

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 600

To enhance pre- and post-adoption support services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To enhance pre- and post-adoption support services, 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 “Supporting Adopted
5 Children and Families Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES.**

7 (a) ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF ADOPTED CHIL-
8 DREN AND THEIR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Section 421 of
9 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
11 end;

1 (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
2 graph (6); and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(5) ensuring the well-being of adopted children
6 and their adoptive families and promoting efforts to
7 prevent such children from entering the foster care
8 system through the provision of pre- and post-adop-
9 tion support services; and”.

10 (b) PRE- AND POST-ADOPTION SUPPORT SERV-
11 ICES.—Paragraph (8) of section 431(a) of such Act (42
12 U.S.C. 629a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(8) ADOPTION PROMOTION AND SUPPORT
14 SERVICES.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘adoption
16 promotion and support services’ means services
17 and activities designed to encourage more adop-
18 tions out of the foster care system and support
19 domestic adoptions and adoptions from other
20 countries, consistent with promoting the best
21 interests of adopted children and their adoptive
22 families. Such services and activities may in-
23 clude pre- and post-adoption support services,
24 as described in subparagraph (B), that are de-

1 signed to support adopted children and their
2 adoptive families.

3 “(B) PRE- AND POST-ADOPTION SUPPORT
4 SERVICES.—The term ‘pre- and post-adoption
5 support services’ means the following:

6 “(i) Pre-adoption support services,
7 which may include—

8 “(I) direct services, including
9 training, educational support, coun-
10 seling, and other services for adoptive
11 parents and families that address
12 caregiver interests and concerns re-
13 garding common behavioral issues,
14 such as—

15 “(aa) issues relating to emo-
16 tional, behavioral, or develop-
17 mental health needs;

18 “(bb) issues relating to at-
19 tachment, identity, abandonment,
20 cultural differences, grief, loss,
21 and trauma; and

22 “(cc) issues resulting from
23 birth defects due to fetal alcohol
24 syndrome or any other substance

1 abuse-related developmental dis-
2 order;

3 “(II) the provision of educational
4 resources for adoptive parents regard-
5 ing the geographic, ethnic, and cul-
6 tural background of the adopted child;

7 “(III) peer-to-peer mentoring and
8 support groups that permit a newly
9 adoptive parent to communicate and
10 learn from more experienced adoptive
11 parents, including programs that en-
12 hance communication between adop-
13 tive parents with children of similar
14 geographic, ethnic, or cultural back-
15 grounds; and

16 “(IV) the provision of informa-
17 tional resources for adoptive parents,
18 including—

19 “(aa) resources available
20 through Federal and State agen-
21 cies, including information re-
22 garding benefits for children with
23 a medical condition or a physical,
24 mental, or emotional disability;

1 “(bb) newsletters, websites,
2 and other informational resources
3 regarding adoption-related serv-
4 ices;

5 “(cc) the establishment of
6 lending libraries containing infor-
7 mation and resources for adop-
8 tive parents; and

9 “(dd) conferences, discus-
10 sion groups, and seminars that
11 are available to adoptive parents
12 and other relevant stakeholders.

13 “(ii) Post-adoption support services,
14 which may include—

15 “(I) continued provision to adop-
16 tive parents of pre-adoption support
17 services described in clause (i);

18 “(II) the provision of accessible
19 and reliable respite services for adop-
20 tive parents;

21 “(III) direct services and coun-
22 seling for adopted children, including,
23 as appropriate—

24 “(aa) support services for an
25 adopted child with emotional, be-

1 havioral, or developmental health
2 needs;

3 “(bb) support services that
4 address issues relating to attach-
5 ment, identity, abandonment, cul-
6 tural differences, grief, and loss;
7 and

8 “(cc) treatment services that
9 are specialized for adopted chil-
10 dren, including psychiatric resi-
11 dential services, outpatient men-
12 tal health services, social skills
13 training, intensive in-home super-
14 vision services, recreational ther-
15 apy, suicide prevention, and sub-
16 stance abuse treatment;

17 “(IV) peer-to-peer mentoring and
18 support groups that allow adopted
19 children to communicate and socialize
20 with other adopted children, including
21 programs that provide for communica-
22 tion between adopted children from
23 similar geographic, ethnic, or cultural
24 backgrounds; and

1 “(V) crisis and family preserva-
 2 tion services, including crisis coun-
 3 seling and a 24-hour emergency hot-
 4 line for adoptive parents.”.

