



Report to Congress on The Status and Timeline of the Study on International Parental Child Abduction

Section 202 of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9122) and Section 7019(e) of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026 (Div. F, P.L. 119-75) and the Joint Explanatory Statement

Section 7509(c) of the FY25 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amended the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (ICAPRA) to require the Department to seek to enter into an agreement with an appropriate university, research institution, or nongovernmental organization to study and publish a report on the impact that international parental child abduction (IPCA) has on abducted children and left-behind parents. This requirement is subject to the availability of funds. Although no funds have been specifically appropriated by Congress for fiscal year 2026, the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) has identified available no-year funds within its budget that it has the authority to use to fund such a study.

The required consultation with Congress has been delivered to the appropriate committees. Additionally, CA's Office of Children's Issues met with the staff of Congressman Chris Smith, the sponsor of the legislation requiring the report, to discuss the goals and objectives of the study.

CA now seeks to issue a competitive notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) to find

a qualified entity to conduct the study and publish the final report. In preparation, CA took the necessary steps to ensure compliance with all legal authorities and relevant Executive Orders. Furthermore, a [Federal Assistance Listing \(FAL\)](#) has been published, paving the way for the NOFO.

CA is in the final stages of drafting the NOFO, and it expects to publish the NOFO and select an award recipient by the end of FY2026, with an anticipated project start date in early FY2027. Given the exploratory nature of the project and the intended scope, as informed by the consultation with Congress, the study is anticipated to take three to four years to complete. The Department will publicly publish the report by the end of the award period, subject to appropriate review.