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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize financial restitution for the violation of rights of survivors
of sexual violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PRESSLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize financial restitution for the violation of rights
of survivors of sexual violence, 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 “Survivors’ Rights Res-
5 titution Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

7 There is established the Survivors’ Rights Restitution
8 Program (referred to in this Act as the “Program”) to
9 be administered by the Attorney General under which

1 compensation may be paid for the harm and loss described
2 in section 3(c).

3 **SEC. 3. FILING OF PETITION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—A proceeding for compensation
5 under the Program shall be initiated by service upon the
6 Attorney General and the filing of a petition with the
7 United States Court of Federal Claims. The clerk of the
8 United States Court of Federal Claims shall immediately
9 forward the filed petition to the chief special adjudicator
10 for assignment to a special adjudicator under section 4.

11 (b) ELECTRONIC FILING.—The United States Court
12 of Federal Claims shall ensure that a petition under this
13 section may be filed electronically.

14 (c) CONTENTS.—A petition for compensation under
15 the Program shall contain—

16 (1) information demonstrating that the peti-
17 tioner—

18 (A)(i) was a victim of sexual assault, sex-
19 ual abuse, sex trafficking, or sexual exploitation
20 perpetrated or aided or abetted by Jeffrey Ep-
21 stein or Ghislaine Maxwell; or

22 (ii) was a victim of a Federal offense
23 that involved sexual assault, sexual abuse,
24 sex trafficking, or sexual exploitation, and
25 with respect to which the Federal Govern-

1 ment failed to provide the victim with the
2 rights described in section 3771 of title 18,
3 United States Code; or

4 (B) is the personal representative of an in-
5 dividual described in subparagraph (A), if such
6 individual is deceased;

7 (2) information concerning the harm that the
8 individual suffered as a result of—

9 (A) the sexual assault, sexual abuse, sex
10 trafficking, or sexual exploitation described in
11 subparagraph (A)(i); or

12 (B) the failure of the Federal Government
13 described in subparagraph (A)(ii), including
14 harm that the individual suffered as a result of
15 the underlying offense;

16 (3) information concerning any economic and
17 noneconomic losses that the individual suffered as a
18 result of the conduct described in subparagraph (A)
19 of paragraph (1); and

20 (4) information regarding collateral sources of
21 compensation the individual has received or is enti-
22 tled to receive as a result of the conduct described
23 in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1).

1 (d) SINGLE PETITION.—Not more than 1 petition
2 may be submitted under this Act by an individual or on
3 behalf of a deceased individual.

4 **SEC. 4. JURISDICTION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Court of Fed-
6 eral Claims and the United States Court of Federal
7 Claims special adjudicators shall, in accordance with this
8 section, have jurisdiction over proceedings to determine if
9 a petitioner is entitled to compensation under the Program
10 and the amount of such compensation. The United States
11 Court of Federal Claims may issue and enforce such or-
12 ders as the court deems necessary to assure the prompt
13 payment of any compensation awarded.

14 (b) PARTIES.—

15 (1) ATTORNEY GENERAL AS RESPONDENT.—In
16 all proceedings brought by the filing of a petition
17 under section 3, the Attorney General shall be
18 named as the respondent, shall participate, and shall
19 be represented in accordance with section 518(a) of
20 title 28, United States Code.

21 (2) PUBLICATION.—Within 30 days after the
22 Attorney General receives service of any petition
23 filed under section 3 the Attorney General shall pub-
24 lish notice of such petition in the Federal Register
25 without any personally identifiable information of

1 the petitioner. The special adjudicator designated
2 with respect to such petition shall afford all inter-
3 ested persons an opportunity to submit relevant,
4 written information—

5 (A) relating to the existence of the evi-
6 dence described in section 3(c); or

7 (B) relating to any allegation in a petition
8 with respect to the matters described in section
9 3(c)(1).

10 (c) UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
11 SPECIAL ADJUDICATORS.—

12 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
13 within the United States Court of Federal Claims an
14 office of special adjudicators to be known as the
15 “Office of Special Adjudicators for Survivors Res-
16 titution” which shall consist of not less than 6 spe-
17 cial adjudicators. The judges of the United States
18 Court of Federal Claims shall appoint the special
19 adjudicators, 1 of whom, by designation of the
20 judges of the United States Court of Federal
21 Claims, shall serve as chief special adjudicator. The
22 appointment and reappointment of the special adju-
23 dicators shall be by the concurrence of a majority of
24 the judges of the court.