5 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR ADOPTION PROMOTION AND SUP-**
 6 **PORT SERVICES.**

7 Paragraph (8) of section 473(a) of the Social Secu-
 8 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(8) With respect to the amount of savings (if
 10 any) in State expenditures under this part resulting
 11 from the application of paragraph (2)(A)(ii) to all
 12 applicable children for a fiscal year, a State shall—

13 “(A) spend a significant portion of such
 14 amount to provide pre- and post-adoption sup-
 15 port services (as defined in section
 16 431(a)(8)(B));

17 “(B) spend the remainder of such amount
 18 to provide to children or families any other
 19 services that may be provided under this part
 20 or part B; and

21 “(C) on an annual basis, submit to the
 22 Secretary a report that provides a detailed ac-
 23 count of any services that were funded pursuant
 24 to this paragraph.”.

1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR POST-ADOPTION**
 2 **AND POST-LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP MENTAL**
 3 **HEALTH SERVICES.**

4 (a) FUNDING.—Section 436(b) of the Social Security
 5 Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)) is amended by adding at the end
 6 the following new paragraph:

7 “(5) POST-ADOPTION AND POST-LEGAL GUARD-
 8 IANSHIP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—The Sec-
 9 retary shall reserve \$20,000,000 for grants under
 10 section 437(h).”.

11 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 437 of the Social Se-
 12 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 629g) is amended by adding at the
 13 end the following new subsection:

14 “(h) POST-ADOPTION AND POST-LEGAL GUARDIAN-
 15 SHIP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts reserved
 17 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 under
 18 section 436(b)(6), the Secretary shall award grants
 19 or cooperative agreements under this subsection to
 20 eligible entities to—

21 “(A) develop and implement statewide or
 22 tribal post-adoption and post-legal guardianship
 23 mental health service programs for all children
 24 who are adopted or placed in legal guardianship
 25 and their families;

1 “(B) support public organizations and pri-
2 vate nonprofit organizations actively involved in
3 statewide or tribal post-adoption and post-legal
4 guardianship mental health service programs;

5 “(C) collect and analyze data on State-
6 sponsored statewide or tribal post-adoption and
7 post-legal guardianship mental health service
8 programs that can be used to monitor the effec-
9 tiveness of such services and for research, tech-
10 nical assistance, and policy development;

11 “(D) develop and provide adoption and
12 legal guardianship competent educational and
13 training opportunities concerning the mental
14 health needs of children who are adopted or
15 placed in legal guardianship, and their families,
16 for use by teachers, social workers, and other
17 community mental health service providers;

18 “(E) develop and provide materials for po-
19 tential adoptive parents and legal guardians,
20 both for children who already reside in the
21 United States at the time of adoption or place-
22 ment in legal guardianship and for those who at
23 such time reside in other countries, describing
24 the possible need for post-adoption and post-

1 legal guardianship mental health services and
 2 available resources;

3 “(F) develop and provide respite care serv-
 4 ices for adoptive and legal guardian families;
 5 and

6 “(G) support research on, and development
 7 of, promising practices (as defined in section
 8 471(e)(4)(C)(iii)) for post-adoption and post-
 9 legal guardianship mental health services.

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, the
 12 term ‘eligible entity’ means—

13 “(i) a State;

14 “(ii) a public organization or private
 15 nonprofit organization designated by a
 16 State to develop or direct the State-spon-
 17 sored statewide post-adoption and post-
 18 legal guardianship mental health service
 19 program under a grant under this sub-
 20 section; and

21 “(iii) a federally recognized Indian
 22 tribe or tribal organization (as defined in
 23 the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
 24 cation Assistance Act) or an urban Indian
 25 organization (as defined in the Indian

1 Health Care Improvement Act) that is ac-
2 tively involved in the development and con-
3 tinuation of a post-adoption and post-legal
4 guardianship mental health service pro-
5 gram.

