

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To expand compassionate release authority and elderly home confinement  
access for offenders with heightened coronavirus risk.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which  
was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To expand compassionate release authority and elderly home  
confinement access for offenders with heightened  
coronavirus risk.

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 “Emergency Grants of  
5 Release And Compassion Effectively Act of 2020” or the  
6 “Emergency GRACE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
10 the Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

1 (2) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term  
2 “public health emergency”—

3 (A) means a public health emergency de-  
4 clared by the Secretary of Health and Human  
5 Services under section 319 of the Public Health  
6 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d); and

7 (B) includes—

8 (i) a public health emergency declared  
9 by the Governor of a State or territory in  
10 which a Bureau of Prisons facility is lo-  
11 cated; and

12 (ii) the public health emergency de-  
13 clared on January 31, 2020, in response to  
14 COVID–19.

15 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITED COMPASSIONATE RELEASE.**

16 (a) AUTHORITY.—For purposes of a motion filed  
17 under section 3582(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code,  
18 during any period for which a public health emergency is  
19 in effect, the requirement to exhaust all administrative  
20 rights and the 30-day waiting period described in section  
21 3582(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code, shall not apply.

22 (b) IDENTIFYING COMPASSIONATE RELEASE  
23 CASES.—The Director shall—

24 (1) identify defendants who are at a higher risk  
25 of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Con-

1        trol and Prevention, from the disease or illness for  
2        which the public health emergency was declared, in-  
3        cluding—

4                (A) defendants over the age of 60;

5                (B) defendants with a terminal illness, as  
6        defined in section 3582(d)(1) of title 18, United  
7        States Code; and

8                (C) defendants with autoimmune disorders  
9        or serious medical conditions, including heart  
10       disease, diabetes, HIV, chronic or acute res-  
11       piratory disease, or cancer;

12               (2) upon a written request by a defendant for  
13       the medical records of the defendant, or in the case  
14       of the defendant's attorney, a request for the med-  
15       ical records of the defendant that declares under the  
16       penalty of perjury that the records are being sought  
17       in connection with a motion under subsection (a),  
18       promptly release all medical records from the year  
19       preceding the request to the parties specified in the  
20       request, including the court, the defendant, and any  
21       individual acting on the defendant's behalf;

22               (3) ensure that there are adequate numbers of  
23       Bureau of Prison employees to carry out paragraph  
24       (1); and

1           (4) provide guidance to Bureau of Prison em-  
2           ployees consistent with public health and safety rec-  
3           ommendations to prevent the spread of the disease  
4           or illness for which the public health emergency was  
5           declared.

6           (c) PRESUMPTION.—In a motion filed under sub-  
7           section (a) there shall be a presumption of sentence reduc-  
8           tion for a defendant at a higher risk of death from the  
9           disease or illness for which the public health emergency  
10          was declared, including a defendant with autoimmune dis-  
11          orders or serious medical conditions, including heart dis-  
12          ease, diabetes, HIV, chronic or acute respiratory disease,  
13          or cancer.

14          (d) LEGAL REPRESENTATION.—The court may ap-  
15          point a Federal public defender or community defender,  
16          or other counsel qualified to be appointed under section  
17          3006A of title 18, United States Code, to assist a defend-  
18          ant seeking relief under this section.

19          (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 3582  
20          OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section  
21          3582(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

22                (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
23                by inserting “, including a case involving an offense  
24                committed on or before November 1, 1987” after  
25                “case”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “70  
2 years of age” and inserting “60 years of age”.

3 **SEC. 4. TEMPORARY RELEASE FROM FEDERAL CUSTODY**  
4 **DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

5 (a) TEMPORARY RELEASE FROM CUSTODY OF THE  
6 UNITED STATES MARSHALS.—During a public health  
7 emergency, a court may order that an individual in the  
8 custody of United States Marshals Service, or another  
9 Federal agency, be transferred to home confinement to the  
10 extent that the court determines such release to be nec-  
11 essary for the health and safety of the individual or the  
12 detention facility in which the individual would be placed.

13 (b) TEMPORARY FURLOUGH OR TRANSFER.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—During a public health  
15 emergency, a court may order that an individual in  
16 the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons be fur-  
17 loughed or transferred to home confinement to the  
18 extent that the court determines such furlough or  
19 transfer to be necessary for the health and safety of  
20 the individual or the correctional facility in which  
21 the individual is held.

22 (2) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In carrying  
23 out paragraph (1), the court may consider factors  
24 such as—

25 (3) The court may consider factors such as—

1 (A) whether an individual filed a motion  
2 for a reduction of sentence under section 3(a);

3 (B) the risk to the health and safety of the  
4 facility in which the individual is held, including  
5 an outbreak of a highly contagious virus or dis-  
6 ease; and

7 (C) the safety of the community in which  
8 a person will be released.