1 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—In making appointments
2 under paragraph (1) , the judges of the United
3 States Court of Federal Claims shall ensure that—

4 (A) of the individuals appointed, not fewer
5 than 4 are licensed mental health professionals
6 with clinical experience providing trauma-in-
7 formed care to individuals who have experienced
8 sexual assault, abuse, or trafficking; and

9 (B) the group of individuals appointed re-
10 flect, to the maximum extent practicable, a bal-
11 ance of expertise in—

12 (i) victim services or advocacy;

13 (ii) mental health care;

14 (iii) civil rights law or criminal law;

15 and

16 (iv) the administration of complex
17 claims or compensation programs.

18 (3) REMOVAL.—The chief special adjudicator
19 and other special adjudicators shall be subject to re-
20 moval by the judges of the United States Court of
21 Federal Claims for incompetency or misconduct.

22 (4) TERM.—The appointment of any individual
23 as a special adjudicator shall be for a term of 4
24 years, subject to termination under paragraph (3).

1 (5) COMPENSATION.—The compensation of the
2 special adjudicators shall be determined by the
3 judges of the United States Court of Federal
4 Claims, upon advice of the chief special adjudicator.
5 The salary of the chief special adjudicator shall be
6 the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Exec-
7 utive Schedule, as prescribed by section 5315, title
8 5, United States Code. The salaries of the other spe-
9 cial adjudicators shall not exceed the annual rate of
10 basic pay of level V of the Executive Schedule, as
11 prescribed by section 5316, title 5, United States
12 Code.

13 (6) DUTIES OF CHIEF SPECIAL ADJUDI-
14 CATOR.—The chief special adjudicator shall be re-
15 sponsible for the following:

16 (A) Administering the office of special ad-
17 judicators and their staff, providing for the effi-
18 cient, expeditious, and effective handling of pe-
19 titions, and performing such other duties re-
20 lated to the Program as may be assigned to the
21 chief special adjudicator by a concurrence of a
22 majority of the United States Court of Federal
23 Claims judges.

24 (B) Appointing and fixing the salary and
25 duties of such administrative staff as are nec-

1 essary. Such staff shall be subject to removal
2 for good cause by the chief special adjudicator.

3 (C) Managing and executing all aspects of
4 budgetary and administrative affairs affecting
5 the special adjudicators and their staff, subject
6 to the rules and regulations of the Judicial
7 Conference of the United States. The Con-
8 ference rules and regulations pertaining to
9 United States magistrate judges shall be ap-
10 plied to the special adjudicators.

11 (D) Coordinating with the United States
12 Court of Federal Claims the use of services,
13 equipment, personnel, information, and facilities
14 of the United States Court of Federal Claims
15 without reimbursement.

16 (E) Reporting annually to Congress and
17 the judges of the United States Court of Fed-
18 eral Claims on the number of petitions filed
19 under section 3 and their disposition, the types
20 and amounts of awards, the length of time for
21 the disposition of petitions, the cost of admin-
22 istering the Program, and recommendations for
23 changes in the Program.

24 (d) SPECIAL ADJUDICATORS.—

1 (1) DESIGNATION.—Following the receipt and
2 filing of a petition under section 3, the clerk of the
3 United States Court of Federal Claims shall forward
4 the petition to the chief special adjudicator who shall
5 designate a special adjudicator to carry out the func-
6 tions authorized by paragraph (3).

7 (2) RULES.—The special adjudicators shall rec-
8 ommend rules to the Court of Federal Claims and,
9 taking into account such recommended rules, the
10 Court of Federal Claims shall promulgate rules pur-
11 suant to section 2071 of title 28, United States
12 Code. Such rules shall—

13 (A) provide for a less-adversarial, expedi-
14 tious, and informal proceeding for the resolu-
15 tion of petitions;

16 (B) include flexible and informal standards
17 of admissibility of evidence;

18 (C) include the opportunity for summary
19 judgment;

20 (D) include the opportunity for parties to
21 submit arguments and evidence on the record
22 without requiring routine use of oral presen-
23 tations, cross examinations, or hearings; and

24 (E) provide for limitations on discovery
25 and allow the special adjudicators to replace the

1 usual rules of discovery in civil actions in the
2 United States Court of Federal Claims.