6 “(B) LIMITATION.—In carrying out this
7 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that each
8 State is awarded only 1 grant or cooperative
9 agreement under this subsection. For purposes
10 of the preceding sentence, a State shall be con-
11 sidered to have been awarded a grant or cooper-
12 ative agreement if the eligible entity involved is
13 the State or an entity designated by the State
14 under subparagraph (A)(ii). Nothing in this
15 subparagraph shall be construed to apply to en-
16 tities described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

17 “(3) PREFERENCE.—In providing assistance
18 under a grant or cooperative agreement under this
19 subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to—

20 “(A) eligible entities that have dem-
21 onstrated success in increasing the level of
22 adoption and legal guardianship competency
23 among mental health providers, adoption and
24 legal guardianship lawyers, social workers, case

1 workers, adoptive parents, and legal guardians;
 2 and

3 “(B) eligible entities that plan to partner
 4 with their State mental health agency in car-
 5 rying out the activities for which the grant or
 6 cooperative agreement is made.

7 “(4) REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECT SERVICES.—
 8 Not less than 85 percent of funds received under a
 9 grant or cooperative agreement under this sub-
 10 section shall be used to provide direct services, of
 11 which not less than 5 percent shall be used for ac-
 12 tivities authorized under paragraph (1)(C).

13 “(5) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this
 15 subsection, the Secretary shall collaborate with
 16 relevant Federal agencies and adoption and
 17 legal guardianship-related working groups to
 18 promote interaction between domestic foster
 19 care agencies and private adoption agencies in
 20 other countries.

21 “(B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out
 22 this subsection, the Secretary shall consult
 23 with—

24 “(i) State and social service agencies
 25 engaged in the placement of children for

1 adoption, domestically or from other coun-
2 tries;

3 “(ii) local and national organizations
4 that serve foster and adopted youth and
5 youth placed in legal guardianship;

6 “(iii) health and education specialists
7 who focus on adoption, legal guardianship,
8 and foster care medicine;

9 “(iv) youth who have been in foster
10 care, adopted, or in legal guardianship, do-
11 mestically or from other countries, includ-
12 ing youth who have experienced adoption
13 or guardianship disruptions or dissolutions;

14 “(v) families and friends of youth who
15 have been in foster care, adopted, or in
16 legal guardianship, domestically or from
17 other countries, including foster and adop-
18 tive parents and legal guardians; and

19 “(vi) qualified professionals who pos-
20 sess the specialized knowledge, skills, expe-
21 rience, and relevant attributes needed to
22 serve children who are adopted or placed in
23 legal guardianship and their families.

24 “(C) POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—In carrying
25 out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

1 “(i) coordinate and collaborate on pol-
 2 icy development with relevant Department
 3 of Health and Human Services agencies
 4 and adoption and legal guardianship-re-
 5 lated working groups; and

6 “(ii) consult on policy development at
 7 the Federal level with those in the private
 8 sector engaged in the recruitment of foster
 9 and adoptive parents and legal guardians,
 10 the placement of children in foster care,
 11 for adoption, and in legal guardianship,
 12 and the provision of post-adoption and
 13 post-legal guardianship services.

14 “(6) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

15 “(A) EVALUATIONS BY ELIGIBLE ENTI-
 16 TIES.—Not later than 18 months after receipt
 17 of a grant or cooperative agreement under this
 18 subsection, an eligible entity shall submit to the
 19 Secretary the results of an evaluation to be con-
 20 ducted by the entity concerning the effective-
 21 ness of the activities carried out under the
 22 grant or agreement.

23 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
 24 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
 25 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate

1 committees of Congress a report concerning the
2 results of—

3 “(i) the evaluations conducted under
4 subparagraph (A); and

5 “(ii) an evaluation conducted by the
6 Secretary to analyze the effectiveness and
7 efficacy of the activities conducted with
8 grants, collaborations, and consultations
9 under this subsection.

10 “(7) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this sub-
11 section:

12 “(A) ADOPTED CHILD.—The term ‘adopt-
13 ed child’ means an individual who is under 21
14 years of age and was adopted from foster care
15 or placed in legal guardianship through a pri-
16 vate placement agency, or from another coun-
17 try.

