

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4198

To provide for competitive grants for the establishment and expansion of programs that use networks of public, private, and faith-based organizations to recruit and train foster and adoptive parents and provide support services to foster children and their families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. SPACE, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. HILL, and Mr. BACA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide for competitive grants for the establishment and expansion of programs that use networks of public, private, and faith-based organizations to recruit and train foster and adoptive parents and provide support services to foster children and their families.

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 “Foster and Adoptive
5 Parent Recruitment Programs Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Many States are facing serious shortages of
4 qualified foster parents and qualified adoptive par-
5 ents.

6 (2) A 2002 report by the National Conference
7 of State Legislatures found that, while the number
8 of children in foster care increased by 68 percent be-
9 tween 1984 and 1995, the number of foster parents
10 decreased by 4 percent during the same period.

11 (3) The shortage of adoptive parents is equally
12 dire—while only 50,000 children were adopted out
13 of foster care in 2001, as many as 126,000 children
14 were awaiting adoption. On average, each of these
15 waiting children had been in foster care for 44
16 months.

17 (4) The rapid increase in the annual number of
18 adoptions from foster care since the enactment of
19 the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 has cre-
20 ated a growing need for post-adoption services and
21 for service providers with the knowledge and skills
22 required to address the unique issues adoptive fami-
23 lies and children may face.

24 (5) One Church, One Child is a national faith
25 and community-based foster care and adoption min-
26 istry established in Chicago, Illinois, in 1980 by Fa-

1 ther George Clements, whose mission is to provide
2 comprehensive services that promote the well-being
3 of at-risk children and the strengthening and em-
4 powerment of adoptive, foster, and kinship families.
5 Since its formation, the organization and programs
6 based on its model have successfully placed more
7 than 140,000 children in adoptive families nation-
8 wide.

9 (6) Despite its success as a model for providing
10 recruitment, training, and support services for cer-
11 tified foster and adoptive parents, One Church, One
12 Child programs and programs based on this concept
13 have received limited Federal funding.

14 (7) The creation of a federally-funded grant
15 program to support the establishment and expansion
16 of programs for the recruitment of foster parents
17 and adoptive parents which are modeled on the One
18 Church, One Child concept will benefit the Nation's
19 abused and neglected children by increasing the pool
20 of qualified adoptive parents and qualified foster
21 parents.

22 **SEC. 3. ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD GRANTS.**

23 Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
24 U.S.C. 670–679b) is amended by adding at the end the
25 following:

1 **“SEC. 479B. ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD GRANTS.**

2 “(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES
3 TO CONDUCT ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD FOSTER PAR-
4 ENT AND ADOPTION PARENT RECRUITMENT PRO-
5 GRAMS.—

6 “(1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
9 entities to support the establishment or expan-
10 sion of programs that use networks of public,
11 private and faith-based organizations to recruit
12 and train qualified foster parents and qualified
13 adoptive parents and provide support services to
14 adoptive and foster children and their families.

15 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section,
16 the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State or local
17 government, local public agency, community-
18 based or nonprofit organization, or private enti-
19 ty, including any charitable or faith-based orga-
20 nization, that submits to the Secretary, at such
21 time, in such form, and in such manner as the
22 Secretary may require, an application that con-
23 tains such information as the Secretary may re-
24 quire and the following:

25 “(i) PROJECT DESCRIPTION.—A de-
26 scription of the programs or activities the

1 entity intends to carry out with funds pro-
2 vided under this section, including an esti-
3 mate of the number of children to be
4 served under such programs or activities
5 and a description of the services to be pro-
6 vided to prospective adoptive and foster
7 parents, including post-placement sup-
8 portive services.

9 “(ii) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS.—A
10 description of how the entity will coordi-
11 nate and cooperate with State and local
12 entities responsible for carrying out pro-
13 grams related to the recruitment of foster
14 parents and adoptive parents, and with the
15 national clearinghouse established under
16 section 479C.

17 “(iii) RECORDS, REPORTS, AND AU-
18 DITS.—An agreement to maintain such
19 records, submit such reports, and cooper-
20 ate with such reviews and audits as the
21 Secretary finds necessary for purposes of
22 oversight.

23 “(2) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section,
24 the term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the
25 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto

1 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,
2 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the
3 Northern Mariana Islands.

4 “(3) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
5 PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not
7 more than \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
8 through 2013.

9 “(4) 3-YEAR AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS.—
10 An eligible entity to which a grant is made under
11 this section for a fiscal year shall remit to the Sec-
12 retary any part of the grant that is not expended by
13 the end of the second succeeding fiscal year, to-
14 gether with any earnings on such unexpended
15 amount.

16 “(5) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED GRANT
17 FUNDS.—The Secretary shall redistribute any funds
18 remitted under paragraph (4) among eligible entities
19 that the Secretary determines have a need for addi-
20 tional funds to carry out the programs and activities
21 referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(i).

