



BLOOM SAFE

MAKE AMERICA THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE A KID

ADVOCATE & SPOKESPERSON TRAINING GUIDE

BLOOM SAFE: MAKE AMERICA THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE A KID ACT

Talking points, message discipline, public-endorsement guidance, and congressional meeting preparation

CURRENT STATUS: House-style legislative discussion draft. Not yet introduced, sponsored, or assigned a bill number.

FOR ADVOCATES | GRASSROOTS SUPPORTERS | PUBLIC ENDORSERS | COMMUNITY LEADERS | CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

Use this guide to speak accurately, compassionately, and consistently. It is not legal advice, crisis-response training, or a substitute for applicable mandatory-reporting duties.

1. How to use this guide

Start here before speaking publicly or meeting with an elected official.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT: The Bloom Safe Act is a legislative discussion draft. Say that clearly. The immediate congressional goal is review, refinement with counsel, and sponsorship leading to introduction.

Use this guide to:

- Prepare a short, accurate explanation of the problem and the bill.
- Choose evidence that fits the audience without sensationalizing abuse or misusing statistics.
- Answer common policy, funding, federalism, privacy, and law-enforcement questions.
- Plan a focused meeting with a Representative, Senator, or congressional staff member.
- Make a specific next-step request and follow up professionally.

Five spokesperson principles

- **Children are never responsible.** Frame prevention as an adult, institutional, community, and policy responsibility.
- **Lead with hope and agency.** The subject is serious; the message should still show that prevention and measurable progress are possible.
- **Be precise.** Differentiate prevalence estimates, administrative counts, and reports of suspected online exploitation.
- **Protect survivors.** Never pressure anyone to disclose, identify a survivor, or provide graphic details to make the case.
- **Stay inside the draft.** Do not promise requirements, savings, outcomes, sponsors, committee assignments, or enactment dates the text does not establish.

If someone discloses abuse or immediate risk

PAUSE THE ADVOCACY CONVERSATION. Listen without blame, do not investigate, avoid promising confidentiality you cannot guarantee, and follow applicable reporting and safety procedures. For immediate danger, call 911. Support resources appear at the end of this guide.

2. Ready-to-use pitches

Choose the shortest version that fits the moment. Do not rush a longer script into a short opportunity.

15 SECONDS

Child sexual abuse is preventable. The Bloom Safe Act would make prevention a permanent national public-health responsibility and invest \$1 billion each year in research, education, adult training, community grants, survivor support, digital safety, and public accountability.

30 SECONDS

Children deserve more than an after-the-fact response to sexual abuse. The Bloom Safe Act is a prevention-first discussion draft that would establish permanent HHS-led public-health infrastructure, fund local and national prevention work, require the first public report to Congress within 180 days and every year thereafter, and keep law-enforcement participation limited to data, research, education, and appropriate training.

60 SECONDS

CDC describes child sexual abuse as a serious and preventable public-health problem. In the latest BJS/FBI national estimate, 63 percent of criminal sexual contact victimizations reported to law enforcement involved minors. Yet prevention remains fragmented, data are incomplete, and communities often lack sustained resources. The Bloom Safe Act would create permanent national leadership within HHS; invest \$1 billion annually; send at least 60 percent to non-Federal partners; support education, adult competencies and voluntary certification, organizational safety, research, survivor and family services, digital safety, and community grants; and require transparent reporting and independent review. It does not create new crimes, impose a Federal curriculum, or expand policing. We are asking Congress to review the discussion draft and help move it toward introduction.

TWO-MINUTE CONGRESSIONAL OPENING

Thank you for meeting with us. We are here because child sexual abuse is a preventable public-health crisis, but the national response still concentrates too heavily on what happens after harm. Bloom Safe proposes a permanent prevention infrastructure: HHS-led coordination, stronger surveillance and research, voluntary grants for education and adult training, organizational safety standards, survivor and family support, digital-safety work, and accountable community implementation. The discussion draft provides \$1 billion each year, requires public spending data and annual reports to Congress, sends at least 60 percent to non-Federal partners, and caps Federal administration at 3 percent. It also expressly prevents the program from becoming an expansion of surveillance, investigations, prosecutions, or general law-enforcement funding. We would value your policy team's review and ask whether the Member or Senator would consider helping refine and sponsor the legislation for introduction.

DELIVERY TIP: Speak as a person, not a press release. Use one statistic, identify its source and measurement lane, give one reason the draft is different, and make one clear ask.

3. Responsible statistics bank

Congressional staff will test both the number and the denominator. Use one strong fact, name the source and year, state what was measured, and connect it to a specific policy need. Never add figures from different systems as though they count the same children.

The three numbers to memorize

At least 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys^[1]

CDC's current public summary says at least these proportions of children in the United States experience child sexual abuse.

