

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To provide for the hiring and training of certain personnel at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To provide for the hiring and training of certain personnel 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  
5 of 2024”.

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 offices of the Special Agent in Charge of  
18 Homeland Security Investigations.

19 (b) **EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-**  
20 **ANTS.**—Section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of  
21 2002 (6 U.S.C. 473) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
23 section (h); and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
25 lowing:

1 “(g) EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULT-  
2 ANTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section  
4 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates  
5 not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for  
6 grade GS–15 of the General Schedule under section  
7 5332 of such title, the Secretary may procure by  
8 contract the temporary (not in excess of 1 year) or  
9 intermittent services of experts or consultants to  
10 provide image and audio forensic analysis related to  
11 victim identification to support efforts to identify, lo-  
12 cate, and rescue children seen in abusive images and  
13 videos.

14 “(2) PLACEMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-  
15 mulgate guidelines for assigning or detailing partici-  
16 pants to positions at the Center, offices of the Spe-  
17 cial Agent in Charge, offices of the Resident Agent  
18 in Charge, and Attaché offices.”.

19 **SEC. 3. DECONFLICTION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**  
20 **AND ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN THE**  
21 **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

22 Section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
23 (6 U.S.C. 473) is amended by inserting after subsection  
24 (a)(2) the following:

1           “(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall,  
2           with the concurrence of the directors of affected  
3           agencies within the Department, establish joint pro-  
4           cedures to deconflict, coordinate, and synchronize  
5           child sexual exploitation investigations with the Cen-  
6           ter.”.

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

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

12          (b) PROGRAM.—The Program shall provide training  
13          on new and advanced technology used to identify victims  
14          to—

15               (1) Homeland Security Investigations per-  
16               sonnel; and

17               (2) Federal, State, local, Tribal, military, and  
18               foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged  
19               in the investigation of child sexual exploitation and  
20               abuse within their respective jurisdictions, upon re-  
21               quest and subject to the availability of funds.

22          (c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Program shall  
23          include—

1           (1) annual training for a minimum of 24  
2           Homeland Security Investigations special agents and  
3           analysts focused on—

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

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

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