

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 699

To reward states that enact welfare policies and support programs that truly lift families out of poverty.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1999

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

A BILL

To reward states that enact welfare policies and support programs that truly lift families out of poverty.

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 “Building Opportunities
5 Bonus Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BONUS TO BUILD REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR POOR**
7 **FAMILIES.**

8 Section 403(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 603(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(6) BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES BONUS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 make a grant pursuant to this paragraph to
3 each State for each bonus year for which the
4 State is a high performing State.

5 “(B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
7 (ii), the Secretary shall determine the
8 amount of the grant payable under this
9 paragraph to a high performing State for
10 a bonus year, which shall be based on the
11 score assigned to the State under subpara-
12 graph (D)(i) for the fiscal year that imme-
13 diately precedes the bonus year.

14 “(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount pay-
15 able to a State under this paragraph for a
16 bonus year shall not exceed 5 percent of
17 the State family assistance grant and shall
18 be used to address the matters set forth in
19 subparagraph (C).

20 “(C) CRITERIA FOR MEASURING STATE
21 PERFORMANCE.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
23 the Secretary, in consultation with the National
24 Governor’s Association and the Institute for
25 Women’s Policy Research, shall develop criteria

1 for measuring State performance in operating
2 the State program funded under this part to
3 address the following matters as they relate to
4 the ability of recipients of assistance under the
5 State program to become economically self-suf-
6 ficient:

7 “(i) CHILD CARE.—Whether States
8 are—

9 “(I) ensuring an adequate supply
10 of safe, accessible, appropriate, and
11 quality child care slots;

12 “(II) helping women identify and
13 place children in safe, accessible, ap-
14 propriate, and quality child care;

15 “(III) ensuring that available
16 child care slots are filled;

17 “(IV) improving the quality of
18 child care by ensuring that child care
19 providers are adequately paid and
20 trained;

21 “(V) increasing access to safe,
22 accessible, appropriate, and quality
23 child care by making child care sub-
24 sidies available to recipients of assist-
25 ance under the State program funded

1 under this part and families that earn
2 up to 85 percent of the State’s me-
3 dian income;

4 “(VI) collaborating with State
5 child care resource and referral agen-
6 cies and child care development ex-
7 perts in developing and implementing
8 child care programs and policies; and

9 “(VII) collaborating with State
10 domestic violence coalitions to address
11 the child care needs of families af-
12 fected by domestic violence.

13 “(ii) EMPLOYMENT.—Whether States
14 are—

15 “(I) providing education and
16 training for recipients of assistance
17 under the State program under this
18 part for employment that pays a sus-
19 tainable wage, such as apprenticeable,
20 technical, and professional occupa-
21 tions, and nontraditional employment;

22 “(II) placing such recipients in
23 such employment;

24 “(III) retaining such recipients in
25 such employment;

1 “(IV) providing career develop-
2 ment assistance including job readi-
3 ness training, reliable, up-to-date ca-
4 reer counseling services, and employ-
5 ability assessments on available em-
6 ployment that pays a sustainable
7 wage, such as nontraditional training
8 and education options and employ-
9 ment opportunities to all women en-
10 tering welfare-to-work programs; and

11 “(V) utilizing resources available
12 under title I of the Workforce Invest-
13 ment Act of 1998, including section
14 134(a)(3)(A)(vi)(II) of such Act, to
15 support State efforts on education,
16 training, placement, retention, and ca-
17 reer development assistance, as de-
18 scribed in subclauses (I) through (IV).

19 “(iii) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—Whether
20 States are—

21 “(I) collaborating with State do-
22 mestic violence coalitions in imple-
23 menting substantive programs ad-
24 dressing domestic violence as an im-
25 pediment to women’s work and edu-

1 cation (such as through demonstration
2 and model projects), programs placing
3 domestic violence advocates in welfare
4 offices, and programs providing em-
5 ployment and support services for vic-
6 tims of domestic violence that will
7 reach a substantial number of bat-
8 tered women;

9 “(II) collaborating with State do-
10 mestic violence coalitions in adopting
11 and implementing the option under
12 the State plan relating to domestic vi-
13 olence set forth in section 402(a)(7);

14 “(III) collaborating with State
15 domestic violence coalitions in requir-
16 ing training on domestic violence for
17 case workers for the State program
18 funded under this part;

19 “(IV) collaborating with State
20 domestic violence coalitions in requir-
21 ing training on domestic violence for
22 job training, education, and job place-
23 ment programs that are contracted by
24 the State program funded under this
25 part, and requiring that such pro-

grams implement strategies and programs to support victims of domestic violence in the workplace;

“(V) conducting outreach to employers of recipients of assistance to ensure that employers are aware of and are implementing strategies and programs to support victims of domestic violence in the workplace; and

“(VI) conducting public education on domestic violence.

“(D) SCORING OF STATE PERFORMANCE;
SETTING OF PERFORMANCE THRESHOLDS.—
For each bonus year, the Secretary shall—

“(i) use the criteria developed under subparagraph (C) to assign a score to each eligible State for the fiscal year that immediately precedes the bonus year; and

“(ii) prescribe a performance threshold in such a manner so as to ensure that—

“(I) the average annual total amount of grants to be made under this paragraph for each bonus year equals \$200,000,000; and

1 “(II) the total amount of grants
2 to be made under this paragraph for
3 all bonus years equals
4 \$1,000,000,000.

5 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this para-
6 graph:

7 “(i) BONUS YEAR.—The term ‘bonus
8 year’ means fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2003,
9 2004, and 2005.

10 “(ii) CHILD CARE.—The term ‘child
11 care’ means all programs and arrange-
12 ments utilized by parents for the care of
13 children from birth through age 14, and
14 for the care of children who are older than
15 age 14 and have special needs, including
16 day care services provided by centers, fam-
17 ily day care, group family day care, infor-
18 mal care, after hours care, and before- and
19 after-school programs.

20 “(iii) CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—
21 The term ‘child with special needs’ has the
22 same meaning as the term ‘child with a
23 disability’ in section 602(3)(A)(i) of the In-
24 dividuals With Disabilities Education Act.

1 “(iv) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—The
2 term ‘domestic violence’ has the same
3 meaning as the term ‘battered or subjected
4 to extreme cruelty’, as defined in section
5 408(a)(7)(C)(iii).

6 “(v) HIGH PERFORMANCE STATE.—
7 The term ‘high performance State’ means,
8 with respect to a bonus year, an eligible
9 State whose score assigned pursuant to
10 subparagraph (D)(i) for the fiscal year im-
11 mediately preceding the bonus year equals
12 or exceeds the performance threshold pre-
13 scribed under subparagraph (D)(ii) for
14 such preceding fiscal year.

15 “(vi) SUSTAINABLE WAGE.—The term
16 ‘sustainable wage’ means a wage that is at
17 least 185 percent above the poverty line
18 and that takes into account costs related
19 to employment such as Federal, State, and
20 local taxes, child care, transportation, food,
21 and shelter costs for a particular geo-
22 graphic area.

23 “(vii) NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOY-
24 MENT.—The term ‘nontraditional employ-
25 ment’ means occupations or fields of work,

1 including careers in computer science,
2 technology, and other emerging high skill
3 occupations, for which individuals from one
4 gender comprise less than 25 percent of
5 the individuals employed in each such oc-
6 cupation or field of work.

7 “(viii) POVERTY LINE.—The term
8 ‘poverty line’ has the meaning given such
9 term in section 673(2) of the Community
10 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
11 9902(2)), including any revision required
12 by such section.

13 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
14 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
15 for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 a total of
16 \$1,000,000,000 for grants under this para-
17 graph.”.

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