Use responsibly: Say 'at least' and identify CDC. This is a prevalence estimate, not an annual count and not a count of cases known to authorities.

63% of reported criminal sexual contact victimizations involved minors in 2024^[2]

The BJS/FBI NIBRS national estimate was about 112,400 criminal sexual contact victimizations in 2024; about 70,900 involved victims younger than 18. Forty-one percent involved ages 5-14, 6 percent involved children under 5, and 16 percent involved ages 15-17.

Use responsibly: These are estimated victimizations recorded by law enforcement, not unique children or total prevalence. 'Criminal sexual contact' is the current NIBRS name for the offense formerly called fondling; it does not include the separate rape or nonforcible-sex-offense categories.

Nearly \$5.4 billion a year for incarceration nationwide^[6]

A peer-reviewed study estimated that state and Federal prisons and sex-offender civil-commitment systems together spent nearly \$5.4 billion in 2021 to confine adults convicted of sex crimes against children. About \$508 million of that estimate was Federal incarceration spending.

Use responsibly: Do not say the Federal Government spends \$5.4 billion. The total combines state and Federal systems and civil commitment, is an estimate rather than a current appropriation, and excludes detection, prosecution, supervision, and registration costs.

What current Federal systems see

Roughly 41,000 children known to child-protection systems in 2024^[3]

HHS reported 532,228 unique victims of child abuse or neglect in fiscal year 2024; 7.7 percent, roughly 41,000 children, had sexual abuse recorded as a maltreatment type.

Use responsibly: NCANDS reflects screened-in cases that reached child-protection agencies and received a disposition. It does not measure unreported abuse, and a child may have more than one maltreatment type.

11.4% of U.S. high school students reported sexual violence in one year^[4]

In CDC's 2023 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 11.4 percent reported that someone had forced them to do sexual things during the prior 12 months; 8.6 percent reported ever being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.

Use responsibly: *This is a nationally representative school survey of students in grades 9-12. It measures sexual victimization, which may involve peers or adults, and should not be labeled a count of substantiated CSA cases.*

87% involved someone known to the victim; only 16% were cleared by arrest^[2]

In 2024 NIBRS criminal sexual contact data, 87 percent of victimizations with a classified relationship involved someone known to the victim. Separately, 16 percent were associated with arrest-cleared incidents, 7 percent with exceptional clearances, and 77 percent with uncleared incidents when compiled.

Use responsibly: *'Known' is not necessarily 'trusted,' and clearance is not prosecution or conviction. Use these figures to support prevention and better data, not to disparage investigators or survivors.*

The age pattern: powerful when stated precisely

Age 14 was the historic overall peak; age 4 was the peak among children under 12^[5]

A DOJ analysis of 60,991 sexual-assault victims in 1991-1996 NIBRS files found that age 14 was the single age with the greatest proportion of victims reported to participating law-enforcement agencies. Among victims under age 12, 4-year-olds were the largest single-age group. The study also found 67 percent of reported victims were minors, 34 percent were under 12, and 14 percent were under 6.

Use responsibly: *The publication did not say age 4 was the second most common age overall. It analyzed participating agencies' 1991-1996 reports under then-current offense definitions; it is a historic pattern, not a current prevalence estimate.*

The current national estimate shows a heavy concentration among children^[2]

The 2024 BJS/FBI estimate found **63 percent** of criminal sexual contact victimizations involved minors, including 29 percent involving children under 12 and 34 percent involving ages 12-17.

Use responsibly: *The published 2024 national tables group ages under 5 and 5-14, so they do not establish an individual-age ranking. Cite source [14] for the exact 2023 modes and source [2] for the weighted 2024 age-group estimate. Do not present the two as a single dataset or claim that the 2024 tables independently confirm the 2023 exact-age results.*

Updated 2023 exact-age analysis: five of six historical modal ages persisted^[14]

A Bloom Safe analysis joined the FBI's 2023 NIBRS victim, victim-offense, and offense records for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The most frequently recorded victim age was 15 for rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and statutory rape, and 14 for fondling and incest. Five of those six modes matched the FBI's published 2013 findings; sodomy shifted from age 5 to age 15, although its 2023 distribution still showed a distinct early-childhood concentration at ages 4-7.

NIBRS offense	2013 mode	2023 mode	2023 known-age records
Rape	15	15	80,501
Sodomy	5	15	21,624
Sexual assault with an object	15	15	8,335
Fondling (code 11D)	14	14	93,283
Incest	14	14	1,284
Statutory rape	15	15	8,397
Commercial-sex-acts trafficking	Not in report	16	2,384

Use responsibly: Say 'most frequently recorded victim age,' not 'most likely age to be assaulted.' This is an independent calculation from unweighted law-enforcement records, not an FBI-published conclusion or a population prevalence estimate. It counts a victim once per linked offense code, so one person may appear in more than one category. Across the six historical categories, 213,424 records had a usable exact age and 269 did not. The 2023 code 11D label was fondling; do not imply that the broadened 2025 criminal-sexual-contact definition governed these records.

