

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9076

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Supporting America’s  
3 Children and Families Act”.

4 **TITLE I—CHILD WELFARE REAU-**  
5 **THORIZATION AND MOD-**  
6 **ERNIZATION**

7 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.**

8       (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This title may be cited as the  
9 “Protecting America’s Children by Strengthening Fami-  
10 lies Act”.

11       (b) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly  
12 provided, wherever in this title an amendment or repeal  
13 is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of,  
14 a section or other provision, the reference shall be consid-  
15 ered to be made to that section or other provision of the  
16 Social Security Act.

17 **SEC. 102. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

18       The table of contents of this title is as follows:

- Sec. 101. Short title; references.
- Sec. 102. Table of contents.
- Sec. 103. Reauthorization of child welfare programs.
- Sec. 104. Enhancements to the court improvement program.
- Sec. 105. Expanding regional partnership grants to address parental substance  
use disorder as cause of child removal.
- Sec. 106. Modernization; reducing administrative burden.
- Sec. 107. Streamlining funding for Indian tribes.
- Sec. 108. Accelerating access to Family First prevention services.
- Sec. 109. Strengthening support for youth aging out of foster care.
- Sec. 110. Recognizing the importance of relative and kinship caregivers.
- Sec. 111. Avoiding neglect by addressing poverty.
- Sec. 112. Strengthening support for caseworkers.
- Sec. 113. Demonstration projects for improving relationships between incarcer-  
ated parents and children in foster care.

Sec. 114. Guidance to States on improving data collection and reporting for youth in residential treatment programs.

Sec. 115. Streamlining research, training, and technical assistance funding.

Sec. 116. Report on post adoption and subsidized guardianship services.

Sec. 117. Effective date.

1 **SEC. 103. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHILD WELFARE PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) REAUTHORIZATION OF SUBPART 1; DISCRE-  
4 TIONARY FUNDING.—Section 425 (42 U.S.C. 625) is  
5 amended by striking “2017 through 2023” and inserting  
6 “2025 through 2029”.

7 (b) REAUTHORIZATION OF SUBPART 2; ENHANCED  
8 SUPPORT.—Section 436(a) (42 U.S.C. 629f(a)) is amend-  
9 ed by striking “each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023”  
10 and inserting “fiscal year 2025 and \$420,000,000 for  
11 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029”.

12 (c) REAUTHORIZATION OF SUBPART 2; DISCRE-  
13 TIONARY FUNDING.—Section 437(a) (42 U.S.C. 629g(a))  
14 is amended by striking “2017 through 2023” and insert-  
15 ing “2025 through 2029”.

16 (d) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Section 423(a)(2)(A)  
17 (42 U.S.C. 623(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “, not  
18 to exceed \$10,000,000” before the semicolon.

19 **SEC. 104. ENHANCEMENTS TO THE COURT IMPROVEMENT**  
20 **PROGRAM.**

21 (a) INCREASE IN RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Section  
22 436(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)(2)) is amended by inserting

1 “for fiscal year 2025 and \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2026  
2 and each succeeding fiscal year” before “for grants”.

3 (b) EXTENSION OF STATE MATCH REQUIREMENT.—  
4 Section 438(d) (42 U.S.C. 629h(d)) is amended by strik-  
5 ing “2017 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through  
6 2029”.

7 (c) PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 438(a) (42  
8 U.S.C. 629h(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
10 following:

11 “(F) that determine the appropriateness  
12 and best practices for use of technology to con-  
13 duct remote hearings, subject to participant  
14 consent, including to ensure maximum partici-  
15 pation of individuals involved in proceedings  
16 and to enable courts to maintain operations in  
17 times of public health or other emergencies;”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “per-  
19 sonnel.” and inserting “personnel and supporting  
20 optimal use of remote hearing technology; and”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(3) to ensure continuity of needed court serv-  
23 ices, prevent disruption of the services, and enable  
24 their recovery from threats such as public health cri-

1 ses, natural disasters or cyberattacks, including  
2 through—

3 “(A) support for technology that allows  
4 court proceedings to occur remotely subject to  
5 participant consent, including hearings and  
6 legal representation;

7 “(B) the development of guidance and pro-  
8 tocols for responding to the occurrences and co-  
9 ordinating with other agencies; and

10 “(C) other activities carried out to ensure  
11 backup systems are in place.”.

12 (d) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE ON SHARING BEST  
13 PRACTICES FOR TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES NEEDED FOR  
14 REMOTE COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR FOSTER CARE OR  
15 ADOPTION.—Section 438 (42 U.S.C. 629h) is amended by  
16 adding at the end the following:

17 “(e) GUIDANCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Every 5 years, the Sec-  
19 retary shall issue implementation guidance for shar-  
20 ing information on best practices for—

21 “(A) technological changes needed for  
22 court proceedings for foster care, guardianship,  
23 or adoption to be conducted remotely in a way  
24 that maximizes engagement and protects the  
25 privacy of participants; and

1 “(B) the manner in which the proceedings  
2 should be conducted.

3 “(2) INITIAL ISSUANCE.—The Secretary shall  
4 issue initial guidance required by paragraph (1) with  
5 preliminary information on best practices not later  
6 than October 1, 2025.

7 “(3) ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION.—The Sec-  
8 retary shall consult with Indian tribes on the devel-  
9 opment of appropriate guidelines for State court  
10 proceedings involving Indian children to maximize  
11 engagement of Indian tribes and provide appropriate  
12 guidelines on conducting State court proceedings  
13 subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25  
14 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).”.

15 **SEC. 105. EXPANDING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**  
16 **TO ADDRESS PARENTAL SUBSTANCE USE DIS-**  
17 **ORDER AS CAUSE OF CHILD REMOVAL.**

18 (a) INCREASE IN RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Section  
19 436(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)(5)) is amended by striking  
20 “each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023” and inserting  
21 “fiscal year 2025 and \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026  
22 and each succeeding fiscal year”.

23 (b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 437(f) (42 U.S.C.  
24 629g(f)) is amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

1 (A) by striking “In addition to amounts  
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this  
3 section, the” and inserting “The”; and

4 (B) by striking “2017 through 2023” and  
5 inserting “2025 through 2029”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking “for each of  
7 fiscal years 2017 through 2023”.

8 (c) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE PLANNING PHASE.—Sec-  
9 tion 437(f)(3)(B)(iii) (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(3)(B)(iii)) is  
10 amended—

11 (1) by striking all that precedes “grant award-  
12 ed” and inserting the following:

13 “(iii) SUFFICIENT PLANNING.—

14 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A”; and

15 (2) by striking “may not exceed \$250,000,  
16 and”; and

17 (3) by adding after and below the end the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(II) EXCEPTION.—The Sec-  
20 retary, on a case-by-case basis, may  
21 waive the planning phase for a part-  
22 nership that demonstrates that the  
23 partnership has engaged in sufficient  
24 planning before submitting an appli-

1 cation for a grant under this sub-  
2 section.”.

3 (d) EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF EVIDENCE-BASED  
4 SERVICES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 437(f)(1) (42 U.S.C.  
6 629g(f)(1)) is amended by inserting “, and expand  
7 the scope of the evidence-based services that may be  
8 approved by the clearinghouse established under sec-  
9 tion 476(d)” before the period.

10 (2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR AWARDING  
11 GRANTS.—Section 437(f)(7) (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(7))  
12 is amended—

13 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
14 paragraph (D);

15 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
16 subparagraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(F) have submitted information pursuant  
19 to paragraph (4)(F) that demonstrates the ca-  
20 pability to participate in rigorous evaluation of  
21 program effectiveness.”.

22 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON USING REGIONAL  
23 PARTNERSHIP GRANT FUNDS IN COORDINATION WITH  
24 OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS TO BETTER SERVE FAMILIES



1 AFFECTED BY A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.—Section  
2 435(d) (42 U.S.C. 629e(d)) is amended—

3 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
4 (4);

5 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
6 graph (5) and inserting “; and”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(6) use grants under section 437(f) in coordi-  
9 nation with other Federal funds to better serve fami-  
10 lies in the child welfare system that are affected by  
11 a substance use disorder.”.

12 (f) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—Section  
13 437(f)(8)(A) (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(8)(A)) is amended in the  
14 1st sentence—

15 (1) by striking “this subsection” the 1st place  
16 it appears and inserting “the Protecting America’s  
17 Children by Strengthening Families Act”;

18 (2) by inserting “child permanency, reunifica-  
19 tion, re-entry into care,” before “parental recovery”;  
20 and

21 (3) by inserting “, and access to services for  
22 families with substance use disorder, including those  
23 with children who are overrepresented in foster care,  
24 difficult to place, or have disproportionately low per-  
25 manency rates” before the period.

