, son of Village Voice co-founder Norman Mailer,
19 joined the Change.org petition to shut down the
20 adult services section of Backpage.com, stating,
21 “For the sake of the Village Voice brand and for the
22 sake of the legacy of a great publication, take down
23 the adult section of Backpage.com, before the Vil-
24 lage Voice must answer for yet another child who is

1 abused and exploited because you did not do enough
2 to prevent it.”

3 (30) On March 30, 2012, a private equity firm
4 owned by Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. completed a
5 deal to sell its 16 percent ownership stake in Village
6 Voice Media Holdings, LLC back to management.

7 (31) In *M.A., ex rel. P.K. v. Village Voice*
8 *Media Holdings* (809 F. Supp. 2d 1041 (2011)), the
9 United States District Court for the Eastern Dis-
10 trict of Missouri held that section 230 of the Com-
11 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230) (as added
12 by the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (Public
13 Law 104–104; 110 Stat. 56)) protects
14 Backpage.com from civil liability for the “horrible
15 victimization” the teenage plaintiff suffered at the
16 hands of the criminal who posted on the website to
17 perpetrate her vicious crimes.

18 (32) The Communications Decency Act of 1996
19 (Public Law 104–104; 110 Stat. 56)) does not pre-
20 clude a service provider from voluntarily removing a
21 portion of a website, known to facilitate the sexual
22 exploitation of minors, in order to protect our chil-
23 dren.

24 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that Congress—

1 (1) supports the efforts of law enforcement
2 agencies to provide training on how to identify vic-
3 tims of sex trafficking, investigate cases of sex traf-
4 ficking, prosecute sex trafficking offenses, and res-
5 cue victims of sex trafficking;

6 (2) supports Federal Government, State and
7 local government, non-profit, and faith-based serv-
8 ices for trafficking victims, including medical, legal,
9 mental health, housing and other social services; and

10 (3) calls on Village Voice Media to act as a re-
11 sponsible global citizen and immediately eliminate
12 the “adult entertainment” section of the classified
13 advertising website Backpage.com to terminate the
14 website’s rampant facilitation of online sex traf-
15 ficking.