2% of girls experienced sexual assault or abuse in one study year^[11]

The federally sponsored 2014 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that 2.0 percent of girls ages 0-17 experienced sexual assault or sexual abuse in the prior year; the rate was 4.6 percent among girls ages 14-17.

Use responsibly: This is a 2014 nationally representative survey estimate, not an administrative count and not a current annual estimate. Use it to explain the difference between lifetime and past-year prevalence.

Children were the majority of known-age records in five of six sex-offense categories^[14]

Victims younger than 18 accounted for 55.0 percent of known-age sodomy records, 52.0 percent of sexual-assault-with-an-object records, 65.5 percent of fondling records, 77.8 percent of incest records, and 100 percent of statutory-rape records. The minor share was 39.9 percent for rape. In the separate commercial-sex-acts-trafficking category, age 16 was the mode and 57.7 percent of known-age records involved minors.

Use responsibly: *These are shares of victim-offense records reported by participating agencies, not shares of all abuse in the population. The statutory-rape result is definition-dependent, and human-trafficking reporting is substantially less complete than reporting for the six traditional NIBRS sex-offense categories.*

Modern prevalence and online harm

Including online sexual abuse raised estimated prevalence from 13.5% to 21.7%^[10]

A 2024 peer-reviewed U.S. study found that adding online forms of sexual abuse raised overall childhood prevalence from 13.5 to 21.7 percent. The estimate rose from 19.8 to 31.6 percent among females and from 6.2 to 10.8 percent among males.

Use responsibly: *This was a national retrospective online-panel survey of U.S. young adults ages 18-28, not a Federal administrative count. Results depend on the study's definitions, including nonconsensual image sharing and sexual interactions with impermissibly older adults.*

19.5 million reports categorized as suspected CSAM in 2025^[9]

In 2025, NCMEC's CyberTipline received 19,514,872 reports categorized as suspected child sexual abuse material, an average of more than 53,000 reports every day. Reports submitted by technology companies included 29.4 million images and 26.3 million videos.

Use responsibly: *These figures measure reports and submitted files, not unique children, offenders, independently verified crimes, or newly produced material. The same material may be reported repeatedly, and one report may contain multiple files or related incidents. The file totals cover all reported child-sexual-exploitation categories, although NCMEC says the majority involved suspected CSAM.*

1.4 million online-enticement reports in 2025^[9]

NCMEC says its CyberTipline received 1.4 million reports concerning online enticement in 2025, including more than 80,000 reports concerning sextortion.

Use responsibly: *These are reports, not unique victims or confirmed crimes. Reporting volume can include duplication and can change with law, platform practices, and reporting classifications.*

Economic and life-course burden

At least \$9.3 billion in lifetime burden from one year's substantiated cases^[8]

A peer-reviewed study estimated at least \$9.3 billion in lifetime costs associated with fatal and substantiated nonfatal CSA cases occurring in 2015, expressed in 2015 dollars. The estimate included health care, productivity, child-welfare, criminal-justice, special-education, and suicide-death costs.

Use responsibly: *This is a conservative lifetime burden attached to one year's identified cases. It is not annual Federal spending, a current-dollar estimate, or proof that the Act will save a specific amount.*

Health and life-course consequences

CDC links CSA with short- and long-term physical, mental, behavioral, educational, and well-being harms, including depression, post-traumatic stress symptoms, substance misuse, increased suicide risk, and future victimization.^[1]

EXAMPLE OF A CONGRESS-READY STATEMENT:

“Of the approximately 3.6 million babies born in the United States in 2025, more than **half a million** (at least ~540,000) could experience child sexual abuse before reaching adulthood if current CDC prevalence rates remain unchanged (at least 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys). This is a birth-cohort projection, not an estimate of the number abused in a single year. The United States already spends nearly \$5.4 billion a year across state and Federal systems incarcerating and civilly committing adults convicted of sex crimes against children. The Federal share alone was estimated at about \$508 million in 2021, while Congress provided only \$3 million for CDC child sexual abuse prevention in fiscal year 2026. Those figures are not an apples-to-apples budget comparison, but they show how much more mature the after-the-fact response is than the prevention infrastructure.”

4. What the BLOOM SAFE ACT v2.1 actually does

Use these program areas instead of the superseded 'five pillars' description.