1 (g) PERFORMANCE INDICATOR CONSULTATION RE-  
 2 QUIRED.—Section 437(f)(8)(B) (42 U.S.C.  
 3 629g(f)(8)(B)) is amended by redesignating clause (iii) as  
 4 clause (iv) and inserting after clause (ii) the following:

5 “(iii) The Administrator of the Na-  
 6 tional Institute on Drug Abuse.”.

7 (h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Section 437(f)(9)(B)  
 8 (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(9)(B)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of clause (ii);  
 10 (2) by striking the period at the end of clause  
 11 (iii) and inserting “; and”; and  
 12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(iv) whether any programs funded by  
 14 the grants were submitted to the clearing-  
 15 house established under section 476(d) for  
 16 review and the results of any such re-  
 17 view.”.

18 (i) PRIORITY FOR STATEWIDE SERVICE GROWTH.—  
 19 Section 437(f)(7) (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(7)), as amended by  
 20 subsection (d)(2) of this section, is amended—

21 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
 22 graph (E);  
 23 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-  
 24 paragraph (F) and inserting “; and”; and  
 25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1                   “(G) are a State or public agency, or out-  
 2                   line a plan to increase the availability of serv-  
 3                   ices funded under the grant statewide.”.

4           (j) ADDITION OF JUVENILE COURT AS REQUIRED  
 5 PARTNER.—Section     437(f)(2)(A)     (42     U.S.C.  
 6 629g(f)(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 7 lowing:

8                   “(iii) The most appropriate adminis-  
 9                   trative office of the juvenile court or State  
 10                  court overseeing court proceedings involv-  
 11                  ing families who come to the attention of  
 12                  the court due to child abuse or neglect.”.

13          (k) ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL PARTNER.—Section  
 14 437(f)(2)(C) (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(2)(C)) is amended by re-  
 15 designating clause (ix) as clause (x) and inserting after  
 16 clause (viii) the following:

17                  “(ix) State or local agencies that ad-  
 18                  minister Federal health care, housing, fam-  
 19                  ily support, or other related programs.”.

20          (l) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

21                  (1)     Section     437(f)(2)(D)     (42     U.S.C.  
 22     629g(f)(2)(D)) is amended—

23                  (A) by adding “and” at the end of clause  
 24                  (i);

1 (B) by striking “; and” at the end of  
2 clause (ii) and inserting a period; and

3 (C) by striking clause (iii).

4 (2) Section 437(f)(2) (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(2)) is  
5 amended by striking subparagraph (B) and redesign-  
6 nating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs  
7 (B) and (C), respectively

8 **SEC. 106. MODERNIZATION; REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE**  
9 **BURDEN.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 431 (42 U.S.C. 629a) is  
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(c) USE OF TECHNOLOGY.—

13 “(1) USE OF PORTAL.—The services referred to  
14 in subsection (a) may include the means of access to  
15 and use of an electronic or digital portal to facilitate  
16 the provision of community support to care for and  
17 meet specific needs of families and children.

18 “(2) LIMITATION.—Such a portal shall not re-  
19 tain or share personally identifiable information  
20 about a beneficiary without consent or for any pur-  
21 pose other than referral.”.

22 (b) ALLOWING SUPPORT FOR FAMILY RESOURCE  
23 CENTERS.—Section 431(a) (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)) is amend-  
24 ed—

1           (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “, includ-  
2           ing services provided by family resource centers,”  
3           before “designed”; and

4           (2) by adding at the end the following:

5           “(10) FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER.—

6                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘family re-  
7           source center’ means a community or school-  
8           based hub of support services for families  
9           that—

10                   “(i) utilizes an approach that is multi-  
11                   generational, strengths-based, and family-  
12                   centered;

13                   “(ii) reflects, and is responsive to,  
14                   community needs and interests;

15                   “(iii) provides support at no or low  
16                   cost for participants; and

17                   “(iv) builds communities of peer sup-  
18                   port for families, including kinship fami-  
19                   lies, to develop social connections that re-  
20                   duce isolation and stress.

21                 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of  
22           this subpart, an expenditure for a service pro-  
23           vided by a family resource center may be treat-  
24           ed as an expenditure for any 1 or more of fam-  
25           ily support services, family preservation serv-

1           ices, family reunification services, or adoption  
2           promotion and support services as long as the  
3           expenditure is related to serving the children  
4           and families in the specified category and con-  
5           sistent with the overall purpose of the cat-  
6           egory.”.

7           (c) UPDATING STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Sec-  
8           tion 422(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(1)) is amended to read  
9           as follows:

10           “(1) provide that a State agency will administer  
11           or supervise the administration of the plan under  
12           this subpart;”.

13           (d) ACCESS TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION.—Section  
14           422(b)(4) (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(4)) is amended—

15           (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
16           graph (A);

17           (2) by adding “and” at the end of subpara-  
18           graph (B); and

19           (3) by adding at the end the following:

20           “(C) the steps that the State will take to  
21           ensure that, with respect to any judicial pro-  
22           ceeding involving a child and in which there is  
23           an allegation of child abuse or neglect, includ-  
24           ing a proceeding on dependency, adoption,  
25           guardianship, or termination of parental rights,

1 information about available independent legal  
2 representation is provided to—

3 “(i) the child, as appropriate; and

4 “(ii) any individual who is a parent or  
5 guardian, or has legal custody, of the  
6 child;”.

7 (e) SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-  
8 BEING OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.—Section  
9 422(b)(15)(A) (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15) is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

11 (A) by inserting “and, if applicable, the  
12 State agency responsible for mental health serv-  
13 ices,” before “and in consultation”; and

14 (B) by inserting “mental health pro-  
15 viders,” before “other experts”;

16 (2) in clause (ii), by inserting “a list of services  
17 provided to support the physical and” before “emo-  
18 tional”;

19 (3) in clause (iv), by inserting “and mental  
20 health” before “services”;

21 (4) in clause (v), by inserting “, informed con-  
22 sent of youth, and compliance with professional  
23 practice guidelines” before the semicolon; and

24 (5) in clause (vi), by inserting “, licensed men-  
25 tal health providers,” before “or other”.

1 (f) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 3 of part B of title  
3 IV (42 U.S.C. 629m) is amended by redesignating  
4 section 440 as section 443 and inserting before such  
5 section the following:

6 **“SEC. 441. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reduce the  
8 burden of administering this part imposed on the recipi-  
9 ents of funds under this part, by—

10 “(1) reviewing and revising administrative data  
11 collection instruments and forms to eliminate dupli-  
12 cation and streamline reporting requirements for the  
13 recipients while collecting all data required under  
14 this part;

15 “(2) in coordination with activities required  
16 under the Paperwork Reduction Act, conducting an  
17 analysis of the total number of hours reported by  
18 the recipients to comply with paperwork require-  
19 ments and exploring, in consultation with the recipi-  
20 ents, how to reduce the number of hours required  
21 for the compliance by at least 15 percent;

22 “(3) collecting input from the recipients with  
23 respect to fiscal and oversight requirements and  
24 making changes to ensure consistency with stand-



1       ards and guidelines for other Federal formula grant  
2       programs based on the input; and

3               “(4) respecting the sovereignty of Indian tribes  
4       when complying with this subsection.

5       “(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY.—Subsection  
6 (a) of this section shall not apply to any reporting or data  
7 collection otherwise required by law that would affect the  
8 ability of the Secretary to monitor and ensure compliance  
9 with State plans approved under this part or ensure that  
10 funds are expended consistent with this part.

11 **“SEC. 442. PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE PLANS.**

12       “The Secretary shall—

13               “(1) create a standardized format for State  
14 plans required under sections 422 and 432 used to  
15 monitor compliance with those sections;

16               “(2) produce comparisons and analyses of  
17 trends in State plans to inform future technical as-  
18 sistance and policy development;

19               “(3) make the State plans available on a public  
20 website; and

21               “(4) include on the website aggregated national  
22 summaries of State submissions as the Secretary  
23 deems appropriate.”.

1           (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Within 2 years after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3           of Health and Human Services shall—

4                   (A) comply with section 441 of the Social  
5           Security Act, as added by the amendment made  
6           by paragraph (1); and

7                   (B) notify each recipient of funds under  
8           part B of title IV of the Social Security Act of  
9           any change made by the Secretary pursuant to  
10          such section affecting the recipient.

11          (3) REPORT.—Within 3 years after the date of  
12          the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health  
13          and Human Services shall submit to the Committee  
14          on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives  
15          and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a re-  
16          port describing the efforts of the Secretary to com-  
17          ply with section 441 of the Social Security Act, as  
18          added by the amendment made by paragraph (1), in-  
19          cluding the specific actions to comply with each  
20          paragraph of such section.