9 **SEC. 5. ALLOWING FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER MED-**  
10 **ICAID FOR INMATES DURING 30-DAY PERIOD**  
11 **PRECEDING RELEASE.**

12 The subdivision (A) following paragraph (30) of sec-  
13 tion 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
14 1396d(a)) is amended by inserting “and except during the  
15 30-day period preceding the date of release of such indi-  
16 vidual from such public institution” after “medical institu-  
17 tion”.

18 **SEC. 6. STOPPING THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS IN FED-**  
19 **ERAL PRISONS.**

20 (a) **REQUIRED ACTION TO STOP THE SPREAD OF**  
21 **CORONAVIRUS.**— The Director shall require that all Bu-  
22 reau of Prisons facilities, including all contract facilities,  
23 follow the Centers for Disease Control recommended pro-  
24 cedures for limiting the spread of the coronavirus, includ-  
25 ing robust and ongoing testing, providing adequate soap,

1 medical care, comprehensive sanitation and cleaning of fa-  
2 cilities, personal protective equipment, and other safety  
3 measures provided free of charge to—

4 (1) individuals who are incarcerated or detained  
5 in a Bureau of Prisons facility, including all contract  
6 facilities; and

7 (2) individuals who work or volunteer in a Bu-  
8 reau of Prisons facility, including all contract facili-  
9 ties.

10 (b) PLANS AND PROCEDURES.—Not later than 7  
11 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director  
12 shall—

13 (1) release information about plans and proce-  
14 dures to address the coronavirus within Bureau of  
15 Prisons facilities, including all contract facilities;

16 (2) update the number of coronavirus cases  
17 that exist in Bureau of Prisons facilities, including  
18 all contract facilities, and provide daily updates of  
19 the number;

20 (3) begin the process of testing—

21 (A) all individuals who are incarcerated or  
22 detained in a Bureau of Prisons facility or a  
23 contract facility; and

1 (B) all individuals who work or volunteer  
2 in a Bureau of Prisons facility or contract facil-  
3 ity;

4 (4) provide prompt and accurate information  
5 about the number of coronavirus fatalities;

6 (5) inform attorneys, families, and friends of in-  
7 mates in custody when individuals are ill with  
8 coronavirus and continue to provide timely, up-to-  
9 date information about the health of loved ones;

10 (6) provide information about visitation, com-  
11 munication policies, and lockdowns; and

12 (7) give updates on healthcare services being  
13 provided.

14 **SEC. 7. EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR STATE SEN-**  
15 **TENCING REDUCTIONS ON THE BASIS OF AGE**  
16 **OR MEDICAL CONDITION.**

17 There are hereby appropriated, out of amounts in the  
18 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for additional  
19 amounts for the Department of Justice for “State and  
20 Local Law Enforcement Assistance”, \$50,000,000 for fis-  
21 cal year 2020, to remain available until expended, to pre-  
22 vent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, domesti-  
23 cally or internationally, to be awarded pursuant to the for-  
24 mula allocation (adjusted in proportion to the relative  
25 amounts statutorily designated therefor) that was used in



1 fiscal year 2019 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice  
2 Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of  
3 part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
4 Streets Acts of 1968 (“1968 Act”): *Provided*, That the  
5 amounts be awarded to the corrections departments or  
6 agency of each State and territory of the United States  
7 for the purpose of identifying State inmates who are at  
8 a higher risk of death from the disease or illness for which  
9 the public health emergency was declared, as defined by  
10 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including  
11 inmates over the age of 60, inmates with a terminal ill-  
12 ness, and inmates with autoimmune disorders or serious  
13 medical conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, HIV,  
14 chronic or acute respiratory disease, or cancer, and for  
15 the purpose of testing inmates for the coronavirus, and  
16 assisting such inmates in the preparation, drafting, and  
17 submission of requests for compassionate release, medical  
18 or elderly parole, or other sentence reductions on the basis  
19 of age or medical condition pursuant to relevant State law:  
20 *Provided further*, That the allocation provisions under sub-  
21 sections (a) through (e) of section 505 and the special  
22 rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g) and section  
23 1001(c) of the 1968 Act, shall not apply to the amount  
24 provided under this section: *Provided further*, That awards  
25 hereunder, shall not be subject to restrictions or special

1 conditions that are the same as (or substantially similar  
2 to) those, imposed on awards under such subpart in fiscal  
3 year 2018, that forbid interference with Federal law en-  
4 forcement: *Provided further*, That such amount is des-  
5 ignated by the Congress as being for an emergency re-  
6 quirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal-  
7 anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.