



H.R. 5464 – A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5464 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Ron Klein (D-FL) on February 14, 2008. The resolution was reported by voice vote from the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 14, 2008.

H.R. 5464 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5464 requires the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center (ACIM). The grant is authorized at \$5 million for each fiscal year 2009 through 2014 and may be used to operate and expand ACIM's services to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to promote the recovery of a missing child, to maintain and expand technologies and techniques, and to establish and maintain regional centers. The grant may also be used to share information with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert Coordinator, and appropriate Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and to assist them with education programs.

BACKGROUND

A Child Is Missing (ACIM) is a non-profit corporation that was established in January 1997. ACIM is a service made available to law enforcement agencies to assist with the search for a missing child, elderly, or disabled person. The law enforcement agency contacts ACIM in the event of a missing person and ACIM then enters the location the person was last seen and identifies a search area. Their computers then generate a list of phone numbers of the residents and businesses in the search area and a recorded message is sent out to the community.

According to testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 17, 2008, the founder of ACIM, Sherry Friedlander, stated that ACIM has worked 9,000 cases and has launched more than 16 million alert calls. ACIM has been credited by law enforcement with 340 safe, assisted recoveries.

COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office, "CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5464 would cost about \$15 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts."

STAFF CONTACT

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