21          (g) PRIMARY PREVENTION PARTNERS.—Section  
22          435(a)(2)(B) (42 U.S.C. 429e(a)(2)(B)) is amended by in-  
23          serting “including community-based partners with exper-  
24          tise in preventing unnecessary child welfare system in-  
25          volvement” before the semicolon.

1 **SEC. 107. STREAMLINING FUNDING FOR INDIAN TRIBES.**

2 (a) SUBPART 1.—

3 (1) TRIBAL SET-ASIDE; DIRECT PAYMENTS TO  
4 TRIBES; EXEMPTIVE AUTHORITY.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 428 (42 U.S.C.  
6 628) is amended by striking subsections (a) and  
7 (b) and inserting the following:

8 “(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS; DIRECT PAY-  
9 MENTS.—Out of any amount appropriated pursuant to  
10 section 425 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve  
11 3 percent for grants to Indian tribes and tribal organiza-  
12 tions, which shall be paid directly to Indian tribes and  
13 tribal organizations with a plan approved under this sub-  
14 part, in accordance with section 433(a).”.

15 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
16 423(a) (42 U.S.C. 623(a)) is amended by strik-  
17 ing “the sum appropriated pursuant to section  
18 425 for each fiscal year” and inserting “for  
19 each fiscal year, the sum appropriated pursuant  
20 to section 425 remaining after applying section  
21 428(a)”.

22 (C) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section  
23 428(c) (42 U.S.C. 628(c)) is amended by strik-  
24 ing “450b” and inserting “5304”.

25 (2) IMPROVING COMPLIANCE WITH THE INDIAN  
26 CHILD WELFARE ACT.—

1 (A) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section  
2 422(b)(9) (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(9)) is amended by  
3 striking “Act;” and inserting “Act of 1978, in-  
4 cluding how the State will ensure timely notice  
5 to Indian tribes of State custody proceedings  
6 involving Indian children, foster care or adop-  
7 tive placements of Indian children, and case  
8 recordkeeping as such matters relate to trans-  
9 fers of jurisdiction, termination of parental  
10 rights, and active efforts;”.

11 (B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subpart 1  
12 of part B of title IV (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) is  
13 amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 429B. EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDIAN**  
15 **CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2025,  
17 the Secretary, in consultation with Indian tribal organiza-  
18 tions and States, shall develop a plan and provide tech-  
19 nical assistance supporting effective implementation of the  
20 Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, including specific meas-  
21 ures identified in State plans as required by section  
22 422(b)(9) of this Act. The technical assistance plan shall  
23 be based on data sufficient to assess State strengths and  
24 areas for improvement in implementing Federal standards

1 established under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978,  
2 including, at a minimum, the following:

3 “(1) Timely identification of Indian children  
4 and extended family members.

5 “(2) Timely tribal notice of State child custody  
6 proceedings involving an Indian child.

7 “(3) Reports of cases in which a transfer of ju-  
8 risdiction (as defined under the Indian Child Wel-  
9 fare Act of 1978) was granted or was not granted,  
10 and reasons specified for denial in cases where  
11 transfer was denied.

12 “(4) In cases in which a State court orders a  
13 foster care placement of an Indian child, whether re-  
14 quirements for active efforts to prevent the breakup  
15 of the Indian family, testimony of a qualified expert  
16 witness, and evidentiary standards were met.

17 “(5) Whether an Indian child was placed in a  
18 placement that is required to be preferred under the  
19 Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and if not, the  
20 reasons specified.

21 “(6) In cases in which a State court orders the  
22 termination of parental rights to an Indian child,  
23 whether requirements for active efforts to prevent  
24 the breakup of the Indian family, testimony of a

1 qualified expert witness, and evidentiary standards  
2 were met.

3 “(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—On request of  
4 the Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide  
5 the Secretary with such guidance and assistance as may  
6 be necessary to facilitate informing States and public child  
7 welfare agencies on how to comply with the Indian Child  
8 Welfare Act of 1978, including specific measures identi-  
9 fied in State plans as required by section 422(b)(9) of this  
10 Act.

11 “(c) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Sec-  
12 retary shall biennially submit to the Committee on Ways  
13 and Means of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
14 mittee on Finance of the Senate a written report on how—

15 “(1) the States are complying with the Indian  
16 Child Welfare Act of 1978 and section 422(b)(9) of  
17 this Act, as informed by data collected under this  
18 section; and

19 “(2) the Secretary is assisting States and In-  
20 dian tribes to improve implementation of Federal  
21 standards established under the Indian Child Wel-  
22 fare Act of 1978.”.

23 (3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; ADMINISTRA-  
24 TIVE COSTS.—

1                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 428 (42 U.S.C.  
2                   628) is amended by redesignating subsection (c)  
3                   as subsection (d) and inserting before such sub-  
4                   section the following:

5           “(b) AUTHORITY TO STREAMLINE REPORTING RE-  
6           QUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with  
7           the affected Indian tribes, modify any reporting require-  
8           ment imposed by or under this part on an Indian tribe,  
9           tribal organization, or tribal consortium if the total of the  
10           amounts allotted to the Indian tribe, tribal organization,  
11           or tribal consortium under this part for the fiscal year is  
12           not more than \$50,000, and in a manner that limits the  
13           administrative burden on any tribe to which not more than  
14           \$50,000 is allotted under this subpart for the fiscal year.

15           “(c) TRIBAL AUTHORITY TO SUBSTITUTE THE FED-  
16           ERAL NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATE FOR ADMINIS-  
17           TRATIVE COSTS CAP.—For purposes of sections  
18           422(b)(14) and 424(e), an Indian tribal organization may  
19           elect to have the weighted average of the indirect cost  
20           rates in effect under part 220 of title 2, Code of Federal  
21           Regulations with respect to the administrative costs of the  
22           Indian tribal organization apply in lieu of the percentage  
23           specified in each such section.”.

24                   (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section  
25                   431(a) (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)) is amended in each

1 of paragraphs (5) and (6) by striking “428(c)”  
2 and inserting “428(d)”.

3 (b) SUBPART 2.—

4 (1) TRIBAL PLAN EXEMPTION.—Section  
5 432(b)(2)(B) (42 U.S.C. 629b(b)(2)(B)) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (A) by striking “section 433(a)” the 1st  
8 place it appears and inserting “sections 433(a)  
9 and 437(c)(1) combined”; and

10 (B) by striking “section 433(a)” the 2nd  
11 place it appears and inserting “such sections”.

12 (2) APPLICATION OF TRIBAL SET-ASIDE BE-  
13 FORE OTHER SET-ASIDES.—Section 436(b)(3) (42  
14 U.S.C. 429f(b)(3)) is amended by striking “After  
15 applying paragraphs (4) and (5) (but before apply-  
16 ing paragraphs (1) or (2)), the” and inserting  
17 “The”.

18 (3) INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR TRIBAL COURT  
19 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Section 438(c)(3) (42  
20 U.S.C. 629h(c)(3)) is amended by inserting “for fis-  
21 cal year 2025, and \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal  
22 years 2026 through 2029,” before “for grants”.



1 **SEC. 108. ACCELERATING ACCESS TO FAMILY FIRST PRE-**  
2 **VENTION SERVICES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 435 (42 U.S.C. 629e) is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(f) PREVENTION SERVICES EVALUATION PARTNER-  
6 SHIPS.—

7 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection  
8 is to authorize the Secretary to make competitive  
9 grants to support the timely evaluation of—

10 “(A) services and programs described in  
11 section 471(e); or

12 “(B) kinship navigator programs described  
13 in section 474(a)(7).

14 “(2) GRANTS.—In accordance with applications  
15 approved under this subsection, the Secretary may  
16 make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible enti-  
17 ties to carry out projects designed to evaluate a serv-  
18 ice or program provided by the eligible entity, or an  
19 entity in partnership with the eligible entity, with re-  
20 spect to the requirements for a promising practice,  
21 supported practice, or well-supported practice de-  
22 scribed in section 471(e)(4)(C).

23 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may  
25 apply to the Secretary for a grant under this

subsection to carry out a project that meets the following requirements:

“(i) The project is designed in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(ii) The project is to be carried out by the applicant in partnership with—

“(I) a State agency that administers, or supervises the administration of, the State plan approved under part E, or an agency administering the plan under the supervision of the State agency; and

“(II) if the applicant is unable or unwilling to do so, at least 1 external evaluator to carry out the evaluation of the service or program provided by the applicant.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The application shall contain the following:

“(i) A description of the project, including—

“(I) a statement explaining why a grant is necessary to carry out the project; and

1                   “(II) the amount of grant funds  
2                   that would be disbursed to each entity  
3                   described in subparagraph (A)(ii) in  
4                   partnership with the applicant.

5                   “(ii) A certification from each entity  
6                   described in subparagraph (A)(ii) that pro-  
7                   vides assurances that the individual or en-  
8                   tity is in partnership with the applicant  
9                   and will fulfill the responsibilities of the  
10                  entity specified in the description provided  
11                  pursuant to clause (i) of this subpara-  
12                  graph.