- **Permanent public-health leadership.** Establishes a National Council within HHS, chaired by the HHS Secretary; the CDC Director and Education Secretary serve as vice chairs. The Council publishes a national strategy with measurable 1-, 3-, and 10-year objectives.
- **Research, data collection and analysis, and reporting.** Creates a National Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Research and Data Center, research agenda, data coordination, privacy rules, and an evidence clearinghouse. The first national report is due within 180 days and an updated report is required every year.
- **Education, adult competencies, and organizational safety.** Supports voluntary grants for age-appropriate prevention education; national core competencies and voluntary Bloom Safe certification for adults; and prevention standards for organizations that serve children.
- **Awareness, help-seeking, and support.** Authorizes a national public-awareness campaign, a confidential prevention helpline, trauma-informed survivor and family supports, and equitable access strategies.
- **Digital safety.** Funds research, education, public-interest technology, safety-by-design demonstrations, standards, and evaluation addressing grooming, sextortion, CSAM, trafficking, and other technology-facilitated abuse.
- **Formal cross-sector grants.** Authorizes competitive grants and cooperative agreements for governments; schools and early-childhood programs; universities; nonprofits and survivor-led groups; faith communities; health providers; child-advocacy centers; professional bodies; and, with added safeguards, technology and media companies.
- **A comprehensive public-health definition.** Covers actual, attempted, threatened, facilitated, contact, noncontact, and technology-mediated conduct. Public-health classification does not require arrest or conviction and does not itself create criminal or civil liability.
- **Survivor-informed governance.** Creates a 31-41 member Advisory Board with at least one-fourth adult survivors, seven standing subcommittees, public transparency, compensation for non-Federal members, travel reimbursement, and participation supports.

KEY DISTINCTION: The draft supports training standards and a voluntary Bloom Safe certification. It does not, as currently written, impose a universal Federal certification mandate on every adult who works with children.

5. Funding, allocation, and accountability

Know the numbers, their limits, and the questions Congress will ask.

\$1 BILLION EVERY YEAR. The draft directly appropriates \$1 billion for the fiscal year of enactment, the next fiscal year, and every fiscal year thereafter unless Congress changes the law. This is permanent annual funding, not \$1 billion total.

Requirement	Draft rule	Section
Annual amount	\$1 billion in the year of enactment, the next fiscal year, and each year thereafter	Sec. 501(a)-(b)
Non-Federal awards	At least 60% in aggregate	Sec. 501(d)(6)
Research/data/report	At least 18%	Sec. 501(d)(1)
Education/training/safety	At least 25%	Sec. 501(d)(2)
Community grants	At least 25%	Sec. 501(d)(3)
Survivor/family supports	At least 10%	Sec. 501(d)(4)
Digital safety	At least 7%	Sec. 501(d)(5)
Federal administration	No more than 3%, with specified exclusions	Sec. 501(d)(7)
Law-enforcement reimbursement	Actual permitted costs only; no more than 1% in aggregate	Sec. 501(f)

Accuracy note: *several allocation requirements apply across the same awards. Do not add every percentage as though each were a separate, nonoverlapping pot.*

Oversight built into the draft

- First-year operating plan within 90 days; later annual plans within 60 days after each fiscal year begins.
- Quarterly, machine-readable obligations and outlays; searchable public award information.
- Merit review, performance goals, risk-based monitoring, evaluation, audits, and remedies for noncompliance.
- Annual public-health report to Congress and the public; independent expert review of the report.
- Comptroller General review within 3 years and at least every 3 years thereafter.

BUDGET-PROCESS ANSWER: A direct permanent appropriation will receive committee, Legislative Counsel, budget, and CBO scrutiny. Do not guess the score, offsets, or final budget classification. Say the discussion draft establishes the policy priority and that sponsors will work through the formal scoring and legislative process.

6. The strongest arguments for Congress

Connect each value statement to a feature of the draft.

- **Prevention fills the missing part of the response.** Investigation, prosecution, and survivor services matter after harm. Bloom Safe builds the research, education, training, organizational, digital, and community infrastructure needed to reduce risk before harm occurs.
- **The scale requires sustained national infrastructure.** Fragmented short-term projects cannot produce consistent surveillance, comparable data, a trained workforce, or reliable multiyear evaluation. Permanent funding allows continuity and course correction.
- **National leadership can still support local delivery.** The Act sets national public-health infrastructure while directing at least 60 percent to non-Federal entities and protecting State and local control of curriculum.
- **Evidence and transparency are part of the program, not an afterthought.** The draft requires annual reporting, public spending data, evidence ratings, independent evaluation, and recurring GAO review - including publication of null or unfavorable findings.
- **Trusted environments must become safer.** CDC says about 90 percent of CSA is committed by someone known and trusted. Current BJS/FBI data point in the same direction: among 2024 criminal sexual contact victimizations with a classifiable known-versus-stranger relationship, 87 percent involved a family member, intimate partner, or someone otherwise known to the victim. Prevention must reach families, schools, faith communities, sports, health care, youth programs, and other settings where adults hold responsibility.
- **Digital threats require prevention capacity, not only case response.** The bill supports safety education, research, public-interest technology, privacy safeguards, and responsible partnerships with online platforms and technology companies.
- **Survivor expertise should shape policy without requiring unpaid labor.** The expanded Advisory Board reserves substantial survivor representation and compensates non-Federal members for preparation, meetings, subcommittee work, approved consultation, and travel time.
- **The proposal creates common ground.** Protecting children, strengthening families and institutions, respecting privacy, empowering communities, and demanding measurable results are values that cross party and ideological lines.

