115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 1372

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________________________

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, 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 “Homeland Security
5 for Children Act”.

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SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS.

Subsection (c) of section 709 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 349) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) lead, conduct, and coordinate Department-wide identification and integration of the needs of children into the Department’s policies, programs, and activities, in coordination with relevant outside organizations and experts, as necessary.”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL EXPERT AUTHORIZED.

Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-paragraph:

“(I) identify and integrate the needs of children into activities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk of natural disasters, acts of ter-
rorism, and other manmade disasters, including
catastrophic incidents, including by appointing
a technical expert, who may consult with rel-
evant outside organizations and experts, as nec-
essary, to coordinate such integration, as nec-
essary.”.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years,
the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans of the
Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the
Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report describ-
ing the efforts the Department has undertaken to identify
and integrate the needs of children into the Department’s
policies, programs, and activities in accordance with para-
graph (4) of section 709(c) of the Homeland Security Act
of 2002 (as added by section 2 of this Act), including in-
formation on the following:

(1) The designation of any individual respon-
sible for carrying out such paragraph (4).

(2) Any review, formal or informal, of any poli-
cies, programs, or activities of the Department
under such paragraph (4) to assess the suitability of
such policies, programs, or activities for children.

(3) Any such review, change, modification, or
promulgation of any such policies, programs, or ac-
tivities to ensure that such policies, programs, or ac-
tivities are appropriate for children.

(4) Coordination with organizations or experts
outside the Department pursuant to such paragraph
(4) conducted to inform any such review, change,
modification, or promulgation of such policies, pro-
grams, or activities.