13                  “(iii) A certification from the appli-  
14                  cant that provides assurances that the ap-  
15                  plicant intends to comply with subpara-  
16                  graph (A)(ii)(II), if applicable.

17                  “(iv) At the option of the eligible enti-  
18                  ty, a certification from the applicant that  
19                  the applicant requires an external eval-  
20                  uator secured by the Secretary pursuant to  
21                  paragraph (5), if applicable.

22                  “(4) PRIORITIES.—In approving applications  
23                  under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize  
24                  the following:

1           “(A) Addressing, with respect to the clear-  
2           inghouse of practices described in section  
3           476(d)(2), deficiencies or gaps identified by the  
4           Secretary in consultation with—

5                   “(i) States, political subdivisions of a  
6                   State, and tribal communities carrying out,  
7                   or receiving the benefits of, a service or  
8                   program; and

9                   “(ii) child welfare experts, including  
10                  individuals with lived experience.

11           “(B) Maximizing the number of evidence-  
12           based services or programs to be included in the  
13           clearinghouse of practices described in section  
14           476(d)(2).

15           “(C) Timely completion of evaluations and  
16           the production of evidence.

17           “(D) Supporting services or programs that  
18           are based on, or are adaptations to new popu-  
19           lation settings of, a service or program with re-  
20           liable evidence about the benefits and risks of  
21           the service or program.

22           “(5) AVAILABILITY OF EXTERNAL EVAL-  
23           UATORS.—

24           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Before accepting ap-  
25           plications under this subsection, the Secretary

1 shall make reasonable efforts to identify at least  
2 1 entity to serve as an external evaluator for  
3 any eligible entity that includes a certification  
4 under paragraph (3)(B)(iv) with an application  
5 under this subsection.

6 “(B) NO EFFECT ON CONSIDERATION OF  
7 APPLICATION.—The Secretary may not consider  
8 whether an eligible entity is in partnership with  
9 an external evaluator described in paragraph  
10 (A) in approving an application under this sub-  
11 section submitted by the eligible entity.

12 “(6) REPORTS.—

13 “(A) BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Within 1  
14 year after receiving a grant under this sub-  
15 section, and every year thereafter for the next  
16 5 years, the grant recipient shall submit to the  
17 Secretary a written report on—

18 “(i) the use of grant funds;

19 “(ii) whether the program or service  
20 evaluated by the project meets a require-  
21 ment specified in section 471(e)(4)(C), in-  
22 cluding information about—

23 “(I) how the program or service  
24 is being carried out in accordance

1 with standards specified in the re-  
2 quirement;

3 “(II) any outcomes of the pro-  
4 gram or service; and

5 “(III) any outcome with respect  
6 to which the service or program com-  
7 pares favorably to a comparison prac-  
8 tice; and

9 “(iii) whether the Secretary has in-  
10 cluded the program or service in an update  
11 to the clearinghouse of practices described  
12 in section 476(d)(2).

13 “(B) BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary  
14 shall submit to the Committee on Ways and  
15 Means of the House of Representatives and to  
16 the Committee on Finance of the Senate an an-  
17 nual written report on—

18 “(i) the grants awarded under this  
19 subsection;

20 “(ii) the programs funded by the  
21 grants;

22 “(iii) any technical assistance pro-  
23 vided by the Secretary in carrying out this  
24 subsection, including with respect to the

1 efforts to secure external evaluators pursu-  
2 ant to paragraph (5); and

3 “(iv) any efforts by the Secretary to  
4 support program evaluation and review  
5 pursuant to section 471(e) and inclusion of  
6 programs in the pre-approved list of serv-  
7 ices and programs described in section  
8 471(e)(4)(D) or the clearinghouse of prac-  
9 tices described in section 476(d)(2).

10 “(7) FUNDING.—

11 “(A) LIMITATIONS.—Of the amounts avail-  
12 able to carry out this subsection, the Secretary  
13 may use not more than 5 percent to provide  
14 technical assistance.

15 “(B) CARRYOVER.—Amounts made avail-  
16 able to carry out this subsection shall remain  
17 available until expended.

18 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

19 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
20 ble entity’ means any of the following providing  
21 a service or program or, in the sole determina-  
22 tion of the Secretary, able to provide a service  
23 or program if awarded a grant under this sub-  
24 section:

1 “(i) A State, a political subdivision of  
 2 a State, or an agency or department of a  
 3 State or political subdivision of a State.

4 “(ii) An entity described in subpara-  
 5 graph (A) or (B) of section 426(a)(1).

6 “(iii) An Indian tribe or tribal organi-  
 7 zation.

8 “(B) EXTERNAL EVALUATOR.—The term  
 9 ‘external evaluator’ means an entity with the  
 10 ability and willingness to evaluate a service or  
 11 program pursuant to paragraph (2) that is not  
 12 provided by the entity.

13 “(C) SERVICE OR PROGRAM.—The term  
 14 ‘service or program’—

15 “(i) means a service or program de-  
 16 scribed in section 471(e); and

17 “(ii) includes a kinship navigator pro-  
 18 gram described in section 474(a)(7).”.

19 (b) FUNDING.—Section 437(b) (42 U.S.C. 629g(b))  
 20 is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(5) PREVENTIVE SERVICES EVALUATION  
 22 PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall reserve  
 23 \$5,000,000 for grants under section 435(f) for each  
 24 of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.”.



1 **SEC. 109. STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AGING**  
2 **OUT OF FOSTER CARE.**

3 (a) CASEWORKER VISITS.—Section 422(b)(17) (42  
4 U.S.C. 622(b)(17)) is amended by inserting “, and include  
5 a description of how the State may offer virtual case-  
6 worker visits to youth in care who have attained the age  
7 of 18 years and provided informed consent for virtual vis-  
8 its” before the semicolon.

9 (b) YOUTH AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN CHILD  
10 WELFARE PROGRAM PLANNING.—Section 432(b)(1) (42  
11 U.S.C. 629b(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ap-  
13 prove a plan that meets the requirements of sub-  
14 section (a) only if—

15 “(A) the plan was developed jointly by the  
16 Secretary and the State, and the State, in de-  
17 veloping the plan, consulted with—

18 “(i) appropriate public and nonprofit  
19 private agencies;

20 “(ii) community-based organizations  
21 involved in providing services for children  
22 and families in the areas of family preser-  
23 vation, family support, family reunifica-  
24 tion, foster care, kinship, and adoption  
25 promotion and support;

1 “(iii) parents with child welfare expe-  
 2 rience, foster parents, adoptive parents,  
 3 and kinship caregivers; and

4 “(iv) children, youth, and young  
 5 adults with experience in the child welfare  
 6 system, including State boards and coun-  
 7 cils comprised of youth with lived experi-  
 8 ence who represent the diversity of chil-  
 9 dren in the State to whom the plan would  
 10 apply; and

11 “(B) the State has made publicly acces-  
 12 sible on a website of the State agency a report  
 13 that outlines how the State has implemented  
 14 the suggestions of the children and youth re-  
 15 ferred to in subparagraph (A)(iv).”.

16 **SEC. 110. RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIVE**  
 17 **AND KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 431(a) (42 U.S.C.  
 19 629a(a)), as amended by section 106(b)(2) of this Act,  
 20 is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
 23 (A)—

24 (i) by striking “children” and insert-  
 25 ing “children, youth,”; and

1 (ii) by striking “adoptive and ex-  
2 tended” and inserting “kinship and adop-  
3 tive”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “par-  
5 ents and other caregivers (including foster par-  
6 ents)” and inserting “parents, kinship care-  
7 givers, and foster parents”;

8 (C) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
9 paragraph (E);

10 (D) by striking the period at the end of  
11 subparagraph (F) and inserting “ ; and”; and

12 (E) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(G)(i) peer-to-peer mentoring and support  
14 programs with demonstrated experience fos-  
15 tering constructive relationships between chil-  
16 dren and families and mentors with relevant  
17 lived experience or interactions with the child  
18 welfare system; and

19 “(ii) for purposes of this subpart, an ex-  
20 penditure for a service described in clause (i)  
21 may be treated as an expenditure for any 1 or  
22 more of family support services, family preser-  
23 vation services, family reunification services, or  
24 adoption promotion and support services, as  
25 long as the expenditure is related to serving the

1 children and families in the specified category  
2 and consistent with the overall purpose of the  
3 category.”;

4 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

5 (A) in clause (i), by striking “children”  
6 and inserting “children, youth,”; and

7 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “extended”  
8 and inserting “kinship”;

9 (3) in paragraph (7)(A), by inserting “with kin-  
10 ship caregivers or” before “in a foster family home”;  
11 and

12 (4) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(11) YOUTH.—The term ‘youth’ means an in-  
14 dividual who has not attained 26 years of age.”.