22 “(b) PROVISIONS RELATING TO RELIGIOUS ORGANI-
23 ZATIONS.—

24 “(1) NONDISCRIMINATION.—For the purpose of
25 awarding grants under this section, the Secretary

1 shall consider religious organizations on the same
2 basis as other nongovernmental organizations, so
3 long as the grant is to be implemented in a manner
4 consistent with the Establishment Clause of the
5 First Amendment to the Constitution of the United
6 States. A State or local government receiving funds
7 under this section shall not discriminate against an
8 organization that seeks to participate in a program
9 funded under this section on the basis that the orga-
10 nization has a religious character.

11 “(2) NONINTERFERENCE.—Neither the Federal
12 Government nor a State or local government shall
13 require a religious organization—

14 “(A) to alter its form of internal govern-
15 ance; or

16 “(B) to remove from its premises religious
17 art, icons, scripture, or other symbols,

18 in order to be eligible to receive a grant under this
19 section or to participate in a program funded under
20 this section.

21 “(3) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.—Funds
22 provided directly to a religious organization to carry
23 out a program funded under this section shall not be
24 expended for sectarian worship, instruction, or pros-
25 elytization.

1 “(4) FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
3 paragraph (B), a religious organization receiv-
4 ing funds under this section shall be subject to
5 the same regulations as other nongovernmental
6 organizations to account in accord with gen-
7 erally accepted accounting principles for the use
8 of such funds.

9 “(B) SEPARATION OF FUNDS.—Such an
10 organization shall keep all funds provided under
11 this section in an account separate from all
12 other funds of the organization.”.

13 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADOPTION PRO-**
14 **MOTION AND FOSTER PARENT PROGRAMS;**
15 **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

16 Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 670–679b) is further amended by adding at the
18 end the following:

19 **“SEC. 479C. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADOPTION**
20 **PROMOTION AND FOSTER PARENT RECRUIT-**
21 **MENT PROGRAMS; ANNUAL REPORT TO CON-**
22 **GRESS.**

23 “(a) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADOPTION
24 PROMOTION AND FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT PRO-
25 GRAMS.—

1 “(1) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 enter into a contract with a nationally recog-
4 nized, nonprofit adoption promotion and foster
5 parent recruitment organization described in
6 subparagraph (B) to—

7 “(i) assist State and local govern-
8 ments, local public agencies, community-
9 based organizations, nonprofit organiza-
10 tions, and private entities, including chari-
11 table and faith-based organizations in co-
12 ordinating their activities relating to re-
13 cruitment of foster parents and adoptive
14 parents and the provision of post-place-
15 ment support to foster families and adop-
16 tive families;

17 “(ii) design and provide technical as-
18 sistance and training for grantees and
19 identify and disseminate to grantees ‘best
20 practices’ for recruiting and training pro-
21 spective foster and adoptive parents and
22 providing post-placement support to foster
23 families and adoptive families;

24 “(iii) collect information on the effec-
25 tiveness of the programs funded under sec-

1 tion 479B, including the number of chil-
2 dren placed under the programs, the num-
3 ber of foster parents and adoptive parents
4 recruited under such programs, and such
5 other data as the Secretary requires for
6 evaluating the effectiveness of such pro-
7 grams; and

8 “(iv) assist the Secretary in the prep-
9 aration of the reports required by sub-
10 section (b).

11 “(B) NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, NON-
12 PROFIT ADOPTION PROMOTION AND FOSTER
13 PARENT RECRUITMENT ORGANIZATION DE-
14 SCRIBED.—The nationally recognized, nonprofit
15 adoption promotion and foster parent recruit-
16 ment organization described in this subpara-
17 graph is an organization, selected by the Sec-
18 retary on a competitive basis, that—

19 “(i) has demonstrated experience in
20 providing consultation and training to
21 faith-based and community organizations
22 interested in adoption promotion and fos-
23 ter parent recruitment;

24 “(ii) has an established national rep-
25 utation in working with faith-based and

1 community organizations to recruit and
2 train prospective foster and adoptive par-
3 ents; and

4 “(iii) has extensive experience in es-
5 tablishing and working with programs
6 based on the One Church, One Child
7 model.

8 “(2) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
9 PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there
10 are authorized to be appropriated not more than
11 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through
12 2013.

13 “(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after
14 the date a grant is first made under section 479B and
15 annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and sub-
16 mit to the Congress a report that includes the following
17 with respect to the year involved:

18 “(1) A specification of the number of entities to
19 which grants have been made under section 479B.

20 “(2) A specification of the number of foster
21 parents and adoptive families recruited by the pro-
22 grams which have been supported with the grants.

23 “(3) A specification of the number of children
24 placed with such foster parents and adoptive fami-
25 lies, and the outcomes of such placements.

1 “(4) Any other information that the Secretary
2 determines is relevant to the evaluation of the pro-
3 gram under section 479B.”.

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