

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 671

To establish an interagency task force to increase vital documents access  
for unaccompanied homeless youth.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ANSARI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish an interagency task force to increase vital  
documents access for unaccompanied homeless youth.

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 “Vital Documents Ac-  
5 cess for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE**  
2 **ON VITAL DOCUMENTS ACCESS FOR UNAC-**  
3 **COMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH; REPORTS.**

4 (a) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days  
6 after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
7 covered Secretaries and the Commissioner of the So-  
8 cial Security Administration shall, jointly, establish  
9 the Interagency Task Force on Vital Documents Ac-  
10 cess for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (referred  
11 to in this section as the “Task Force”) to coordinate  
12 efforts and share best policies and practices to in-  
13 crease vital documents access for unaccompanied  
14 homeless youth.

15 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall  
17 be composed of—

- 18 (i) the Chair of the Task Force;  
19 (ii) the Commissioner of the Social  
20 Security Administration;  
21 (iii) the covered Secretaries;  
22 (iv) three directors of State depart-  
23 ments of human services, or equivalent  
24 State officials, of whom—

25 (I) one shall be appointed by the  
26 President;

1 (II) one shall be appointed by the  
2 majority leader of the Senate, with  
3 the concurrence of the minority leader  
4 of the Senate; and

5 (III) one shall be appointed by  
6 the majority leader of the House of  
7 Representatives, with the concurrence  
8 of the minority leader of the House of  
9 Representatives; and

10 (v) three representatives from national  
11 nonprofit organizations that work on youth  
12 homelessness, who shall be appointed by  
13 the President.

14 (B) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MEM-  
15 BERS.—The members of the Task Force ap-  
16 pointed under clauses (iv) and (v) of subpara-  
17 graph (A) shall each—

18 (i) have not attained the age of 30;

19 and

20 (ii) have lived-in experience for youth  
21 homelessness.

22 (C) TERMS.—Each member shall serve for  
23 the duration of the Task Force.

24 (D) VACANCY.—In the case of a vacancy  
25 on the Task Force, such vacancy shall be filled

1 not later than 30 days after arising and in the  
2 manner in which the original appointment was  
3 made.

4 (E) STAFF.—

5 (i) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Task  
6 Force shall be chosen, jointly, by the Com-  
7 missioner of the Social Security Adminis-  
8 tration and the covered Secretaries and  
9 shall lead the Task Force in executing the  
10 duties described in paragraph (3).

11 (ii) SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—The Task  
12 Force may appoint additional support per-  
13 sonnel as it considers appropriate to assist  
14 in executing the duties described in para-  
15 graph (3).

16 (3) DUTIES.—Beginning on the last day of the  
17 first fiscal quarter after the date on which the Task  
18 Force is established under paragraph (1), and quar-  
19 terly thereafter, the Task Force shall meet to—

20 (A) assess and discuss—

21 (i) the progress each Task Force  
22 member has made on increasing vital docu-  
23 ments access for unaccompanied homeless  
24 youth;

1           (ii) each policy and practice imple-  
2           mented by a Task Force member that in-  
3           creased vital documents access for unac-  
4           panied homeless youth;

5           (iii) each challenge faced by a Task  
6           Force member while working towards in-  
7           creasing vital documents access for unac-  
8           panied homeless youth; and

9           (iv) each method used by a Task  
10          Force member to refine each policy and  
11          practice implemented to improve vital doc-  
12          uments access for unaccompanied homeless  
13          youth;

14          (B) establish a framework for collecting  
15          data on the effectiveness of each policy and  
16          practice implemented by a Task Force member  
17          to increase vital documents access for unaccom-  
18          panied homeless youth;

19          (C) using the data collected under sub-  
20          paragraph (B)—

21                 (i) formulate policies and practices to  
22                 increase vital documents access for unac-  
23                 panied homeless youth; and

1 (ii) evaluate the success of each such  
2 policy and practice in increasing such ac-  
3 cess; and

4 (D) develop policies and practices that can  
5 be implemented by Federal, State, and local  
6 agencies to improve vital documents access for  
7 unaccompanied homeless youth.