15 (b) KINSHIP NAVIGATORS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 427 (42 U.S.C. 627)  
17 is amended—

18 (A) in the section heading, by striking  
19 “**FAMILY CONNECTION GRANTS**” and insert-  
20 ing “**KINSHIP NAVIGATORS**”;

21 (B) in subsection (a)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph  
23 (1), by striking “helping” and inserting  
24 “administering programs to help”;

1 (ii) by striking “of—” and all that  
2 follows through “a kinship” and inserting  
3 “of a kinship”;

4 (iii) in paragraph (1)(C)—

5 (I) by striking “and” at the end  
6 of clause (iii);

7 (II) by adding “and” at the end  
8 of clause (iv); and

9 (III) by adding at the end the  
10 following:

11 “(v) connections to individualized as-  
12 sistance, as needed;”;

13 (iv) by striking paragraphs (2)  
14 through (4);

15 (v) by redesignating subparagraphs  
16 (A) through (G) of paragraph (1) as para-  
17 graphs (1) through (7), respectively;

18 (vi) by redesignating clauses (i)  
19 through (iv) and clause (v) (as added by  
20 clause (iii)(III) of this subparagraph) as  
21 subparagraphs (A) through (E), respec-  
22 tively;

23 (vii) by moving each provision so re-  
24 designated 2 ems to the left; and

1 (viii) by striking “caregiving;” and in-  
2 serting “caregiving.”;

3 (C) in subsection (b)—

4 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “1 or  
5 more of”;

6 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (3)  
7 and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respec-  
8 tively, and inserting after paragraph (2)  
9 the following:

10 “(3) a description of how the entity will directly  
11 fund, or provide data to the Secretary for, an eval-  
12 uation which will publish and submit information to  
13 the clearinghouse described in section 476(d)(2) and  
14 which is designed to meet the requirements of sec-  
15 tion 471(e)(4)(C), or a description of how the funds  
16 will be used to help the State transition to a pro-  
17 gram for which the State will seek reimbursement  
18 under section 474(a)(7);”;

19 (iii) in paragraph (4) (as so redesign-  
20 ated), by striking “and” at the end;

21 (iv) in paragraph (5) (as so redesign-  
22 ated), by striking the period and inserting  
23 “; and”; and

24 (v) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) if the entity is a State, local or tribal child  
2 welfare agency—

3 “(A) documentation of support from a rel-  
4 evant community-based organization with expe-  
5 rience serving kinship families when applicable;  
6 or

7 “(B) a description of how the organization  
8 plans to coordinate its services and activities  
9 with those offered by the relevant community-  
10 based organizations.”;

11 (D) by striking subsection (d) and insert-  
12 ing the following:

13 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—An entity to which a grant  
14 is made under this section may use the grant to pay not  
15 more than 75 percent of the cost of the activities to be  
16 carried out by the entity pursuant to this section.”;

17 (E) in subsection (g)—

18 (i) by striking all that precedes “2  
19 percent” and inserting the following:

20 “(g) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL AS-  
21 SISTANCE.—The Secretary may reserve”; and

22 (ii) by striking “subsection (h)” the  
23 2nd place it appears and inserting “section  
24 437(b)(6)”;

25 (F) by striking subsection (h).

1           (2)     RESERVATION       OF       DISCRETIONARY  
2     FUNDS.—Section 437(b) (42 U.S.C. 629g(b)), as  
3     amended by section 108(b) of this Act, is amended  
4     by adding at the end the following:

5           “(6)   KINSHIP   NAVIGATORS.—The   Secretary  
6     shall reserve \$10,000,000 for grants under section  
7     427 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.”.

8           (3)     CONFORMING       AMENDMENT.—Section  
9     474(a)(7) (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(7)) is amended by  
10    striking “427(a)(1)” and inserting “427(a)”.

11 **SEC. 111. AVOIDING NEGLECT BY ADDRESSING POVERTY.**

12       (a)   FAMILY   PRESERVATION   SERVICES.—Section  
13   431(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(1)), as amended by section  
14   110(a)(1) of this Act, is amended—

15           (1)   in subparagraph (F), by striking “and”  
16    after the semicolon;

17           (2)   in subparagraph (G), by striking the period  
18    and inserting “; and”; and

19           (3)   by adding at the end the following:

20           “(H)(i)   services   providing   nonrecurring  
21    short term benefits (including supports related  
22    to housing instability, utilities, transportation,  
23    and food assistance, among other basic needs)  
24    that address immediate needs related to a spe-  
25    cific crisis, situation, or event affecting the abil-



ity of a child to remain in a home established for the child that is not intended to meet an ongoing need; and

“(ii) for purposes of this subpart, an expenditure for a service described in clause (i) may be treated as an expenditure for any 1 or more of family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services, or adoption promotion and support services as long as the expenditure is related to serving the children and families in the specified category and consistent with the overall purpose of the category.”.

(b) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 432(a) (42 U.S.C. 629b(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) provides a description of policies in place, including training for employees, to address child welfare reports and investigations of neglect concerning the living arrangements or subsistence needs of a child with the goal to prevent the separation of

1 a child from a parent of the child solely due to pov-  
 2 erty, to ensure access to services described in section  
 3 431(a)(1)(H).”.

4 **SEC. 112. STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR CASEWORKERS.**

5 (a) REAUTHORIZATION OF, AND INCREASE IN FUND-  
 6 ING FOR, CASEWORKER VISITS.—Section 436(b)(4)(A)  
 7 (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “each  
 8 of fiscal years 2017 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal  
 9 year 2025 and \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 and each  
 10 succeeding fiscal year”.

11 (b) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—Section 433(e) (42  
 12 U.S.C. 629c(e)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1)  
 13 and (2) and inserting the following:

14 “(1) BASE ALLOTMENT.—From the amount re-  
 15 served pursuant to section 436(b)(4)(A) for any fis-  
 16 cal year, the Secretary shall first allot to each State  
 17 (other than an Indian tribe) that has provided to the  
 18 Secretary such documentation as may be necessary  
 19 to verify that the jurisdiction has complied with sec-  
 20 tion 436(b)(4)(B)(ii) during the fiscal year, a base  
 21 allotment of \$100,000, and shall then allot to each  
 22 of those States an amount determined in paragraph  
 23 (2) or (3) of this subsection, as applicable.

24 “(2) TERRITORIES.—From the amount reserved  
 25 pursuant to section 436(b)(4)(A) for any fiscal year

1       that remains after applying paragraph (1) of this  
2       subsection for the fiscal year, the Secretary shall  
3       allot to each jurisdiction specified in subsection (b)  
4       of this section to which a base allotment is made  
5       under such paragraph (1) an amount determined in  
6       the same manner as the allotment to each of such  
7       jurisdictions is determined under section 423 (with-  
8       out regard to the initial allotment of \$70,000 to  
9       each State).

10       “(3) OTHER STATES.—From the amount re-  
11       served pursuant to section 436(b)(4)(A) for any fis-  
12       cal year that remains after applying paragraphs (1)  
13       and (2) of this subsection for the fiscal year, the  
14       Secretary shall allot to each State (other than an In-  
15       dian tribe) not specified in subsection (b) of this sec-  
16       tion to which a base allotment was made under  
17       paragraph (1) of this subsection an amount equal to  
18       such remaining amount multiplied by the supple-  
19       mental nutrition assistance program benefits per-  
20       centage of the State (as defined in subsection (c)(2)  
21       of this section) for the fiscal year, except that in ap-  
22       plying subsection (c)(2)(A) of this section, ‘sub-  
23       section (e)(3)’ shall be substituted for ‘such para-  
24       graph (1)’.”.

1       (c) REQUIREMENT TO USE FUNDS TO IMPROVE  
2 QUALITY OF CASEWORKER VISITS WITH FOSTER CHIL-  
3 DREN.—Section 436(b)(4)(B)(i) (42 U.S.C.  
4 629f(b)(4)(B)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

5               “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State to which  
6               an amount is paid from amounts reserved  
7               under subparagraph (A) shall use the  
8               amount to improve the quality of monthly  
9               caseworker visits with children who are in  
10              foster care under the responsibility of the  
11              State, with an emphasis on—

12               “(I) reducing caseload ratios and  
13               the administrative burden on case-  
14               workers, to improve caseworker deci-  
15               sion making on the safety, perma-  
16               nency, and well-being of foster chil-  
17               dren and on activities designed to in-  
18               crease retention, recruitment, and  
19               training of caseworkers;

20               “(II) implementing technology  
21               solutions to streamline caseworker du-  
22               ties and modernize systems, ensuring  
23               improved efficiency and effectiveness  
24               in child welfare services;

1 “(III) improving caseworker safe-  
 2 ty;  
 3 “(IV) mental health resources to  
 4 support caseworker well-being, includ-  
 5 ing peer-to-peer support programs;  
 6 and  
 7 “(V) recruitment campaigns  
 8 aimed at attracting qualified case-  
 9 worker candidates.”.

