

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2140

To prevent child marriage in United Nations-administered refugee settlements,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2019

Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prevent child marriage in United Nations-administered
refugee settlements, 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 “Preventing Child Mar-
5 riage Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE IN UNITED NA-**
7 **TIONS-ADMINISTERED REFUGEE SETTLE-**
8 **MENTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall direct the
10 United States Permanent Representative to the United

1 Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United
2 States at the United Nations to call for an adoption by
3 the United Nations of a definition of “child marriage” and
4 the development of a comprehensive strategy to address
5 child marriage in refugee settlements administered by the
6 United Nations. Such strategy should include the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (1) A mandate to regularly collect and report
9 data related to the number of known or suspected
10 child marriages taking place inside each such settle-
11 ment.

12 (2) Protocols for United Nations personnel re-
13 garding prevention and monitoring of child mar-
14 riages inside each such settlement.

15 (3) A description of programs administered at
16 such settlements that provide—

17 (A) physical, mental, and emotional reha-
18 bilitation and support to children who have ex-
19 tricated themselves from child marriage; and

20 (B) alternatives to child marriage, such as
21 education initiatives.

22 (4) Protocols regarding how United Nations
23 personnel should—

24 (A) report adults participating in illegal
25 child marriages in each such settlement; and

1 (B) monitor the prosecution of such adults
2 by the authorities of the country in which the
3 settlement at issue is located.

4 (b) RESEARCH.—The President shall direct the
5 United States Permanent Representative to the United
6 Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United
7 States at the United Nations to advocate for the United
8 Nations and its appropriate agencies to include in all of
9 its research into child marriage the relationship between
10 child marriage and violence against girls, including young
11 children and infants.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) CHILD MARRIAGE.—The term “child mar-
14 riage” means a formal marriage or informal union
15 involving at least one person younger than age 18.

16 (2) ILLEGAL CHILD MARRIAGE.—The term “il-
17 legal child marriage” means a formal marriage or
18 informal union involving at least one person younger
19 than age 18 that is illegal under the laws of the
20 country in which the child marriage occurs.

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