8 (b) REPORTS.—

9 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
11 after the date on which the Task Force is es-  
12 tablished under subsection (a)(1), the covered  
13 Secretaries and the Commissioner of the Social  
14 Security Administration shall, jointly, submit to  
15 Congress an initial report on how to increase  
16 vital documents access for unaccompanied  
17 homeless youth.

18 (B) ELEMENTS.—The initial report re-  
19 quired under subparagraph (A) shall include  
20 the following:

21 (i) The covered Secretaries shall,  
22 jointly, provide—

23 (I) a detailed analysis of each  
24 challenge that unaccompanied home-  
25 less youth without vital documents

1 face in accessing all programs under  
2 the separate and joint administrative  
3 jurisdictions of the covered Secre-  
4 taries, including programs related to  
5 housing assistance, homelessness pre-  
6 vention, health care, child welfare, or  
7 other social services;

8 (II) any recommendations for  
9 legislation and administrative action  
10 the covered Secretaries determine ap-  
11 propriate to increase access to each  
12 such program by unaccompanied  
13 homeless youth without vital docu-  
14 ments, including enhanced training re-  
15 quirements for agency staff and in-  
16 creased collaboration between the  
17 agencies of the covered Secretaries;

18 (III) a list of each State and  
19 local policy that increased vital docu-  
20 ments access for unaccompanied  
21 homeless youth, as determined by the  
22 covered Secretaries, and recommenda-  
23 tions for legislation and administra-  
24 tive action to expand such State and  
25 local policy; and

1 (IV) a detailed assessment of  
2 each such policy identified by the cov-  
3 ered Secretaries under subclause (III)  
4 and any suggestion the covered Secre-  
5 taries determine appropriate to ex-  
6 pand or replicate each such policy  
7 within the Federal Government.

8 (ii) The Commissioner of the Social  
9 Security Administration shall provide—

10 (I) a detailed assessment of each  
11 policy related to issuing social security  
12 cards to unaccompanied homeless  
13 youth, including any discretion the  
14 Commissioner has to waive any docu-  
15 mentation requirement in the social  
16 security card application process;

17 (II) any recommendation the  
18 Commissioner determines appropriate  
19 to increase social security card access  
20 for unaccompanied homeless youth,  
21 including enhanced training require-  
22 ments for Administration staff on how  
23 to better assist unaccompanied home-  
24 less youth;

1 (III) any proposal for issuing  
2 new educational materials, or expand-  
3 ing upon existing materials, to assist  
4 unaccompanied homeless youth with  
5 the social security card application  
6 process;

7 (IV) a plan to enhance outreach  
8 and collaboration efforts among Fed-  
9 eral, State, and local agencies, as well  
10 as community-based organizations, to  
11 increase social security card access for  
12 unaccompanied homeless youth; and

13 (V) any recommendation that the  
14 Commissioner determines appropriate  
15 for State legislation and administra-  
16 tive action to increase social security  
17 card access for unaccompanied home-  
18 less youth.

19 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three  
21 years after the date on which the Task Force  
22 is established under subsection (a)(1), the Task  
23 Force shall submit to Congress a final report.

1 (B) ELEMENTS.—The final report required  
2 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-  
3 lowing:

4 (i) Each change undertaken by a  
5 Task Force member based on rec-  
6 ommendations made in the initial report  
7 under paragraph (1).

8 (ii) The effectiveness of each change  
9 described in clause (i) in increasing vital  
10 documents access for unaccompanied  
11 homeless youth.

12 (iii) A detailed assessment of the mer-  
13 its of making the Task Force permanent.

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-  
16 ered Secretaries” means—

17 (A) the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
18 Development; and

19 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human  
20 Services.

21 (2) UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH.—The  
22 term “unaccompanied homeless youth” means an in-  
23 dividual who is—

1 (A) a homeless child or youth (as defined  
2 in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless  
3 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)); and

4 (B) not in the physical custody of a parent  
5 or guardian.

6 (3) VITAL DOCUMENTS.—The term “vital docu-  
7 ments”—

8 (A) means any State or Federal document  
9 issued to an individual that can be used to es-  
10 tablish the identity of such individual; and

11 (B) includes a social security card and a  
12 birth certificate.

13 (d) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate  
14 on the date that is three years after the date on which  
15 the Task Force is established under subsection (a)(1).

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