REDACT Act
(Recovery, Enforcement, and Damages to Assure Confidential Treatment) Act
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)

On November 19, 2025, the *Epstein Files Transparency Act* was signed into law, requiring the Department of Justice (DOJ) to publicly release all unclassified records related to the investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein within 30 days. Congress built an exception into the law: DOJ was to protect survivors of Epstein's criminal conduct by withholding or redacting their personally identifiable information (PII) and personal and medical files.

No survivor of Epstein's abuse should be retraumatized by having their identity or experiences made public. They have a right to remain anonymous while those who enabled and participated in his crimes face accountability.

Notwithstanding the law's clear directives, the Department of Justice failed at every turn to meet its obligations under the Act. While it had a comprehensive list of survivors whose names should be redacted from any release of Epstein files, it did not redact their information. The statutory deadline to release the files was plain, but DOJ blew past it. And despite being required to provide all responsive files, it continues to withhold responsive documents while revealing the identities of survivors.

After weeks and months of delay, in December 2025 and January 2026, the Department released and posted on a public website millions of pages of files that included survivors' names, phone and email addresses, and images (including nude photographs), among other PII. Survivors refer to DOJ's Epstein file dump as "the single most egregious violation of victim privacy in one day in United States history." Reportedly, thousands of pages of the released files contained survivors' unredacted PII, harming nearly 100 individual survivors. Among the more egregious violations are exposure of: the names of 31 child victims in a single email with only one name redacted; unredacted photographs of survivors; and the identity of at least one survivor who chose never to publicly come forward.

The consequences of these privacy violations are significant: in addition to experiencing profound emotional distress and retraumatization, survivors received death threats, unwanted public scrutiny, and feared for their and their families' personal safety. To add insult to injury, survivors had no meaningful recourse beyond searching for their own names on the public website and begging DOJ repeatedly to redact, as their information remained publicly exposed, downloaded, and preserved. As of February 2026, DOJ reported that it has retracted 9,500 documents exposing survivors' information.

Trump Administration officials have refused to answer for these violations. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche has dismissed the serious breach of privacy, while defending DOJ's handling of the release, and former Attorney General Pam Bondi has refused to comply with a bipartisan subpoena to address Department's violations of the *Epstein Files Transparency Act* before the House Oversight Committee.

The ***REDACT Act*** would remedy DOJ's wholesale failure to protect survivors by creating a private right of action allowing survivors to sue to protect their privacy and recover for the harms caused by the Department's privacy violations. Specifically, the bill would empower survivors to seek a court order to force DOJ to remove their unredacted information and allow survivors whose PII has been exposed since November 19, 2025, to recover the greater of either $50,000 in statutory damages or compensatory damages, including for emotional distress.

Survivors deserve to be made whole. If legislation is the only mechanism that will force DOJ to meet its obligations, then Congress has a duty to provide it.