A USEFUL BRIDGE: 'Whatever our politics, children deserve a government that learns what prevents abuse, funds what works, measures the results, and tells the public the truth.'

7. Tailor the message without changing the facts

Different audiences need different entry points, but the underlying claims stay the same.

Grassroots supporters

Lead with a simple contrast: children deserve prevention, not only an after-the-fact response. Give one statistic, one bill feature, and one action: read the draft, contact Congress, or bring a local organization into the coalition.

SAMPLE

Bloom Safe would make child sexual abuse prevention a permanent national responsibility, while sending most funding beyond Washington to communities, schools, researchers, survivor-led groups, faith organizations, governments, and other partners. Please ask Congress to review and introduce the Act.

Public figures and celebrity endorsers

Use reach to make prevention visible and invite action. Do not use graphic details, imply personal knowledge of a survivor, or turn a disclosure into campaign content. A public endorser never needs to disclose personal experience.

SAMPLE

Every child deserves a childhood free from sexual harm. I support the Bloom Safe discussion draft because it invests in prevention, evidence, community action, survivor-informed policy, and public accountability. I am asking Congress to review it and help bring it forward for introduction.

Faith and community leaders

Emphasize trusted environments, adult responsibility, safeguarding, and equal access to grants. Be clear that direct Federal assistance cannot fund worship, religious instruction, or proselytization and that faith-based recipients face the same child-safety and accountability requirements as comparable recipients.

Researchers and public-health professionals

Emphasize surveillance quality, root-cause research, implementation science, evaluation, publication of null findings, the evidence clearinghouse, privacy, and stable funding for multiyear work.

Survivors and survivor allies

Center choice, boundaries, compensation, privacy, and trauma-informed participation. Never suggest survivors are responsible for preventing abuse or that a personal story is required to establish credibility.

MESSAGE DISCIPLINE: Adapt the doorway, not the truth. Funding, status, voluntary participation, law-enforcement limits, and data caveats do not change with the audience.

8. Prepare for a congressional meeting

The goal is a credible next step, not to recite the entire draft.

Before the meeting

- Confirm whether you are meeting the Member or Senator, legislative director, health staff, education staff, judiciary staff, or district/state staff.
- Review the official biography, committee assignments, recent public statements, district/state priorities, and relevant legislation. Use current official sources.
- Choose one primary statistic from section 3 and one backup. Write down the exact source, year, denominator, and caveat. If possible, bring or link the source page rather than a copied social graphic.
- Select one local connection: a prevention provider, school, university, faith community, survivor-led organization, public-health agency, technology employer, or constituent story shared with informed consent.
- Assign roles: facilitator, policy lead, local/community voice, and note-taker. One person may hold more than one role in a small meeting.
- Bring the congressional one-pager, the discussion draft or a link to it, this talking-points guide, and a one-page list of local endorsers or implementation partners if available.
- Agree on the primary ask and the fallback ask before entering the room.

Suggested 20-minute agenda

Time	Lead	Purpose
0-2 min	Facilitator	Thank the office; introduce constituents and the purpose.
2-5 min	Community voice	Explain why prevention matters locally; use one statistic.
5-10 min	Policy lead	Summarize the public-health structure, funding, accountability, and guardrails.
10-14 min	Member/staff	Invite questions; listen for priorities, concerns, and process advice.
14-18 min	Facilitator	Make the House or Senate ask; offer draft language and follow-up.
18-20 min	Note-taker	Confirm owner, next step, needed materials, and follow-up date.

Meeting conduct

- Be direct, respectful, and brief. Staff expertise and process guidance are valuable even when the Member is unavailable.

- If you do not know an answer, say so and commit to a sourced follow-up. If a staff member challenges a statistic, record the question and verify it after the meeting. Never improvise a bill requirement, denominator, trend, budget score, or committee outcome.
- Do not argue about a survivor's credibility or ask anyone in the room to disclose personal experience.

9. Make the right ask and secure the next step

Because the Act is not introduced, the ask must match its current stage.

For a member of the House

PRIMARY ASK: Will the Representative direct the appropriate policy staff to review the discussion draft and consider becoming an original House sponsor after Legislative Counsel review?

