

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1522

To support community-based group homes for young mothers and their children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 10, 2001

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DOMENICI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To support community-based group homes for young mothers and their children.

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 “Second Chance Homes
5 Promotion Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The United States has the highest rates of
9 teenage pregnancy and births in the western indus-
10 trialized world.

1 (2) Teenage pregnancy costs the United States
2 at least \$7,000,000,000 annually. Four in 10 young
3 women become pregnant at least once before they
4 reach the age of 20, for a total of nearly 1,000,000
5 teenage pregnancies a year. Eight in 10 of these
6 pregnancies are unintended, and 79 percent are to
7 unmarried teens.

8 (3) Teenage mothers are less likely than other
9 teens to complete high school. Only $\frac{1}{3}$ of teenage
10 mothers receive a high school diploma. Teenage
11 mothers are also more likely than other individuals
12 to become dependent on welfare, with nearly 80 per-
13 cent of unmarried teenage mothers ending up on
14 welfare.

15 (4) The children of teenage mothers have lower
16 birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in
17 school, and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect
18 than are other children. The sons of teenage moth-
19 ers are 13 percent more likely than other males to
20 end up in prison, while daughters of teenage moth-
21 ers are 22 percent more likely than other females to
22 become teenage mothers themselves.

23 (5) In the amendments made by the 1996 wel-
24 fare reform legislation, the Personal Responsibility
25 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,

1 Congress endorsed the concept of “second chance
 2 homes” as an alternative for minor teenage parents
 3 required by the law to live at home or under adult
 4 supervision. The law required States to “provide, or
 5 assist the individual in locating, a second chance
 6 home, maternity home, or other appropriate adult-
 7 supervised supportive living arrangement”. Accord-
 8 ing to a 1999 report by the Center for Law and So-
 9 cial Policy, 18 States had no policy for helping fami-
 10 lies with teenage parents find shelter. A 1998 survey
 11 by the Center on Law and Social Policy found that
 12 in the 9 States that keep data on minors ineligible
 13 for welfare, 1,300 teens were denied assistance
 14 under State temporary assistance for needy families
 15 programs because of their living situations.

16 (6) Second chance homes offer the 3 elements
 17 that teenage welfare mothers need to change their
 18 lives—

- 19 (A) socialization;
- 20 (B) nurturing and support; and
- 21 (C) structure and discipline.

22 (7) These homes have produced the following
 23 notable and promising results:

- 24 (A) Few second pregnancies.
- 25 (B) Slightly higher adoption rates.

1 (C) Less child abuse.

2 (D) Better maternal and child health.

3 (E) Dramatically increased school comple-
4 tion rates for mothers.

5 (F) Higher employment rates.

6 (G) Reduced welfare dependency.

7 **SEC. 3. SECOND CHANCE HOME PROGRAM AUTHORIZA-**
8 **TION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
11 retary”) is authorized to award grants to eligible entities
12 to enable such eligible entities to carry out the activities
13 described in section 6.

14 (b) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall award grants
15 under this Act on a competitive basis, after reviewing all
16 applications submitted under section 5.

17 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant
19 under this Act, an entity shall be—

20 (1) a State;

21 (2) a unit of local government;

22 (3) an Indian tribe; or

23 (4) a public or private nonprofit agency, organi-
24 zation, or institution, or other nonprofit entity, in-
25 cluding a nonprofit urban Indian organization or an

1 Indian group or community that is not an Indian
2 tribe.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
5 has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the
6 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
7 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

8 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
9 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
10 monwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa,
11 the United States Virgin Islands, and the Common-
12 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

13 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that desires a
15 grant under this Act shall submit an application to the
16 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
17 such information as the Secretary shall reasonably re-
18 quire.

19 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act,
20 the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity that
21 submits an application—

22 (1) proposing to establish a new second chance
23 home, especially in a rural area or tribal community;

1 (2) proposing to collaborate with a non-profit
2 entity in establishing, expanding, or enhancing a sec-
3 ond chance home; or

4 (3) demonstrating that the eligible entity will
5 use funds under a State temporary assistance for
6 needy families program under part A of title IV of
7 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) to
8 support a portion of the operating costs of the appli-
9 cable second chance home.

10 **SEC. 6. USE OF FUNDS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a
12 grant under this Act shall use such grant funds to estab-
13 lish, expand, or enhance a second chance home.

14 (b) SECOND CHANCE HOME.—In this Act, the term
15 “second chance home” means a community-based, adult-
16 supervised group home that provides young mothers and
17 their children with a supportive and supervised living ar-
18 rangement in which such mothers are required to learn
19 parenting skills, including child development, family budg-
20 eting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote
21 their long-term economic independence and the well-being
22 of their children.

23 (c) REQUIREMENT.—A second chance home that re-
24 ceives grant funds under this Act shall provide services

1 to mothers who are not more than 23 years of age and
2 their children.

3 **SEC. 7. MATCHING FUNDS.**

4 The Secretary shall not award a grant to an eligible
5 entity under this Act unless the eligible entity agrees that,
6 with respect to the costs to be incurred in carrying out
7 the activities for which the grant was awarded, the eligible
8 entity will make available non-Federal contributions in an
9 amount equal to not less than 20 percent of the Federal
10 funds provided under the grant. Such contributions may
11 be provided in cash or in kind, fairly valued, including
12 plant, equipment, or services.

13 **SEC. 8. DURATION.**

14 Grants under this Act shall be awarded for a period
15 of 5 years.

16 **SEC. 9. CONTRACT FOR EVALUATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a
18 contract with a public or private entity for the evaluation
19 of the second chance homes that are supported by grant
20 funds under this Act.

21 (b) INFORMATION.—The evaluation shall include the
22 collection of information about the relevant characteristics
23 of individuals who benefit from second chance homes such
24 as those that are supported by grant funds under this Act

1 and what services provided by such second chance homes
2 are most beneficial to such individuals.

3 (c) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The entity conducting the
5 evaluation under this section shall submit to Con-
6 gress an interim report and a final report in accord-
7 ance with paragraph (2) containing the results of
8 the evaluation.

9 (2) DATE.—

10 (A) INTERIM REPORT.—The interim report
11 shall be submitted not later than 2 years after
12 the date on which the entity enters into a con-
13 tract.

14 (B) FINAL REPORT.—The final report
15 shall be submitted not later than 5 years after
16 the date on which the entity enters into a con-
17 tract.

18 **SEC. 10. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
20 under section 11(a), the Secretary may use an amount not
21 to exceed \$500,000 to enter into a contract, with a public
22 or private entity, for the provision of technical assistance
23 to eligible entities receiving grant funds under this Act.

24 (b) CONFERENCES.—The technical assistance pro-
25 vided under this section may include conferences for the

1 purpose of disseminating information concerning best
2 practices for second chance homes.

3 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
5 priated to carry out this Act, other than section 9,
6 \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

7 (b) EVALUATION.—There is authorized to be appro-
8 priated to carry out section 9, \$1,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2002.

10 (c) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts authorized under
11 the authority of subsections (a) and (b) shall remain avail-
12 able until expended.

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