10 (d) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARE PENALTY TIED TO  
 11 MONTHLY CASEWORKER VISIT STANDARD.—Section  
 12 424(f) (42 U.S.C. 624(f)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “(1)(A)”; and  
 14 (2) by striking paragraphs (1)(B) and (2).

15 **SEC. 113. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR IMPROVING RE-**  
 16 **LATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INCARCERATED**  
 17 **PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 439 (42 U.S.C. 629i) is  
 19 amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 439. STATE PARTNERSHIP PLANNING AND DEM-**  
 21 **ONSTRATION GRANTS TO SUPPORT MEAN-**  
 22 **INGFUL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FOSTER**  
 23 **CHILDREN AND THE INCARCERATED PAR-**  
 24 **ENTS OF THE CHILDREN.**

25 “(a) AUTHORITY.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
2       demonstration grants to eligible State partnerships  
3       to develop, implement, and provide support for pro-  
4       grams that enable and sustain meaningful relation-  
5       ships between covered foster children and the incar-  
6       cerated parents of the children.

7           “(2) PAYMENT OF ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS.—  
8       The Secretary shall pay each demonstration grant in  
9       5 annual installments.

10          “(3) 1-YEAR PLANNING GRANTS.—The Sec-  
11       retary may make a planning grant to a recipient of  
12       a demonstration grant, to be paid to the recipient 1  
13       year before payment of the 1st annual installment of  
14       the demonstration grant and in an amount not  
15       greater than any installment of the demonstration  
16       grant, if—

17               “(A) the recipient includes a request for a  
18       planning grant in the application under sub-  
19       section (c); and

20               “(B) the Secretary determines that a plan-  
21       ning grant would assist the recipient and im-  
22       prove the effectiveness of the demonstration  
23       grant.

24          “(b) ELIGIBLE STATE PARTNERSHIP DEFINED.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
2           ‘eligible State partnership’ means an agreement en-  
3           tered into by, at a minimum, the following:

4                   “(A) The State child welfare agency re-  
5                   sponsible for the administration of the State  
6                   plans under this part.

7                   “(B) The State agency responsible for  
8                   adult corrections.

9           “(2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERS.—For purposes of  
10          this section, an eligible State partnership may in-  
11          clude any entity with experience in serving incarcer-  
12          ated parents and their children.

13          “(3) PARTNERSHIPS ENTERED INTO BY INDIAN  
14          TRIBES OR TRIBAL CONSORTIA.—Notwithstanding  
15          paragraph (1), if an Indian tribe or tribal consor-  
16          tium enters into a partnership pursuant to this sec-  
17          tion that does not consist solely of tribal child wel-  
18          fare agencies (or a consortium of the agencies), the  
19          partnership shall be considered an eligible State  
20          partnership for purposes of this section.

21          “(c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible  
22          State partnership seeking a demonstration grant under  
23          this section to carry out a program described in subsection  
24          (a)(1) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such  
25          time, in such manner, and containing such information as

1 the Secretary may require. The application shall include  
2 the following:

3 “(1) A summary of the program, including how  
4 the program will support a meaningful relationship  
5 between a covered foster child and an incarcerated  
6 parent of the child.

7 “(2) A description of the activities to be carried  
8 out by the program, which must include all of the  
9 activities described in subsection (d) that are in the  
10 best interest of the covered foster child.

11 “(3) A framework for identifying—

12 “(A) each covered foster child eligible for  
13 services under the program, including, to the  
14 extent practicable, coordination of data between  
15 relevant State child welfare agencies and court  
16 systems; and

17 “(B) the roles and responsibilities of the  
18 entities in the partnership.

19 “(4) Documentation that the applicant is an eli-  
20 gible State partnership.

21 “(5) Assurances that the applicant will partici-  
22 pate fully in the evaluation described in subsection  
23 (f)(2) and shall maintain records for the program,  
24 including demographic information disaggregated by  
25 relevant characteristics with respect to covered foster



1 children and incarcerated parents who participate in  
2 the program.

3 “(d) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—To the extent that the  
4 activities are in the best interest of the covered foster  
5 child, the activities referred to in subsection (c)(2) shall  
6 include the following:

7 “(1) REVISION OF POLICIES.—Through con-  
8 sultation with incarcerated parents and their fami-  
9 lies, grantees shall promote organizational policies of  
10 participating child welfare entities and collaborating  
11 correctional facilities to promote meaningful rela-  
12 tionships through regular and developmentally ap-  
13 propriate communication and visitation between cov-  
14 ered foster children and the incarcerated parents, in-  
15 cluding, when appropriate, the following:

16 “(A) For child welfare entities—

17 “(i) inclusion of parents in case plan-  
18 ning and decision making for children;

19 “(ii) regular sharing of information  
20 and responses to requests for information  
21 between caseworkers and incarcerated par-  
22 ents with respect to the case information  
23 of a child, any changes to a case, perma-  
24 nency plans, requirements to maintain pa-

1 rental rights, and any efforts to terminate  
2 parental rights;

3 “(iii) appropriate opportunities for in-  
4 carcerated parents to demonstrate their re-  
5 lationship with a covered foster child given  
6 their incarceration, including training and  
7 courses required for a service plan; and

8 “(iv) the enhanced visitation described  
9 in paragraph (2).

10 “(B) For correctional facilities, fostering  
11 visitation and communication that is develop-  
12 mentally appropriate in terms of—

13 “(i) the nature of communication and  
14 visitation, including—

15 “(I) the ability to physically  
16 touch parents;

17 “(II) engaging with parents in lo-  
18 cations that are appropriate for the  
19 age and development of the child;

20 “(III) exchanging items that are  
21 appropriate to the age and develop-  
22 ment of the child, include expectations  
23 that are appropriate for the age and  
24 development of the child related to be-  
25 havior, attire, and wait times; and

1 “(IV) allowing appropriate adults  
2 to bring children if legal guardians  
3 are not available to promote regular  
4 contact;

5 “(ii) reasonable inclusion of all chil-  
6 dren of the parent;

7 “(iii) communication and visitation at  
8 times when the children are available;

9 “(iv) security procedures to comfort  
10 children and be minimally invasive; and

11 “(v) promoting parent-child relation-  
12 ships regardless of the sentence imposed  
13 on the parent.

14 “(2) ENHANCED VISITATION.—

15 “(A) Grantees shall facilitate weekly com-  
16 munication and, for at least 9 days each year,  
17 in-person visitation between a covered foster  
18 child and any incarcerated parent of the child.

19 “(B) Electronic visitation (such as live  
20 video visits, phone calls, and recorded books)  
21 may be used but shall not be the sole method  
22 to promote a meaningful relationship for pur-  
23 poses of the grant.

24 “(C) Enhanced visitation programs shall—

1 “(i) integrate best practices for visita-  
2 tion programs with incarcerated parents  
3 and their children;

4 “(ii) adopt developmentally appro-  
5 priate visitation policies and procedures  
6 such as those described in paragraph  
7 (1)(B);

8 “(iii) reduce or eliminate the cost of  
9 developmentally appropriate communica-  
10 tion and visitation for the covered foster  
11 child, which may include the purchase of  
12 communication technology, covering trans-  
13 portation, insurance, and lodging costs,  
14 costs related to providing appropriate visi-  
15 tation spaces and activities, and other rel-  
16 evant costs;

17 “(iv) to the extent practicable, inte-  
18 grate appropriate parenting education to  
19 help prepare and process visits; and

20 “(v) avoid restricting visitation and  
21 communication as a punishment for the in-  
22 carcerated parents.

23 “(3) TRAINING.—Grantees shall incorporate on-  
24 going training for child welfare workers, correctional  
25 facility staff, and other program providers to under-

1 stand the importance of promoting meaningful rela-  
2 tionships between children and incarcerated parents.

3 “(4) CASE MANAGEMENT.—Grantees shall pro-  
4 vide case management services for the incarcerated  
5 parents of a covered foster child to promote the rela-  
6 tionship, access to services, and coordination with  
7 the caseworkers of the covered foster child to  
8 strengthen the relationship.

9 “(5) LEGAL ASSISTANCE.—Grantees shall facili-  
10 tate access to necessary legal services and may use  
11 grant funds for services that are not reimbursable  
12 under other Federal programs.

13 “(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the  
14 cost of any activity carried out using a grant made under  
15 this section shall be not greater than 75 percent.