3 (3) DECISIONS.—

4 (A) ISSUANCE.—A special adjudicator to
5 whom a petition has been assigned shall issue
6 a decision on such petition with respect to
7 whether compensation is to be provided under
8 the Program and the amount of such com-
9 pensation. The decision of the special adjudi-
10 cator shall—

11 (i) include findings of fact and conclu-
12 sions of law; and

13 (ii) be issued as expeditiously as prac-
14 ticable but not later than 120 days, exclu-
15 sive of suspended time under subparagraph
16 (C), after the date the petition was filed.

17 The decision of the special adjudicator may be
18 reviewed by the United States Court of Federal
19 Claims in accordance with subsection (e).

20 (B) CONDUCT OF PROCEEDING.—In con-
21 ducting a proceeding on a petition a special ad-
22 judicator—

23 (i) may require such evidence as may
24 be reasonable and necessary;

1 (ii) may require the submission of
2 such information as may be reasonable and
3 necessary;

4 (iii) may require the testimony of any
5 person and the production of any docu-
6 ments as may be reasonable and necessary;

7 (iv) shall afford all interested persons
8 an opportunity to submit relevant written
9 information relating to any allegation in a
10 petition with respect to the matters de-
11 scribed in section 3(c); and

12 (v) may conduct such hearings as may
13 be reasonable and necessary.

14 (C) SUSPENSION.—In conducting a pro-
15 ceeding on a petition, a special adjudicator shall
16 suspend the proceedings one time for 30 days
17 on the motion of either party. After a motion
18 for suspension is granted, further motions for
19 suspension by either party may be granted by
20 the special adjudicator, if the special adjudi-
21 cator determines the suspension is reasonable
22 and necessary, for an aggregate period not to
23 exceed 150 days.

24 (4) LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE OF INFORMA-
25 TION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
2 subparagraph (B), information submitted to a
3 special adjudicator or the court in a proceeding
4 on a petition may not be disclosed to a person
5 who is not a party to the proceeding without
6 the express written consent of the person who
7 submitted the information.

8 (B) DISCLOSURE OF DECISION.—A deci-
9 sion of a special adjudicator or the court in a
10 proceeding shall be disclosed, except that if the
11 decision is to include information which is per-
12 sonally identifiable information, a medical file,
13 or a similar file the disclosure of which would
14 constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of pri-
15 vacy, and if the person who submitted such in-
16 formation objects to the inclusion of such infor-
17 mation in the decision, the decision shall be dis-
18 closed without such information.

19 (e) ACTION BY UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL
20 CLAIMS.—

21 (1) MOTION TO REVIEW.—Upon issuance of the
22 special adjudicator's decision, the parties shall have
23 30 days to file with the clerk of the United States
24 Court of Federal Claims a motion to have the court
25 review the decision. If such a motion is filed, the

1 other party shall file a response with the clerk of the
2 United States Court of Federal Claims no later than
3 30 days after the filing of such motion.

4 (2) JURISDICTION.—Upon the filing of a mo-
5 tion under paragraph (1) with respect to a petition,
6 the United States Court of Federal Claims shall
7 have jurisdiction to undertake a review of the record
8 of the proceedings and may thereafter—

9 (A) uphold the findings of fact and conclu-
10 sions of law of the special adjudicator and sus-
11 tain the special adjudicator’s decision;

12 (B) set aside any findings of fact or con-
13 clusion of law of the special adjudicator found
14 to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discre-
15 tion, or otherwise not in accordance with law
16 and issue its own findings of fact and conclu-
17 sions of law; or

18 (C) remand the petition to the special ad-
19 judicator for further action in accordance with
20 the court’s direction.

21 The court shall complete its action on a petition
22 within 120 days of the filing of a response under
23 paragraph (1) excluding any days the petition is be-
24 fore a special adjudicator as a result of a remand
25 under subparagraph (C). The court may allow not

1 more than 90 days for remands under subparagraph
2 (C).

3 (3) ENTRY OF JUDGMENT.—In the absence of
4 a motion under paragraph (1) respecting the special
5 adjudicator’s decision or if the United States Court
6 of Federal Claims takes the action described in
7 paragraph (2)(A) with respect to the special adju-
8 dicator’s decision, the clerk of the United States
9 Court of Federal Claims shall immediately enter
10 judgment in accordance with the special adjudica-
11 tor’s decision.

