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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the process for awarding grants under section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 with respect to opening or funding shelter facilities for unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the process for awarding grants under section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 with respect to opening or funding shelter facilities for unaccompanied alien children, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Safeguarding Homes
3 by Ensuring Licensing and Transparency with Eligibility
4 Requirements Act of 2021” or the “SHELTER Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLE-**
6 **MENT GRANT PROCESS FOR SHELTER FA-**
7 **CILITIES.**

8 (a) **DISCLOSURE AND LICENSURE.**—With respect to
9 a grant awarded under section 235(i) of the William Wil-
10 berforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization
11 Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(i)) to open or fund a shelter
12 facility for unaccompanied alien children, the Secretary,
13 acting through the Director of the Office of Refugee Re-
14 settlement, shall require each applicant—

15 (1) to disclose in the grant application any ad-
16 verse action against the applicant in the five-year
17 period preceding the date of application; and

18 (2) to be licensed to operate such a facility in
19 the applicable State on the date of application.

20 (b) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—In considering an ap-
21 plication for a grant under section 235(i) of such Act, the
22 Secretary shall collaborate with the appropriate agencies
23 of the State in which the applicant intends to operate to
24 review the databases of such State for information on any
25 adverse actions taken against the applicant.

26 (c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) ADVERSE ACTION.—The term “adverse ac-
2 tion” means a prior adverse criminal or regulatory
3 action by a Federal, State, or local government with
4 respect to contracting with a government entity or
5 to the care of a child, including—

6 (A) the suspension or revocation of an op-
7 erating license; and

8 (B) any pending investigation on the date
9 of application.

10 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

12 (3) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term
13 “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given
14 the term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security
15 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).