18 “(B) ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIAN-
19 SHIP COMPETENCY.—The term ‘adoption and
20 legal guardianship competency’ means an un-
21 derstanding of—

22 “(i) the nature of adoption and legal
23 guardianship as a form of family formation
24 and the different types of adoption and
25 legal guardianship;

1 “(ii) relevant emotional and physical
 2 issues involved in the adoption or legal
 3 guardianship process, including issues re-
 4 lating to separation, loss, attachment,
 5 abuse, trauma, and neglect;

6 “(iii) common developmental chal-
 7 lenges associated with adoption and legal
 8 guardianship;

9 “(iv) the characteristics and skills
 10 that allow for successful adoptive and legal
 11 guardianship families;

12 “(v) proper sensitivity with respect to
 13 the different geographic, ethnic, or cultural
 14 backgrounds of children who are adopted
 15 or placed in legal guardianship and their
 16 families; and

17 “(vi) the necessary skills for effec-
 18 tively advocating on behalf of birth and
 19 adoptive and legal guardian families.

20 “(C) POST-ADOPTION AND POST-LEGAL
 21 GUARDIANSHIP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—
 22 The term ‘post-adoption and post-legal guard-
 23 ianship mental health services’ includes—

24 “(i) adoption and legal guardianship
 25 competent mental health direct services, in-

cluding training, educational support,
counseling, and other services for adoptive
and legal guardian parents and families
that address caregiver interests and con-
cerns regarding child behavioral issues that
are common among children who are
adopted, placed in legal guardianship, or
placed in foster care, including, as appro-
priate—

“(I) caring for a child who is
adopted or placed in legal guardian-
ship and has emotional, behavioral, or
developmental health needs; and

“(II) providing for the emotional
needs of a child who is adopted or
placed in legal guardianship, including
issues relating to attachment, identity,
abandonment, cultural differences,
grief, loss, and trauma;

“(ii) peer-to-peer mentoring and sup-
port groups that permit a newly adoptive
parent or legal guardian to communicate
and learn from more experienced adoptive
parents or legal guardians;

1 “(iii) the provision of informational
2 resources and available services for adop-
3 tive parents or legal guardians;

4 “(iv) direct services, including coun-
5 seling, peer-to-peer mentoring and support
6 groups, and other services for children who
7 are adopted or placed in legal guardianship
8 that address common behavioral and ad-
9 justment issues, including, as appro-
10 priate—

11 “(I) support services for a child
12 who is adopted or placed in legal
13 guardianship with emotional, behav-
14 ioral, or developmental health needs;

15 “(II) support services that ad-
16 dress the emotional needs of a child
17 who is adopted or placed in legal
18 guardianship, including issues relating
19 to attachment, identity, abandonment,
20 cultural differences, grief, loss, and
21 trauma; and

22 “(III) treatment services that are
23 specialized for children who are adopt-
24 ed or placed in legal guardianship, in-
25 cluding psychiatric residential serv-

1 ices, outpatient mental health services,
 2 social skills training, intensive in-
 3 home supervision services, recreational
 4 therapy, suicide prevention, and sub-
 5 stance abuse treatment;

6 “(v) peer-to-peer mentoring and sup-
 7 port groups that allow children who are
 8 adopted or placed in legal guardianship
 9 communicate and socialize with other such
 10 children; and

11 “(vi) crisis intervention and family
 12 preservation services.”.

13 **SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND**
 14 **DISSOLUTION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 479 of the Social Security
 16 Act (42 U.S.C. 679) is amended by adding at the end the
 17 following new subsection:

18 “(e)(1) Not later than 12 months after the date of
 19 enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall, as part
 20 of the data collection system established under this sec-
 21 tion, promulgate final regulations providing for the collec-
 22 tion and analysis of information regarding children who
 23 enter into State custody as a result of the disruption of
 24 a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption,
 25 which shall require States to collect and report—

1 “(A) information on children who are adopted
2 within the United States or from other countries and
3 who enter into State custody as a result of the dis-
4 ruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolu-
5 tion of an adoption, including—

6 “(i) the number of children who enter into
7 State custody as a result of—

8 “(I) the disruption of placement for
9 adoption; or

10 “(II) the dissolution of an adoption;
11 and

12 “(ii) for each child identified under clause
13 (i)—

14 “(I) as applicable, the country of birth
15 for any child who was not born in the
16 United States;

17 “(II) the length of the adoption place-
18 ment prior to disruption or dissolution;

19 “(III) the age of the child at the time
20 of the disruption or dissolution;

21 “(IV) the reason for the disruption or
22 dissolution; and

23 “(V) the agencies who handled the
24 placement for adoption; and

1 “(B) such other information as determined ap-
2 propriate by the Secretary.