Useful follow-ups: Would the office identify key drafting concerns, advise on committee and jurisdictional issues, meet with the policy team again, or connect Bloom Safe with another office that may be interested?

For a Senator

PRIMARY ASK: Will the Senator's policy team review the House-style discussion draft and consider helping develop or sponsor a Senate companion?

Useful follow-ups: Would the Senate office coordinate with a potential House sponsor, identify Senate-specific drafting concerns, or advise which committees and stakeholders should be consulted?

For congressional staff

- What are the office's highest-priority questions about policy, funding, jurisdiction, implementation, or political feasibility?
- What source material, local data, endorsements, technical memoranda, or section-by-section analysis would be most useful?
- Who owns the next step, and when should we follow up?

DO NOT ASK YET: Do not ask someone to 'cosponsor' a bill that has not been introduced. Ask for review, drafting engagement, original sponsorship, or support for a companion bill.

After the meeting

- Send a concise thank-you within 24 hours, restating the agreed next step.
- Answer unanswered questions with sources; separate fact from interpretation.
- Log the office, staff contact, issues raised, commitments, follow-up owner, and date.
- Do not publicly claim the Member's support without explicit permission or a public statement.

10. Congressional meeting worksheet

Complete this page before the meeting and use it to capture next steps.

Office / Member / Senator *Name, state or district*

Staff participants *Names, titles, policy portfolios*

Relevant committees and priorities *Use current official congressional sources*

Local connection *Organization, constituent, institution, or implementation partner*

Our one-sentence purpose

Primary ask

Fallback ask

Top three questions we expect

Who will speak *Facilitator / policy lead / local voice / note-taker*

Commitments or concerns raised

Follow-up owner and deadline

FINAL CHECK: Can every participant state the bill's status, annual funding, voluntary certification structure, first-year reporting deadline, and law-enforcement limitation accurately?

11. Tough questions: funding, scope, and Federal role

Answer the question asked, then return to the prevention purpose.

Why does this require \$1 billion every year?

The United States already spends nearly \$5.4 billion each year across state and Federal systems to incarcerate and civilly commit adults convicted of sex crimes against children, while the fiscal year 2026 CDC line for child sexual abuse prevention is \$3 million. Those amounts are not directly comparable, but they demonstrate the scale of the reactive system and the comparatively limited prevention research infrastructure. The draft treats prevention as permanent public-health capacity, supporting research and reporting, education and workforce initiatives, survivor and family supports, digital safety, and grants across States and communities. It directs at least 60 percent to non-Federal entities and requires evaluation, spending transparency, audits, and GAO review. The final amount and structure will still face congressional review and budget scoring. Draft: §§ 501-503; Sources [6]-[7].

Does 'permanent' mean Congress loses control?

No. The appropriation continues unless changed by a later Act of Congress. Congress retains legislative authority, receives annual reports and spending data, and may amend, condition, reduce, or repeal the program through later legislation. *Draft: § 501(b), (h); § 505.*

Does the bill impose a national school curriculum?

No. Education grants are voluntary, and the draft expressly states that Federal officers may not mandate or control a State, local educational agency, school, or institution's specific curriculum, instruction, standards, assessments, or State/local resource allocation. *Draft: § 301(e).*

Will every adult who works with children be federally required to obtain certification?

Not under the current draft. It requires national core competencies and authorizes role-specific training and a voluntary Bloom Safe certification. Advocates should not describe certification as universally mandatory. *Draft: § 302.*

Does Washington take over State or local child-protection systems?

No. The Act creates national public-health coordination and funding while preserving stronger State, local, Tribal, and territorial protections except where a direct conflict governs Federal funds. It also channels most funds to non-Federal partners. *Draft: § 501(d)(6); § 505(c).*

Is the draft already a bill before Congress?

No. It is a House-style discussion draft seeking sponsor and counsel review. It has no official H.R. number, sponsor, referral, or formal cosponsors.

12. Tough questions: enforcement, privacy, partners, and process

Is this a new law-enforcement program?

No. DOJ, FBI, DHS, the Secret Service, and similar components may participate for authorized data, research, education, and role-appropriate training. The draft does not create or expand investigative, surveillance, search, arrest, detention, prosecutorial, intelligence, or regulatory authority, and it bars general enforcement-capacity funding. *Draft: § 3; § 501(f).*

Does it create new crimes or change criminal penalties?

No. The definition is for public-health surveillance, research, prevention, and services. The draft expressly says it does not alter the elements, penalties, defenses, or evidentiary rules of an offense and does not itself determine civil or criminal liability. *Draft: § 3(c); § 4(4)(F).*

Can churches and other faith communities receive grants?

