

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1704

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to provide for transitional housing assistance grants for child victims of domestic violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. LEE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOEFFEL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. OLIVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to provide for transitional housing assistance grants for child victims of domestic violence.

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. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS**
 2 **FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIO-**
 3 **LENCE, STALKING, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

4 Subtitle B of the Violence Against Women Act of
 5 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13701 note; 108 Stat. 1925) is amended
 6 by adding at the end the following:

7 **“CHAPTER 11—TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**
 8 **ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR CHILD VIC-**
 9 **TIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALK-**
 10 **ING, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT**

11 **“SEC. 40299. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS**
 12 **FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIO-**
 13 **LENCE, STALKING, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, acting in
 15 consultation with the Director of the Violence Against
 16 Women Office of the Department of Justice, shall award
 17 grants under this section to States, units of local govern-
 18 ment, Indian tribes, and other organizations (referred to
 19 in this section as the ‘recipient’) to carry out programs
 20 to provide assistance to minors, adults, and their depend-
 21 ents—

22 “(1) who are homeless, or in need of transi-
 23 tional housing or other housing assistance, as a re-
 24 sult of fleeing a situation of domestic violence; and

1 “(2) for whom emergency shelter services or
2 other crisis intervention services are unavailable or
3 insufficient.

4 “(b) GRANTS.—Grants awarded under this section
5 may be used for programs that provide—

6 “(1) short-term housing assistance, including
7 rental or utilities payments assistance and assistance
8 with related expenses such as payment of security
9 deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to
10 transitional housing for persons described in sub-
11 section (a); and

12 “(2) support services designed to enable a
13 minor, an adult, or a dependent of such minor or
14 adult, who is fleeing a situation of domestic violence
15 to—

16 “(A) locate and secure permanent housing;
17 and

18 “(B) integrate into a community by pro-
19 viding that minor, adult, or dependent with
20 services, such as transportation, counseling,
21 child care services, case management, employ-
22 ment counseling, and other assistance.

23 “(c) DURATION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
25 graph (2), a minor, an adult, or a dependent, who

1 receives assistance under this section shall receive
2 that assistance for not more than 18 months.

3 “(2) WAIVER.—The recipient of a grant under
4 this section may waive the restriction under para-
5 graph (1) for not more than an additional 6 month
6 period with respect to any minor, adult, or depend-
7 ent, who—

8 “(A) has made a good-faith effort to ac-
9 quire permanent housing; and

10 “(B) has been unable to acquire perma-
11 nent housing.

12 “(d) APPLICATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desir-
14 ing a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
15 cation to the Attorney General at such time, in such
16 manner, and accompanied by such information as
17 the Attorney General may reasonably require.

18 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
19 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

20 “(A) describe the activities for which as-
21 sistance under this section is sought; and

22 “(B) provide such additional assurances as
23 the Attorney General determines to be essential
24 to ensure compliance with the requirements of
25 this section.

1 “(3) APPLICATION.—Nothing in this subsection
2 shall be construed to require—

3 “(A) victims to participate in the criminal
4 justice system in order to receive services; or

5 “(B) domestic violence advocates to breach
6 client confidentiality.

7 “(e) REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant
9 under this section shall annually prepare and submit
10 to the Attorney General a report describing—

11 “(A) the number of minors, adults, and de-
12 pendants assisted under this section; and

13 “(B) the types of housing assistance and
14 support services provided under this section.

15 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report prepared and
16 submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include
17 information regarding—

18 “(A) the amount of housing assistance pro-
19 vided to each minor, adult, or dependent, as-
20 sisted under this section and the reason for that
21 assistance;

22 “(B) the number of months each minor,
23 adult, or dependent, received assistance under
24 this section;

1 “(C) the number of minors, adults, and de-
2 pendents who—

3 “(i) were eligible to receive assistance
4 under this section; and

5 “(ii) were not provided with assistance
6 under this section solely due to a lack of
7 available housing; and

8 “(D) the type of support services provided
9 to each minor, adult, or dependent, assisted
10 under this section.

11 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

12 “(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Attor-
13 ney General, with the Director of the Violence
14 Against Women Office, shall annually prepare and
15 submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on the
17 Judiciary of the Senate a report that contains a
18 compilation of the information contained in the re-
19 port submitted under subsection (e).

20 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—In order to
21 coordinate efforts to assist the victims of domestic
22 violence, the Attorney General, in coordination with
23 the Director of the Violence Against Women Office,
24 shall transmit a copy of the report submitted under
25 paragraph (1) to—

1 “(A) the Office of Community Planning
2 and Development at the United States Depart-
3 ment of Housing and Urban Development; and

4 “(B) the Office of Women’s Health at the
5 United States Department of Health and
6 Human Services.

7 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
9 appropriated to carry out this section \$30,000,000
10 for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

11 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—Of the amount made avail-
12 able to carry out this section in any fiscal year, not
13 more than 3 percent may be used by the Attorney
14 General for salaries and administrative expenses.

15 “(3) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
17 subparagraph (B), unless all eligible applica-
18 tions submitted by any States, units of local
19 government, Indian tribes, or organizations
20 within a State for a grant under this section
21 have been funded, that State, together with the
22 grantees within the State (other than Indian
23 tribes), shall be allocated in each fiscal year,
24 not less than 0.75 percent of the total amount

1 appropriated in the fiscal year for grants pursu-
2 ant to this section.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The United States Vir-
4 gin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the
5 Northern Mariana Islands shall each be allo-
6 cated not less than 0.25 percent of the total
7 amount appropriated in the fiscal year for
8 grants pursuant to this section.”.

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