3 “(2) The information described in paragraph (1)
4 shall be used—

5 “(A) to consolidate and expand the collection of
6 information on adoption disruption and dissolution;

7 “(B) to improve research and data collection
8 systems in order to more accurately determine and
9 measure the rates, outcomes, and causes of adoption
10 disruption and dissolution;

11 “(C) to identify pre- and post-adoption support
12 services (including services described in section
13 431(a)(8)(B) (as amended by the Supporting Adopt-
14 ed Children and Families Act)) that result in lower
15 rates of disruption and dissolution of adoptions;

16 “(D) to develop an understanding of the rela-
17 tionship between the rate of incidence of adoption
18 disruptions and dissolutions and the support services
19 that are provided to adoptive families in order to
20 identify and develop effective evidence-based strate-
21 gies, programs, and support services that help to
22 prevent adoption disruption and dissolution; and

23 “(E) to develop and enhance training and edu-
24 cational services regarding strategies for prevention
25 of adoption disruption and dissolution.

1 “(3)(A) Not later than 6 months after the date of
2 enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall, subject
3 to subparagraph (B), establish an advisory committee to
4 study methods to effectively collect data regarding disruption
5 and dissolution of adoptions that are not included in
6 the data collection system established under this section,
7 including—

8 “(i) data on children whose adoptions are disrupted
9 or dissolved but do not enter into State custody
10 as a result of such disruption or dissolution;

11 “(ii) data on adoption displacements, whereby
12 an adopted child is temporarily placed out of the
13 home of an adoptive parent in order to receive medical,
14 mental health, behavioral, or other forms of
15 treatment; and

16 “(iii) such other data as determined appropriate
17 by the Secretary.

18 “(B) The membership and organization of the advisory
19 committee described in subparagraph (A) shall be determined
20 by the Secretary and shall include—

21 “(i) State and child welfare agencies that are
22 engaged in the placement of children for adoption
23 domestically or from other countries;

24 “(ii) local and national organizations that serve
25 adopted children and children in foster care; and

1 “(iii) members of State and local judiciary and
2 court staff.

3 “(C) Not later than 12 months after establishment
4 of the advisory committee described in subparagraph (A),
5 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees
6 of Congress a report containing recommendations of the
7 advisory committee for improvement of the data collection
8 system established under this section.”.

9 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 479A(a) of the Social
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 679b(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking “and”
12 after the semicolon;

13 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(8) include in the report submitted pursuant
18 to paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2026 or any suc-
19 ceeding fiscal year, national and State-by-State data
20 on the numbers and rates of disruptions and dissolu-
21 tions of adoptions, as collected pursuant to section
22 479(e)(1).”.

23 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections
25 (b), (c), and (d), the amendments made by this Act shall

1 take effect on October 1, 2025, and shall apply to pay-
2 ments under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Secu-
3 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.) for calendar
4 quarters beginning on or after such date.

5 (b) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-
6 QUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 determines that State legislation (other than legislation
8 appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan
9 developed pursuant to part B or E of title IV of the Social
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.) to meet
11 the additional requirements imposed by the amendments
12 made by this Act, the plan shall not be regarded as failing
13 to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st
14 day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the first
15 regular session of the State legislature that begins after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act. For purposes of
17 the preceding sentence, if the State has a 2-year legislative
18 session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate
19 regular session of the State legislature.

20 (c) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY IN-
21 DIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of an Indian
22 tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium that the
23 Secretary of Health and Human Services determines re-
24 quires time to take action necessary to comply with the
25 additional requirements imposed by the amendments made

1 by this Act (whether the tribe, organization, or tribal con-
2 sortium has a plan under section 479B of the Social Secu-
3 rity Act or a cooperative agreement or contract entered
4 into with a State), the Secretary shall provide the tribe,
5 organization, or tribal consortium with such additional
6 time as the Secretary determines is necessary for the tribe,
7 organization, or tribal consortium to take the action to
8 comply with the additional requirements before being re-
9 garded as failing to comply with the requirements.

10 (d) DATA COLLECTION ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION
11 AND DISSOLUTION.—The amendments made by section 5
12 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

○