

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4446

To amend the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to strengthen juvenile and family courts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2010

Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. BERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to strengthen juvenile and family courts.

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 “Strengthening Out-
5 comes for America’s Juvenile and Family Courts Act of
6 2010”.

7 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN JUVENILE AND**
8 **FAMILY COURTS.**

9 Subtitle C of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990
10 (42 U.S.C. 13021–13024) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“Subtitle C—Programs for Juvenile**
2 **and Family Court Judges**

3 **“SEC. 221. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 “Congress finds the following:

5 “(1) The prevention of child abuse and neglect
6 can help stop the cycle of violence in communities.

7 “(2) Research indicates that child abuse and
8 neglect is associated with the early onset of juvenile
9 crime and that there is a significant relationship be-
10 tween child maltreatment and delinquency.

11 “(3) The co-occurrence of domestic violence and
12 child abuse or neglect in a majority of studies
13 ranged from 30 to 60 percent of families.

14 “(4) There are currently over 500,000 children
15 in the Nation’s foster care system, and in 2005
16 there were an estimated 1,700,000 delinquency cases
17 handled in juvenile courts nationwide.

18 “(5) Children and youth in the Nation’s juve-
19 nile and family court systems require judicial over-
20 sight and effective services to ensure timely and
21 meaningful resolution of their cases.

22 “(6) Juvenile and family court judges can hold
23 systems accountable for ensuring that children and
24 youth receive the services they need, and in cases of
25 juvenile delinquency, that children and youth are

1 held accountable for their actions, while ensuring
2 safety of communities.

3 “(7) Juvenile and family court judges require
4 education, technical assistance and research which
5 can provide the knowledge and information they
6 need to improve decision-making on the bench and
7 effective judicial leadership outside of the courtroom.

8 **“SEC. 222. GRANTS FOR JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT**
9 **JUDGES AND PERSONNEL.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, acting
11 through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
12 Prevention and the Office of Justice Programs, shall make
13 grants to improve training, education, technical assist-
14 ance, and research to assist the Nation’s courts, judges,
15 judicial personnel, attorneys, child welfare personnel, and
16 lay child advocates.

17 “(b) GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS.—

18 “(1) An organization to which a grant is made
19 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be a national non-
20 profit organization that has broad membership
21 among juvenile and family court judges and has
22 demonstrated experience in grant administration of
23 activities described in subsection (a).

24 “(2) A national nonprofit organization de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1) shall have specialized ex-

1 pertise addressing the overlap of and the judicial
2 system’s handling of—

3 “(A) child abuse and neglect;

4 “(B) adoption and foster care;

5 “(C) elder abuse;

6 “(D) juvenile justice and delinquency;

7 “(E) violence against women;

8 “(F) family violence;

9 “(G) alcohol and drug abuse;

10 “(H) supervised visitations;

11 “(I) child custody; and

12 “(J) divorce.

13 **“SEC. 223. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “‘There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 this subtitle \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010
16 through 2014.’”.

○