

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1505

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide services for birth parents who have placed a child for adoption, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT (for herself and Mr. OBERSTAR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide services for birth parents who have placed a child for adoption, 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 “Birth Parent Assist-
5 ance Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to enhance post-placement services for birth
9 parents who have placed a child for adoption;

1 (2) to initiate or enhance post-placement coun-
2 seling services for birth parents who have placed a
3 child for adoption; and

4 (3) to identify how post-placement services for
5 birth parents who have placed a child for adoption
6 can be improved.

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF POST-ADOPTION SERVICES**
8 **FOR BIRTH PARENTS.**

9 (a) SERVICES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
10 Health and Human Services shall, either directly or by
11 grant to or contract with the eligible entities described in
12 subsection (b), provide services described in subsection (c)
13 for birth parents who have placed a child for adoption.

14 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The eligible entities re-
15 ferred to in subsection (a) are States, local governmental
16 entities, and public or private agencies or organizations,
17 including public or private licensed child welfare or adop-
18 tion agencies or adoptive family groups and faith-based
19 organizations.

20 (c) TYPES OF SERVICES.—The types of services re-
21 ferred to in subsection (a) are—

22 (1) post-legal adoption services for birth par-
23 ents;

24 (2) counseling services for birth parents who
25 have placed a child for adoption, including—

1 (A) individual counseling;

2 (B) group counseling; and

3 (C) family counseling; and

4 (3) training of mental health professionals, so-
5 cial workers, and staff at hospitals and other appro-
6 priate birth care facilities relating to interaction of
7 such individuals with birth parents and adoptive
8 families.

9 (d) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity referred to in
10 subsection (a) that desires to receive a grant or enter into
11 a contract with the Secretary under subsection (a) shall
12 submit an application to the Secretary that describes the
13 manner in which the entity will use funds under the grant
14 or contract during the 3 fiscal years subsequent to the
15 date of the application to accomplish the purposes of this
16 section. Such application shall be in a form and manner
17 determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

18 (e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require each eli-
19 gible entity referred to in subsection (a) that receives a
20 grant or enters into a contract with the Secretary under
21 subsection (a) to submit to the Secretary a report on the
22 services provided or activities carried out by the entity for
23 each fiscal year for which the entity receives amounts
24 under the grant or contract. The report shall contain such
25 information as the Secretary determines is necessary to

1 provide an accurate description of the services provided
2 or activities carried out with such amounts.

3 (f) SERVICES TO SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUP-
4 PLANT.—Services provided under a grant or contract
5 under subsection (a) shall supplement, and not supplant,
6 services provided using any other funds made available for
7 the same general purposes.

8 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
9 PROVISIONS.—The Secretary shall—

10 (1) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
11 ties referred to in subsection (a) that receive a grant
12 or enter into a contract with the Secretary under
13 subsection (a) for purposes of providing the services
14 described in subsection (c);

15 (2) as appropriate, coordinate the provision of
16 services described in subsection (c) with other adop-
17 tion-related research, training, services, and assist-
18 ance activities carried out by the Department of
19 Health and Human Services; and

20 (3) either directly, or by grant to or contract
21 with a public or private agency or organization—

22 (A) evaluate the implementation and effec-
23 tiveness of the provision of services described in
24 subsection (c) and other activities carried out
25 under this section;

1 (B) identify different post-placement serv-
2 ices provided for birth parents, the availability
3 and utilization of such services, and how post-
4 placement services might be improved; and

5 (C) not later than 3 years after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, submit to Con-
7 gress a report that contains the results of the
8 evaluation under subparagraph (A) and the in-
9 formation described in subparagraph (B).

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act, there are
12 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
13 and Human Services—

14 (1) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

15 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of
16 the fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

17 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
18 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
19 are authorized to remain available until expended.

○