



*The Honorable Mike Lee*

## ***KAYLEIGH'S LAW ACT OF 2026***

Kayleigh's Law Act of 2026 would provide for the issuance of lifetime injunctions to protect victims of serious offenses involving violence or sexual abuse.

### **BACKGROUND**

Federal sex crimes have surged more than 62% since 2020, and more than 87% end in plea deals that reduce charges and sentences. Even after sentencing, survivors face uncertainty about the status of those who have harmed them and must often repeatedly face their abusers in court to maintain basic safety protections. Without such protections, survivors remain vulnerable to unwanted contact and renewed trauma.

In sixth grade, Kayleigh Kozak was sexually abused by her coach. After receiving a drastically reduced plea deal, her abuser was indicted on only two of the eight charges and was sentenced to serve just nine months in jail, followed by two terms of lifetime probation. Each time his sentence changed, or he petitioned for early termination of his probation, Kayleigh stood in court and faced him again to advocate for her own protection.

A victim's safety too often depends entirely on the perpetrator's post-conviction conditions, and when abusers petition for early termination of those conditions, victims must repeatedly face their abuser in court. The emotional and psychological toll of these legal proceedings is high, as survivors face uncertainty about whether they will be protected as they relive their traumatic experiences.

Enacting Kayleigh's Law at the federal level will require judges to issue lifetime no-contact injunctions at sentencing for felony convictions involving violence or sexual abuse. These orders prohibit all contact and remain in effect for the perpetrator's lifetime, even after their terms of imprisonment, probation, or supervised release end. Because existing protections vary widely across states, a uniform federal standard for lifetime no-contact orders in qualifying federal cases strengthens enforcement and ensures the long-term protection necessary to the pursuit of justice.

"The harm caused by sexual assault is not temporary. It is lifelong," stated Kayleigh. "The protections for those who have been sexually violated should be lifelong, too."

### **WHAT THE BILL DOES**

**First**, this law would apply to defendants convicted of a crime of violence or a felony offense that includes as an element a sexual act or sexual conduct.

**Second**, this law would require the court—on motion of the Government (with the consent of a victim) or a victim—to issue a permanent order during sentencing to prohibit the convicted defendant from contacting a victim directly or indirectly, through written, oral, electronic, digital, or physical means.

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