Yes, on the same basis as other eligible entities, without preference or disfavor because of religious character. Direct Federal assistance may not fund worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, and recipients remain subject to the same safeguarding, performance, financial, privacy, and reporting rules. *Draft: § 408.*

Are technology companies receiving an unrestricted subsidy?

No. Private-sector arrangements must serve a defined public-health purpose and include additional safeguards. Grants and cooperative agreements may not pay profit or fees; a 50 percent non-Federal contribution generally applies unless a justified exception is made; and the draft includes privacy, disclosure, independent-evaluation, intellectual-property, and no-enforcement-expansion conditions. *Draft: § 409.*

How does the bill protect sensitive data?

It requires data minimization, privacy and security controls, statistical disclosure review, and human-subject protections. Personally identifiable or readily reidentifiable information created or obtained under the Act may not be used for criminal or immigration enforcement, civil commitment, commercial advertising, insurance underwriting, employment screening, or unrelated purposes. *Draft: § 205.*

What committees will receive the bill and what will CBO say?

Those outcomes are not yet determined. Committee referral is a formal House or Senate process, and CBO scoring requires an introduced or otherwise formally analyzed proposal and assumptions. Do not predict the referral, score, offsets, or enactment timeline.

13. Language guardrails and sample endorsements

Accuracy builds trust. These corrections prevent the most common overstatements.

Say	Avoid
House-style legislative discussion draft	The bill is pending before Congress
\$1 billion annually unless changed by a later Act	\$1 billion total
National competencies and voluntary Bloom Safe certification	Every adult will be federally required to be certified
Voluntary education grants; no Federal curriculum control	A mandatory national curriculum
Limited law-enforcement data, research, education, and training roles	A new Federal policing initiative
Designed to prevent abuse and measure results	Guaranteed to end CSA
19.5 million reports categorized by NCMEC as suspected CSAM in 2025	19.5 million distinct incidents, children, offenders, or new files
At least 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys, according to CDC	Exact national counts derived casually from ratios
Review, original sponsorship, and introduction	Cosponsor this unintroduced bill
Nearly \$5.4 billion nationwide across state and Federal incarceration and civil commitment; about \$508 million Federal in 2021	The Federal Government spends \$5.4 billion incarcerating CSA offenders
Historic DOJ data: age 14 was the overall single-age peak; age 4 was the peak among victims under 12	Age 4 was the second most likely age overall
In 2024, 63% of NIBRS criminal sexual contact victimizations involved minors	Nearly two-thirds of every type of sexual assault involved minors
16% cleared by arrest in the 2024 NIBRS criminal sexual contact estimate	Only 16% were prosecuted or convicted
Bloom Safe analysis of 2023 FBI NIBRS records: the most frequently recorded victim age was 15 for rape, sodomy, object assault, and statutory rape; 14 for fondling and incest	Age X is when a child is most likely to be assaulted; or the FBI published these 2023 conclusions

General public endorsement

SAMPLE

Every child deserves a childhood free from sexual harm. I support the Bloom Safe legislative discussion draft because it would make prevention a permanent national public-health responsibility, invest in evidence and community action, include survivors in paid advisory leadership, and require Congress and the public to receive transparent annual results. I urge lawmakers to review the draft and help bring it forward for introduction.

Short social post

SAMPLE

Children deserve prevention - not only an after-the-fact response. The updated Bloom Safe Act discussion draft would invest \$1B annually in evidence, education, community prevention, survivor support, digital safety, and public accountability. Ask Congress to review and introduce it. #BloomSafe

PUBLIC-SUPPORT RULE: Do not announce an elected official, organization, survivor, or public figure as a supporter without explicit permission and an agreed form of attribution.

14. Quick bill section map

Use the section reference when staff ask where an authority or safeguard appears.

Topic	Draft section
Public-health declaration and purposes	§ 2
No enforcement expansion; success measures	§ 3
Comprehensive CSA and prevention definitions	§ 4
National Council and strategy	§§ 101-102
Advisory Board, compensation, survivor safeguards	§§ 103-104
Research/Data Center, agenda, data coordination	§§ 201-203
Annual report within 180 days and every year	§ 204
Privacy, ethics, data security, clearinghouse	§§ 205-206
Education, adult training/certification, organizations	§§ 301-303
Awareness/helpline, supports, digital safety, access	§§ 304-307
Grant authority, eligible entities, award categories	§§ 401-403
Applications, merit review, monitoring, evaluation	§§ 404-407
Faith/community and private-sector safeguards	§§ 408-409
Technical assistance, coordination, audits	§§ 410-412
Permanent annual appropriation and allocations	§ 501
Operating plans and quarterly spending	§ 502
Independent evaluation and GAO review	§ 503
Implementation deadlines and no sunset	§§ 504-505

STATUS REMINDER: Section numbers and language may change during congressional counsel review. Always use the latest dated draft.

