

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend or repeal certain provisions of Public Law 119–21 that undermine protections and heighten dangers for unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend or repeal certain provisions of Public Law 119–21 that undermine protections and heighten dangers for unaccompanied alien children, 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 “Upholding Protections  
5       for Unaccompanied Children Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. FEES.**

7       (a) ASYLUM FEE.—Section 100002 of Public Law  
8       119–21 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(f) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
2 this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
3 was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
4 child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
5 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

6 (b) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT  
7 FEE.—Section 100003 of Public Law 119–21 is amended  
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 “(d) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
10 this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
11 was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
12 child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
13 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

14 (c) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE FEE.—

15 (1) REPEAL.—Section 100005 of Public Law  
16 119–21 is repealed.

17 (2) CLARIFICATION.—The Secretary of Home-  
18 land Security may not impose a fee in connection  
19 with any alien, parent, or legal guardian of an alien  
20 applying for special immigrant juvenile status under  
21 section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Na-  
22 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)).

23 (d) ANNUAL ASYLUM FEE.—Section 100009 of Pub-  
24 lic Law 119–21 is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1       “(e) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
2 this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
3 was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
4 child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
5 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

6       (e)   EMPLOYMENT   AUTHORIZATION   RENEWAL  
7 FEES.—

8           (1) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR PAROL-  
9 EES.—Section 100010 of Public Law 119–21 is  
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11       “(e) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
12 this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
13 was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
14 child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
15 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

16           (2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR ASY-  
17 LUM APPLICANTS.—Section 100011 of Public Law  
18 119–21 is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
19 lowing:

20       “(e) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
21 this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
22 was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
23 child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
24 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

1           (3) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR ALIENS  
2           GRANTED TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.—Sec-  
3           tion 100012 of Public Law 119–21 is amended by  
4           adding at the end the following:

5           “(e) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
6           this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
7           was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
8           child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
9           curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

10          (f) IMMIGRATION COURT FEES.—Section 100013 of  
11          Public Law 119–21 is amended by adding at the end the  
12          following:

13          “(l) EXCEPTION.—The fees otherwise required under  
14          this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
15          was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
16          child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
17          curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

18          (g) IN ABSENTIA REMOVAL FEE.—Section  
19          100016(c) of Public Law 119–21 is amended by inserting  
20          before the period at the end the following: “, or to any  
21          individual who is, or was previously determined to be, an  
22          unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g)(2)  
23          of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.  
24          279(g)(2)))”.

1 (h) BORDER APPREHENSION FEE.—Section 100017  
2 of Public Law 119–21 is amended by inserting at the end  
3 the following:

4 “(e) EXCEPTION.—The fee otherwise required under  
5 this section shall not apply to any individual who is, or  
6 was previously determined to be, an unaccompanied alien  
7 child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Se-  
8 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).”.

9 **SEC. 3. UPHOLDING PROTECTION SCREENINGS AND A FAIR**  
10 **LEGAL PROCESS.**

11 Section 100051 of Public Law 119–21 is amended  
12 by striking paragraph (8).

13 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON BODY EXAMINATIONS.**

14 (a) BODY EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE OF-  
15 FICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.—Section 87001(b)  
16 of Public Law 119–21 is amended—

17 (1) by striking paragraph (3); and

18 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as  
19 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

20 (b) BODY EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE DE-  
21 PARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Section 100051  
22 of Public Law 119–21 is amended—

23 (1) by striking paragraph (11); and

24 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (9), (10), and  
25 (12) as paragraphs (8), (9), and (10), respectively.

1   **SEC. 5. SPONSOR INFORMATION SHARING.**

2           Section 87001 of Public Law 119–21, as amended  
3   by section 4(a), is further amended by adding at the end  
4   the following:

5           “(d) **LIMITATION ON INFORMATION SHARING.**—The  
6   Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that  
7   information obtained under this section is not shared with  
8   Department of Homeland Security or any other Federal  
9   agency for the purpose of enforcing the immigration laws  
10   (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and  
11   Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).”.

12   **SEC. 6. REFUND OF FEES.**

13           Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
14   ment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security or  
15   the Attorney General shall refund each fee paid by, or on  
16   behalf of, any individual under a provision of law that is  
17   repealed or amended under this Act to exempt such indi-  
18   vidual from such payment to the individual or entity who  
19   paid such fee.