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THIRD READING

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Bill No: SCR 118  
Author: Gonzalez (D), et al.  
Introduced: 2/10/26  
Vote: 21

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SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 3/17/26  
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Pérez, Reyes, Wiener  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

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**SUBJECT:** Jeffrey Epstein files

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This resolution formally condemns sex trafficking and denounces Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, denounces the Trump Administration's attempts to prevent the release of the Epstein files, and urges Congress to continue to exercise its oversight authority to ensure compliance with United States House Resolution 4405.

**ANALYSIS:**

Exiting federal law:

- 1) The Epstein Files Transparency Act (hereinafter, "the Act"), requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to publish (in a searchable and downloadable format), within 30- days of the enactment of the Act, all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in DOJ's possession that relate to the following:
  - a) The investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein.
  - b) Ghislaine Maxwell.
  - c) Flight logs or travel records, as specified.

- d) Individuals, including government officials, named or referenced in connection with Epstein's criminal activities, civil settlements, immunity or plea agreements, or investigatory proceedings.
  - e) Entities (corporate, nonprofit, academic, or governmental) with known or alleged ties to Epstein's trafficking or financial networks.
  - f) Any immunity deals, non-prosecution agreements, plea bargains, or sealed settlements involving Epstein or his associates.
  - g) Internal DOJ communications, as specified.
  - h) All communications, memoranda, directives, logs, or metadata concerning the destruction, deletion, alteration, misplacement, or concealment of documents, recordings, or electronic data related to Epstein, his associates, his detention and death, or any investigative files.
  - i) Documentation of Epstein's death, as specified. (Pub. L. 119-38)
- 2) Existing federal law provides that no record within the Epstein files specified above may be withheld, delayed, or redacted on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary. (Ibid.)
  - 3) Existing federal law authorizes the Attorney General of the United States to withhold or redact the segregable portions of records that fall into specific sensitive categories, such as personally identifiable information, child sexual abuse materials, depictions of death, and materials that would jeopardize an active federal investigation or ongoing prosecution. (Ibid.)
  - 4) Existing federal law requires the Attorney General, within 15 days of completion of the release required under the Act, to submit to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary a report listing all categories of documents released and withheld, a summary of redactions made, and a list of all government officials and politically exposed persons named or referenced in the released materials. (Ibid.)

This resolution:

- 1) Finds that in 2019, Jeffrey Epstein was charged in federal court with sex trafficking of minors and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors. In 2007, Epstein received a plea deal negotiated by former United States

Secretary of Labor, Alexander Acosta, getting 18 months of work release for child sex crimes that would normally result in decades in federal prison.

- 2) Finds that Epstein and his associates abused over 1,000 young women and children, including Californians, dating back to the early 1990s, in a systemic failure of our justice system and elected government who have a duty and responsibility to protect children from dangerous predators and provide justice for survivors.
- 3) Finds that H.R. 4405, 119th Congress (2025), known as the Epstein Files Transparency Act and authored by Representative Ro Khanna, passed with strong bipartisan support and became law on November 19, 2025, and required the United States Department of Justice to publish all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in their possession that relate to the investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein, while allowing for narrowly tailored redactions to protect the identities of survivors.
- 4) Finds that President Donald J. Trump and his appointees, United States Attorney General Pam Bondi and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel, engaged in an active and overt campaign to prevent the release of these files, including direct attempts by the president to dissuade and pressure members of Congress from supporting H.R. 4405 and therefore deny survivors the transparency they deserve.
- 5) Finds that the United States Department of Justice failed to meet the deadline required under H.R. 4405, and failed to redact and protect the identifiable information of over 100 survivors, putting their lives in danger and retraumatizing them.
- 6) Finds that Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche confirmed that while there are 6,000,000 relevant documents in the Epstein case files, only 3,500,000 have been cleared for public access.
- 7) Finds that of those partially released files, many are heavily redacted with censoring that does not comply with the requirements of H.R. 4405, which prohibits any redactions on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government officials, public figures, or foreign dignitaries.
- 8) Finds that the United States Department of Justice has chosen to not comply with a United States House of Representatives' Oversight Committee subpoena

for all files related to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation issued on August 5, 2025.

- 9) Finds that Ghislaine Maxwell, who was convicted of sex trafficking of a minor and other crimes in conspiracy with Jeffrey Epstein, was moved to a minimum-security facility with dormitory-style housing seven days after being interviewed by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.
- 10) Finds that many powerful individuals from all political affiliations were mentioned in the files, but no criminal charges have been brought against any individual listed in the files, and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche has stated that new charges based on the evidence in the files was unlikely.
- 11) Finds that survivors deserve justice, transparency, and expedient accountability against any official or individual that participated in the heinous and predatory actions of Jeffrey Epstein and his associates, and those who allowed this abuse to continue without repercussions.
- 12) Resolves that the Legislature formally condemns sex trafficking and denounces Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, and any individual involved with or aware of their criminal enterprise and abuse.
- 13) Resolves that the Legislature denounces President Donald J. Trump's attempts to prevent the release of the Epstein files, and his administration's attempts to deny justice for survivors through continued self-serving efforts to withhold and redact information with no transparency.
- 14) Resolves that the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to continue to exercise its oversight authority and hold President Trump and Attorney General Bondi accountable for not complying with its subpoena or H.R. 4405, which requires the release of all the remaining Epstein files, including all records, documents, communications, and investigative materials that relate to the investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein.
- 15) Resolves that the Legislature urges federal and local law enforcement to take immediate action to hold accountable all those who harmed survivors or who were complicit in Epstein's crimes, regardless of their elected title, royal title, party affiliation, or economic status, in order to provide justice and closure for survivors.

**Comments**

According to the Author, “from the early 1990s to 2019, Jeffrey Epstein ran a sex trafficking ring that abused over 1,000 women and children across the United States. During this time, the systems and people in power looked the other way and shielded the powerful from accountability. In 2025, in response to growing demands from the public, Congress passed HR 4405, The Epstein Files Transparency Act. This law required the release of all files related to the Epstein investigation. Instead, President Trump, Attorney General Bondi, and FBI Director Patel have redacted, stonewalled, delayed, and continue to defy a congressional subpoena. In doing so, they have failed over a hundred survivors whose identifying information was carelessly exposed, retraumatizing the very people this law was designed to protect. Through this resolution, we are demanding the release of all relevant information and that law enforcement pursue accountability for individuals complicit in Epstein's crimes regardless of their title or wealth and sending an unambiguous message to survivors: we see you, we believe you, and we will keep fighting for you. The survivors of Jeffrey Epstein’s criminal enterprise have waited long enough. Justice delayed is justice denied — and this Legislature refuses to let their voices be buried under millions of redacted pages.”

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local:

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 3/18/26)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 3/18/26)

None received

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /  
3/18/26 15:55:24

\*\*\*\* **END** \*\*\*\*