12 (g) APPEALS.—The findings of fact and conclusions
13 of law of the United States Court of Federal Claims on
14 a petition shall be final determinations of the matters in-
15 volved, except that the Attorney General or any petitioner
16 aggrieved by the findings or conclusions of the court may
17 obtain review of the judgment of the court in the United
18 States court of appeals for the Federal Circuit upon peti-
19 tion filed within 60 days of the date of the judgment with
20 such court of appeals within 60 days of the date of entry
21 of the United States Claims Court’s judgment with such
22 court of appeals.

23 **SEC. 5. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.**

24 (a) REVIEW.—Compensation shall be awarded under
25 the Program to a petitioner if the special adjudicator or

1 court finds on the record as a whole that the individual
2 has demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence the
3 matters required in the petition by section 3(c).

4 (b) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 120 days after
5 that date on which a petition is filed under subsection (a),
6 the special adjudicator shall complete a review, make a
7 determination, and provide written notice to the petitioner,
8 with respect to the matters that were the subject of the
9 petition under review.

10 (c) RIGHTS OF CLAIMANT.—A petitioner shall have—

11 (1) the right to be represented by an attorney;

12 (2) the right to present evidence, including the
13 presentation of witnesses and documents;

14 (3) any other due process rights determined ap-
15 propriate by the special adjudicators; and

16 (4) the right to withdraw the petition.

17 (d) PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Not
18 later than 20 days after a special adjudicator awards com-
19 pensation to a petitioner, the Attorney General shall pay
20 such award from amounts in the Survivors' Rights Res-
21 titution Fund established under section 6.

22 (e) NO PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—A special adjudicator
23 may not include amounts for punitive damages in any
24 compensation awarded under this Act.

1 (f) MINIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT.—In determining
2 the amount of compensation due to a petitioner, the spe-
3 cial adjudicators shall consider both noneconomic and eco-
4 nomic loss, except that such amount may not be less than
5 \$123,000.

6 (g) ATTORNEYS' FEES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding compensation
8 on a petition filed under section 3 the special adjudi-
9 cator or court shall also award as part of such com-
10 pensation an amount to cover—

11 (A) reasonable attorneys' fees;

12 (B) other costs, incurred in any proceeding
13 on such petition; and

14 (C) no attorney may charge any fee for
15 services in connection with a petition filed
16 under section 3 which is in addition to any
17 amount awarded as compensation by the special
18 adjudicator or court under subparagraph (A).

19 (2) COMPENSATION NOT AWARDED.—If the
20 judgment of the United States Court of Federal
21 Claims on such a petition does not award compensa-
22 tion, the special adjudicator or court may award an
23 amount of compensation to cover petitioner's reason-
24 able attorneys' fees and other costs incurred in any
25 proceeding on such petition if the special adjudicator

1 or court determines that the petition was brought in
2 good faith and there was a reasonable basis for the
3 claim for which the petition was brought.

4 (h) TAX AND BENEFIT CONSIDERATIONS.—Any pay-
5 ment made to a claimant under this Act shall be excluded
6 from calculations of—

7 (1) gross income (within the meaning of the In-
8 ternal Revenue Code of 1986); and

9 (2) income for purposes of determining eligi-
10 bility for means-tested benefits.

11 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF SURVIVORS' RIGHTS RESTITU-**
12 **TION FUND.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the general
14 fund of the Treasury a separate account to be known as
15 the “Survivors’ Rights Restitution Fund” (referred to in
16 this section as the “Fund”).

17 (b) DEPOSITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision
18 of law, there shall be deposited into the Fund the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (1) Amounts forfeited to the United States pur-
21 suant to section 1594, 2253, and 2428 of title 18,
22 United States Code.

23 (2) Such amounts as may be contributed by in-
24 dividuals or entities to carry out this Act.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS.—

2 The Fund is authorized to accept amounts described in
3 subsection (b)(2).

4 (d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund
5 shall be available without further appropriation and with-
6 out fiscal year limitation to make payments to claimants
7 under this Act.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
10 necessary to carry out this Act.

11 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION.**

12 In this Act, the term “special adjudicator” means a
13 person appointed in accordance with Rule 53 of the Fed-
14 eral Rules of Civil Procedure to exercise the powers of a
15 master.