15. Sources and support resources

Statistics were checked against these sources on August 7, 2026. Federal sources are listed first where available.

[1] CDC - About Child Sexual Abuse

Current CDC prevalence, known/trusted relationship, outcomes, economic-burden summary, and prevention gaps.

[Open CDC source](#)

[2] BJS/FBI - 2024 NIBRS National Estimates

Nationally representative estimates of victimization counts, age, victim-offender relationship, and clearance for crimes reported to law enforcement; includes definitions and estimation caveats.

[Open BJS data page](#) | [Open codebook](#)

[3] HHS/ACF - Child Maltreatment 2024

NCANDS administrative counts for referrals, screened-in responses, unique child victims, and maltreatment types, including sexual abuse.

[Open Federal report](#)

[4] CDC - Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2023

National high-school survey estimates for past-year sexual violence and lifetime forced intercourse, with survey definitions and confidence intervals.

[Open MMWR report](#)

[5] DOJ - Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement

Historic 1991-1996 NIBRS analysis supporting the precise age-14 and age-4 statements and the historic juvenile share.

[Open DOJ report](#)

[6] Letourneau et al. - High Cost of Sex Offender Incarceration

Peer-reviewed estimate of 2021 state, Federal, and civil-commitment confinement costs for adults convicted of sex crimes against children; includes scope and exclusions.

[Open PubMed record](#) | [Open study summary](#)

[7] Congress - Fiscal Year 2026 LHHS Joint Explanatory Statement

Enacted-program table showing \$3 million for CDC Child Sexual Abuse Prevention within Injury Prevention and Control.

[Open congressional source](#)

[8] Letourneau et al. - Economic Burden of Child Sexual Abuse

Peer-reviewed basis for the 2015 \$9.3 billion lifetime-burden estimate and its limitations.

[Open PubMed record](#) | [Open full text](#)

[9] NCMEC - 2025 CyberTipline Data

CSAM, online-enticement, and sextortion report volumes; submitted image and video totals; and reporting caveats. Reports and files are not unique victims or independently verified crimes.

[Open NCMEC source](#)

[10] Finkelhor, Turner, and Colburn - Online Abuse and CSA Prevalence

Peer-reviewed 2024 U.S. national survey showing how online sexual abuse changes prevalence estimates; includes definitions and study limitations.

[Open study summary](#) | [Open PubMed record](#)

[11] OJJDP - National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, 2014

Federally sponsored nationally representative survey supporting past-year sexual-assault/abuse estimates for girls and older adolescent girls.

[Open OJJDP source](#)

[12] CDC - A Public Health Approach to Child Abuse and Neglect

Federal public-health prevention framework and cross-sector strategy.

[Open CDC source](#)

[13] Bloom Safe Act - House Legislative Discussion Draft dated August 5, 2026

Primary source for every description of the proposal's structure, funding, grants, safeguards, and reporting duties.

[Open Bloom Safe](#)

[14] FBI - 2023 NIBRS Incident Files and Bloom Safe Exact-Age Analysis

Bloom Safe joined the 2023 FBI Crime Data Explorer victim, victim-offense, and offense tables from all 50 states and the District of Columbia; retained exact integer ages 0-99; excluded blank, unknown, unspecified, and age-range values; and counted each victim once per linked offense code. The files are unweighted administrative records and are not nationally representative prevalence estimates. ICPSR study 39270 provides the DOJ/BJS public-use extract and documentation for independent replication.

[Open FBI CDE downloads](#) | [Open DOJ/BJS public-use extract](#) | [Open FBI 2013 comparison report](#)

Safety and disclosure support

This guide is not a reporting or crisis-response protocol. Follow applicable law and organizational policy.

Immediate danger: Call 911.

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline:

Crisis intervention, support, referrals

Call 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

SMS/Text GO to 800-422-4453

<https://www.childhelpline.org/>

NCMEC CyberTipline:

Report online child sexual exploitation.

Call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

<https://cybertipline.org>

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:

National free confidential crisis support in the United States and its territories.

Call or text 988

<https://988lifeline.org/>

National Sexual Assault Hotline:

Free, confidential support 24/7.

Call 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

<https://online.rainn.org/>

Stop It Now! Helpline:

Concerned about someone's behavior around children.

Call 1-88-PREVENT (1-888-773-2362)

<https://www.stopitnow.org/>

Children of the Night Hotline:

Rescue hotline for child victims of prostitution.

Call 1-800-551-1300

<https://www.childrenofthenight.org/>

National Runaway Safeline:

Support for youth in crisis.

Call 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

<https://www.1800runaway.org/>

FINAL MESSAGE: Children deserve more than an after-the-fact response. Prevention is possible, but it requires evidence, sustained resources, community partnership, survivor-informed leadership, and public accountability.