

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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To address sexual harassment and sexual assault of Bureau of Prisons staff  
in prisons, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To address sexual harassment and sexual assault of Bureau  
of Prisons staff in prisons, 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 “Prison Staff Safety  
5 Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 2023, the Office of the Inspector General  
9 of the Department of Justice released a report titled  
10 “Evaluation of the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ Ef-

1       forts to Address Sexual Harassment and Sexual As-  
2       sault Committed by Inmates Toward Staff” (in this  
3       section referred to as the “Inspector General re-  
4       port”).

5           (2) The Inspector General report examined all  
6       sanctioned inmate sexual incidents in the Bureau of  
7       Prisons (in this section referred to as the “Bureau”)  
8       between fiscal years 2015 and 2021, and found that  
9       inmate-on-staff sexual harassment and sexual as-  
10      sault is widespread.

11          (3) The Inspector General report further found  
12      that the Bureau does not collect adequate data on  
13      inmate-on-staff sexual harassment and sexual as-  
14      sault and that, because of the Bureau’s inadequate  
15      data, the Bureau has not been able to identify the  
16      full scope of inmate-on-staff sexual harassment and  
17      sexual assault.

18          (4) The Inspector General report further found  
19      that the Bureau does not have systems to evaluate  
20      the effectiveness of the Bureau’s strategies to miti-  
21      gate inmate-on-staff sexual harassment and sexual  
22      assault.

23          (5) The Inspector General report made rec-  
24      ommendations to the Bureau to address the failures  
25      in the Bureau’s data collection and mitigation ef-

1       forts, but the Bureau has not implemented these  
2       recommendations.

3       **SEC. 3. ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL**  
4       **ASSAULT OF BUREAU OF PRISONS STAFF.**

5       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6           (1) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the  
7       Bureau of Prisons.

8           (2) CORRECTIONAL OFFICER.—The term “cor-  
9       rectional officer” has the meaning given the term in  
10      section 4051 of title 18, United States Code.

11          (3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term “Inspec-  
12      tor General” means the Inspector General of the De-  
13      partment of Justice.

14          (4) INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term  
15      “incarcerated individual” has the meaning given the  
16      term “prisoner” in section 4051 of title 18, United  
17      States Code.

18          (5) SEXUAL ASSAULT.—The term “sexual as-  
19      sault” means an act described in subsection (b), (c),  
20      or (d) of section 920 of title 10, United States Code.

21          (6) SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—The term “sexual  
22      harassment” means unwelcome sexual advances, re-  
23      quests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical  
24      conduct of a sexual nature that explicitly or implic-  
25      itly affect an individual’s employment, unreasonably

1 interfere with an individual’s work performance, or  
2 create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work en-  
3 vironment.

4 (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY  
5 BUREAU.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau shall  
8 fully implement each recommendation in the report  
9 released by the Inspector General in 2023 titled  
10 “Evaluation of the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ Ef-  
11 forts to Address Sexual Harassment and Sexual As-  
12 sault Committed by Inmates Toward Staff”.

13 (2) REPORT.—If the Bureau has not fully im-  
14 plemented each recommendation referenced in para-  
15 graph (1) by the deadline under that paragraph, the  
16 Bureau shall submit a report to Congress by that  
17 deadline that includes an explanation of the failure  
18 to fully implement each recommendation and a de-  
19 tailed timeline for full implementation.

20 (c) DATA ANALYSIS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
22 the date as of which the Bureau has fully imple-  
23 mented each recommendation referenced in sub-  
24 section (b)(1)—

1 (A) the Inspector General shall request  
2 from the Bureau, and the Bureau shall provide,  
3 updated data on the number and prevalence of  
4 sexual harassment and sexual assault incidents  
5 perpetrated by incarcerated individuals against  
6 a correctional officer or other employee of the  
7 Bureau during fiscal years 2022 through 2025;

8 (B) the Inspector General shall conduct an  
9 analysis of the data described in subparagraph  
10 (A); and

11 (C) the Inspector General shall provide  
12 Congress and the Attorney General with the  
13 analysis conducted under subparagraph (B) and  
14 any additional recommendations, including  
15 analysis of whether the Bureau has taken suffi-  
16 cient steps to identify the prevalence and scope  
17 of sexual harassment and sexual assault inci-  
18 dents perpetrated by incarcerated individuals  
19 against a correctional officer or other employee  
20 of the Bureau and to mitigate such incidents.

21 (2) ANALYSIS OF PUNISHMENTS.—The analysis  
22 required under paragraph (1)(C) shall include an  
23 analysis of punishments for sexual harassment and  
24 sexual assault as of the date of enactment of this  
25 Act in facilities controlled by the Bureau of Prisons,

1 including data on the use of such punishments dur-  
2 ing the 5-year period preceding the date of enact-  
3 ment of this Act.

4 (d) RULEMAKING BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not  
5 later than 1 year after receiving the analysis under sub-  
6 section (c), the Attorney General shall promulgate a rule  
7 adopting national standards for prevention, reduction, and  
8 punishment of sexual harassment and sexual assault per-  
9 petrated by an incarcerated individual against a correc-  
10 tional officer or other employee of the Bureau.