16 “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EVALUATIONS, AND  
17 REPORTS.—

18 “(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
19 shall provide technical assistance with respect to  
20 grants under this section, including by—

21 “(A) assisting grantees in understanding  
22 best practices in promoting meaningful relation-  
23 ships between incarcerated parents and their  
24 children as well as consulting with appropriate  
25 stakeholders when developing their programs;

1           “(B) assisting grantees with establishing  
2           and analyzing implementation and performance  
3           indicators; and

4           “(C) conducting an annual technical assist-  
5           ance and training meeting and an annual grant-  
6           ee meeting so that grantees can learn from the  
7           experiences of other grantees.

8           “(2) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall con-  
9           duct an evaluation of program outcomes, including  
10          with respect to parent and child well-being, parent-  
11          child interactions, parental involvement, awareness  
12          of child development and parenting practices, place-  
13          ment stability, and termination of parental rights  
14          with respect to covered foster children and incarcer-  
15          ated parents, to measure program effectiveness, as  
16          determined by the Secretary, and identify opportuni-  
17          ties for improved program practices and implemen-  
18          tation.

19          “(3) REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—

20                 “(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 3  
21                 years after the date of the enactment of this  
22                 section, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
23                 mittee on Ways and Means of the House of  
24                 Representatives and the Committee on Finance  
25                 of the Senate a report that includes—

1 “(i) the number of applications for  
2 grants under this section;

3 “(ii) the number of grants awarded,  
4 and the amounts for each grant; and

5 “(iii) information on the grants, in-  
6 cluding—

7 “(I) interim results of the evalua-  
8 tion described in paragraph (2);

9 “(II) disaggregated data on cov-  
10 ered foster children and incarcerated  
11 parents;

12 “(III) information on the com-  
13 position of eligible State partnerships;

14 “(IV) best practices for facili-  
15 tating meaningful relationships be-  
16 tween covered foster children and in-  
17 carcerated parents; and

18 “(V) barriers to implementation  
19 or expansion of programs funded  
20 under this section.

21 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6  
22 years after the date of the enactment of this  
23 section, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
24 mittee on Ways and Means of the House of

1           Representatives and the Committee on Finance  
2           of the Senate a report that includes—

3                   “(i) the final results of the evaluation  
4                   described in paragraph (2); and

5                   “(ii) recommendations for refinements  
6                   to grant requirements to improve program  
7                   outcomes.

8           “(g) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY WITH RESPECT TO  
9   INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

10                   “(1) WAIVER OR MODIFICATION OF REQUIRE-  
11           MENTS.—In making a grant to an Indian tribe or  
12           tribal organization under this section, the Secretary  
13           may waive the matching requirement of subsection  
14           (e) or modify an application requirement imposed by  
15           or under subsection (c) if the Secretary determines  
16           that the waiver or modification is appropriate to the  
17           needs, culture, and circumstances of the Indian tribe  
18           or tribal organization.

19                   “(2) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall use  
20           tribally relevant data in carrying out the evaluation  
21           under subsection (f)(2) with respect to an Indian  
22           tribe or tribal organization.

23           “(h) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
24   PRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the



1 Secretary not more than \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal  
2 years 2026 through 2029 to carry out this section.

3 “(i) DEFINITION OF COVERED FOSTER CHILD.—In  
4 this section, the term ‘covered foster child’ means a child  
5 that—

6 “(1) is in foster care; and

7 “(2) has at least 1 parent incarcerated in a  
8 Federal, State, or local correctional facility.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) Section 431(a)(2)(B)(vii) (42 U.S.C.  
11 629a(a)(2)(B)(vii)) is amended by striking “(as de-  
12 fined in section 439(b)(2))”.

13 (2) Section 431(a) (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)), as  
14 amended by sections 106(b)(2) and 110(a)(4) of this  
15 Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(12) MENTORING.—The term ‘mentoring’  
17 means a structured, managed program in which chil-  
18 dren are appropriately matched with screened and  
19 trained adult volunteers for one on-one relationships,  
20 involving meetings and activities on a regular basis,  
21 intended to meet, in part, the child’s need for in-  
22 volvement with a caring and supportive adult who  
23 provides a positive role model.”.

1 **SEC. 114. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON IMPROVING DATA COL-**  
2 **LECTION AND REPORTING FOR YOUTH IN**  
3 **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS.**

4       Within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this  
5 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in con-  
6 sultation with the Department of Education, the Adminis-  
7 tration for Children and Families, the Centers for Medi-  
8 care and Medicaid Services, the Administration for Com-  
9 munity Living, the Department of Justice, and other rel-  
10 evant policy experts, as determined by the Secretary, shall  
11 issue and disseminate, or update and revise, as applicable,  
12 guidance to State agencies in administering State plans  
13 approved under parts B and E of title IV of the Social  
14 Security Act on the following:

15           (1) Best practices for Federal and State agen-  
16 cies to collect data and share information related to  
17 the well-being of youth residing in residential treat-  
18 ment facilities, including those facilities operating in  
19 multiple States or serving out-of-state youth.

20           (2) Best practices on improving State collection  
21 and sharing of data related to incidences of mal-  
22 treatment of youth residing in residential treatment  
23 facilities, including with respect to meeting the re-  
24 quirement of section 471(a)(9)(A) of such Act for  
25 such youth in foster care.

1           (3) Best practices on improving oversight of  
2       youth residential programs receiving Federal fund-  
3       ing, and research-based strategies for risk assess-  
4       ment related to the health, safety, and well-being of  
5       youth in the facilities.

6 **SEC. 115. STREAMLINING RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND**  
7 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING.**

8       (a) REPURPOSING DISCRETIONARY RESEARCH SET-  
9       ASIDE.—Section 435(c) (42 U.S.C. 629e(c)) is amended  
10      to read as follows:

11       “(c) EVALUATION, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL AS-  
12      SISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO TARGETED PROGRAM RE-  
13      SOURCES.—Of the amount reserved under section  
14      437(b)(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not less  
15      than—

16           “(1) \$1,000,000 for technical assistance to  
17      grantees under section 437(f) and to support design  
18      of local site evaluations with the goal of publishing  
19      and submitting evaluation findings to the clearing-  
20      house established under section 476(d), or to award  
21      grants to allow current or former grantees under  
22      section 437(f) to analyze, publish, and submit to the  
23      clearinghouse data collected during past grants; and

24           “(2) \$1,000,000 for technical assistance re-  
25      quired under section 429B of this Act to support ef-

1       fective implementation of the Indian Child Welfare  
2       Act of 1978 and to support development of associ-  
3       ated State plan measures described pursuant to sec-  
4       tion 422(b)(9) of this Act.”.

5       (b) ELIMINATION OF RESEARCH SET-ASIDE FROM  
6 MANDATORY FUNDS.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 436(b) (42 U.S.C.  
8       629f(b)), as amended by the preceding provisions of  
9       this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and  
10      redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as para-  
11      graphs (1) through (4), respectively.

12          (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

13           (A) Section 433(a) (42 U.S.C. 629c(a)) is  
14       amended by striking “436(b)(3)” and inserting  
15       “436(b)(2)”.

16           (B) Section 433(e) (42 U.S.C. 629c(e)), as  
17       amended by section 112(b) of this Act, is  
18       amended by striking “436(b)(4)(A)” and insert-  
19       ing “436(b)(3)(A)” each place it appears.

20           (C) Section 434(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C.  
21       629d(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking  
22       “436(b)(4)(B)” and inserting “436(b)(3)(B)”.

23           (D) Section 437(b)(1) (42 U.S.C.  
24       629g(b)(1)) is amended by striking “436(b)(1)”  
25       and inserting “435”.

1                   (E)    Section    437(f)(3)    (42    U.S.C.  
2                   629g(f)(3)) is amended by striking “436(b)(5)”  
3                   and inserting “436(b)(4)”.

4                   (F) Section 438(c) (42 U.S.C. 629g(c)) is  
5                   amended in each of paragraphs (1) through (3)  
6                   is amended by striking “436(b)(2)” and insert-  
7                   ing “436(b)(1)”.

8   **SEC. 116. REPORT ON POST ADOPTION AND SUBSIDIZED**  
9                   **GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES.**

10           (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 2 years after the date of  
11 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and  
12 Human Services shall prepare and submit to the Com-  
13 mittee on Ways and Means of the House of Representa-  
14 tives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report  
15 on children who enter into foster care under the super-  
16 vision of a State administering a plan approved under part  
17 B or E of title IV of the Social Security Act after finaliza-  
18 tion of an adoption or legal guardianship.

19           (b) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall include in  
20 the report information, to the extent available through the  
21 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System  
22 and other data sources, regarding the incidence of adop-  
23 tion disruption and dissolution affecting children described  
24 in subsection (a) and factors associated with such cir-  
25 cumstances, including—

1           (1) whether affected individuals received pre- or  
2           post-legal adoption services; and

3           (2) other relevant information, such as the age  
4           of the child involved.

