

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9994

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security to ensure that child protective services systems do not permit the separation of children from parents solely on the basis of poverty, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2026

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security to ensure that child protective services systems do not permit the separation of children from parents solely on the basis of poverty, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Poverty is Not
5 Child Neglect Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**

7 Section 422(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 622(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (18), by striking “; and” and
2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (2) in paragraph (19)(B), by striking the period
4 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

6 “(20) provide assurances that—

7 “(A) no child is separated from a parent or
8 guardian of the child solely on the basis of pov-
9 erty; and

10 “(B) the State will develop or improve
11 services and benefits to keep families in poverty
12 safely together, such as through assistance with
13 respect to housing insecurity or unemployment
14 of parents or guardians in such families.”.

15 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON CHILD POVERTY AND NEGLECT.**

16 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
18 Services shall submit to the Committee on Ways and
19 Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee
20 on Finance of the Senate a report on the following:

21 (1) The effect of poverty with respect to—

22 (A) contacts with authorities related to
23 child and family services;

24 (B) investigations carried out related to
25 the welfare of a child;

1 (C) allegations of child neglect, abuse, or
2 other forms of maltreatment;

3 (D) temporary or permanent removals of a
4 child from the home, family, or household of the
5 child;

6 (E) transient, temporary, or permanent
7 placements in foster care, kinship care, or other
8 informal care settings; and

9 (F) and other actions that affect the cus-
10 tody or care of a child.

11 (2) Recommendations for legislation to accu-
12 rately gain information related to paragraph (1).

13 (3) Recommendations for legislation to help
14 prevent a family in poverty from experiencing the
15 separation, whether permanent or temporary, of a
16 child from the family.

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