5           (c) POST-ADOPTION SERVICES AND GUARDIAN-  
6 SHIP.—The Secretary shall include in the report—

7           (1) a summary of post-adoption services and  
8           guardianship in each State that are available to fam-  
9           ilies that adopted children from foster care and the  
10          extent to which the services are evidence-based or  
11          evidence-informed.

12          (2) a summary of funding and funding sources  
13          for the services in each State, including set-asides  
14          under the Promoting Safe and Stable Families pro-  
15          gram.

16 **SEC. 117. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17          (a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this  
18          title shall take effect on October 1, 2025, and shall apply  
19          to payments under part B of title IV of the Social Security  
20          Act for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date.

21          (b) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-  
22          QUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
23          determines that State legislation (other than legislation  
24          appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan  
25          developed pursuant to part B of title IV of the Social Se-

1   curity Act to meet the additional requirements imposed  
2   by the amendments made by this title, the plan shall not  
3   be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional re-  
4   quirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter  
5   beginning after the first regular session of the State legis-  
6   lature that begins after the date of the enactment of this  
7   Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if the State  
8   has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session  
9   is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State  
10  legislature.

11       (c) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY IN-  
12  DIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of an Indian  
13  tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium that the  
14  Secretary of Health and Human Services determines re-  
15  quires time to take action necessary to comply with the  
16  additional requirements imposed by the amendments made  
17  by this Act (whether the tribe, organization, or tribal con-  
18  sortium has a plan under section 479B of the Social Secu-  
19  rity Act or a cooperative agreement or contract entered  
20  into with a State), the Secretary shall provide the tribe,  
21  organization, or tribal consortium with such additional  
22  time as the Secretary determines is necessary for the tribe,  
23  organization, or tribal consortium to take the action to  
24  comply with the additional requirements before being re-  
25  garded as failing to comply with the requirements.

1 **TITLE II—STRENGTHENING**  
2 **STATE AND TRIBAL CHILD**  
3 **SUPPORT**

4 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Strengthening State  
6 and Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act”.

7 **SEC. 202. IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRIBAL**  
8 **CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

9 (a) IMPROVING THE COLLECTION OF PAST-DUE  
10 CHILD SUPPORT THROUGH STATE AND TRIBAL PARITY  
11 IN THE ALLOWABLE USE OF TAX INFORMATION.—

12 (1) AMENDMENT TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY  
13 ACT.—Section 464 of the Social Security Act (42  
14 U.S.C. 664) is amended by adding at the end the  
15 following:

16 “(d) APPLICABILITY TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL  
17 ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING A GRANT UNDER THIS  
18 PART.—This section, except for the requirement to dis-  
19 tribute amounts in accordance with section 457, shall  
20 apply to an Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving  
21 a grant under section 455(f) in the same manner in which  
22 this section applies to a State with a plan approved under  
23 this part.”.

24 (2) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE  
25 CODE.—



1           (A) Section 6103(a)(2) of the Internal  
2           Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking  
3           “any local child support enforcement agency”  
4           and inserting “any tribal or local child support  
5           enforcement agency”.

6           (B) Section 6103(a)(3) of such Code is  
7           amended by inserting “, (8)” after “(6)”.

8           (C) Section 6103(l) of such Code is  
9           amended—

10           (i) in paragraph (6)—

11                   (I) by striking “or local” in sub-  
12                   paragraph (A) and inserting “tribal,  
13                   or local”;

14                   (II) by striking “AND LOCAL” in  
15                   the heading thereof and inserting  
16                   “TRIBAL, AND LOCAL”;

17                   (III) by striking “The following”  
18                   in subparagraph (B) and inserting  
19                   “The”;

20                   (IV) by striking the colon and all  
21                   that follows in subparagraph (B) and  
22                   inserting a period; and

23                   (V) by adding at the end the fol-  
24                   lowing:

1           “(D) STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL CHILD  
2           SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—For pur-  
3           poses of this paragraph, the following shall be  
4           treated as a State, tribal, or local child support  
5           enforcement agency:

6                   “(i) Any agency of a State or political  
7                   subdivision thereof operating pursuant to a  
8                   plan described in section 454 of the Social  
9                   Security Act which has been approved by  
10                  the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
11                  ices under part D of title IV of such Act.

12                  “(ii) Any child support enforcement  
13                  agency of an Indian tribe or tribal organi-  
14                  zation receiving a grant under section  
15                  455(f) of the Social Security Act.”;

16                  (ii) in paragraph (8)—

17                   (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-  
18                   ing “or State or local” and inserting  
19                   “, State, tribal, or local”;

20                   (II) in subparagraph (B), by  
21                   striking “enforced pursuant to a plan  
22                   described” and all that follows  
23                   through “of such Act” and inserting  
24                   “enforced pursuant to the provisions

1 of part D of title IV of the Social Se-  
2 curity Act”;

3 (III) by adding at the end of sub-  
4 paragraph (B) the following: “The in-  
5 formation disclosed to any child sup-  
6 port enforcement agency under sub-  
7 paragraph (A) with respect to any in-  
8 dividual with respect to whom child  
9 support obligations are sought to be  
10 established or enforced may be dis-  
11 closed by such agency to any agent of  
12 such agency which is under contract  
13 with such agency for purposes of, and  
14 to the extent necessary in, estab-  
15 lishing and collecting child support  
16 obligations from, and locating, individ-  
17 uals owing such obligations.”;

18 (IV) by striking subparagraph  
19 (C) and inserting the following:

20 “(C) STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL CHILD  
21 SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—For pur-  
22 poses of this paragraph, the term ‘State, tribal,  
23 or local child support enforcement agency’ has  
24 the same meaning as when used in paragraph  
25 (6)(D).”; and

1 (V) by striking “AND LOCAL” in  
2 the heading thereof and inserting  
3 “TRIBAL, AND LOCAL”; and

4 (iii) in paragraph (10)(B), by adding  
5 at the end the following new clause:

6 “(iii) The information disclosed to any  
7 child support enforcement agency under  
8 subparagraph (A) with respect to any indi-  
9 vidual with respect to whom child support  
10 obligations are sought to be established or  
11 enforced may be disclosed by such agency  
12 to any agent of such agency which is under  
13 contract with such agency for purposes of,  
14 and to the extent necessary in, establishing  
15 and collecting child support obligations  
16 from, and locating, individuals owing such  
17 obligations.”.

18 (D) Section 6103(p)(4) of such Code is  
19 amended—

20 (i) by striking “subsection (l)(10),  
21 (13)(A), (13)(B), (13)(C), (13)(D)(i), (16),  
22 (18), (19), or (20), or any entity” in the  
23 matter preceding subparagraph (A) and in-  
24 serting “subsection (l)(6), (8), (10),  
25 (13)(A), (13)(B), (13)(C), (13)(D)(i), (16),

1 (18), (19), or (20), or any Indian tribe or  
2 tribal organization receiving a grant under  
3 section 455(f) of the Social Security Act,  
4 or any entity”;

5 (ii) by striking “subsection (l)(10)” in  
6 subparagraph (F)(i) and inserting “sub-  
7 section (l)(6), (8), (10)”;

8 (iii) by striking “subsection (l)(10),  
9 (13)(A), (13)(B), (13)(C), (13)(D)(i), (16),  
10 (18), (19), or (20) or any entity” each  
11 place it appears in the matter following  
12 subparagraph (F)(iii) and inserting “sub-  
13 section (l)(6), (8), (10), (13)(A), (13)(B),  
14 (13)(C), (13)(D)(i), (16), (18), (19), or  
15 (20), or any Indian tribe or tribal organi-  
16 zation receiving a grant under section  
17 455(f) of the Social Security Act, or any  
18 entity”; and

19 (iv) by inserting “, (8)” after “para-  
20 graph (6)(A)” in the matter following sub-  
21 paragraph (F)(iii).

22 (E) Section 6103(p)(9) of such Code is  
23 amended by striking “or local” and inserting  
24 “tribal, or local”.

1           (F) Section 6402(c) of such Code is  
2           amended by adding at the end the following:  
3           “For purposes of this subsection, any reference  
4           to a State shall include a reference to any In-  
5           dian tribe or tribal organization receiving a  
6           grant under section 455(f) of the Social Secu-  
7           rity Act.”.

8           (b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR REPORTS.—Section  
9           453(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(g)) is  
10          amended—

11           (1) in the subsection heading, by striking  
12           “STATE”; and

13           (2) by striking “and State” and inserting “,  
14           State, and tribal”.

15           (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (7) and  
16           (33) of section 454 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
17           654) are each amended by striking “450b” and inserting  
18           “5304”.

          Passed the House of Representatives September 18,  
2024.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9076

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title, and for other purposes.