

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4978

To require States to take certain steps to address domestic and sexual violence among individuals receiving assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself and Mr. STARK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To require States to take certain steps to address domestic and sexual violence among individuals receiving assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy 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. REQUIREMENT THAT STATES ADOPT STAND-**
4 **ARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS DO-**
5 **MESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG**
6 **TANF RECIPIENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a)(7) of the Social
8 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(7)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the paragraph heading and in-
2 serting “CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS AND PRO-
3 CEDURES REGARDING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIO-
4 LENCE”;

5 (2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
6 the following:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A certification by the
8 chief executive officer of the State that the
9 State has established and is enforcing stand-
10 ards and procedures to ensure the right and en-
11 titlement of victims of domestic or sexual vio-
12 lence (notwithstanding section 401(b)) seeking
13 or receiving assistance under the State program
14 funded under this part—

15 “(i) to be screened and identified
16 while maintaining the confidentiality of the
17 victims;

18 “(ii) to be referred to counseling and
19 supportive services;

20 “(iii) to be granted a waiver, pursuant
21 to a determination of good cause, of pro-
22 gram requirements such as time limits (for
23 so long as necessary), residency require-
24 ments, child support cooperation require-
25 ments, and family cap provisions, in cases

1 where compliance with the requirements
2 would make it more difficult for the vic-
3 tims to escape domestic or sexual violence
4 or unfairly penalize the victims or individ-
5 uals who are at risk of further domestic or
6 sexual violence;

7 “(iv) to apply to participate in the
8 program on the same day that they contact
9 a program office in person during office
10 hours;

11 “(v) to have an application that con-
12 tains their name, address, and signature
13 considered to be filed on the date it is sub-
14 mitted;

15 “(vi) to receive at the time of applica-
16 tion a clear, written statement explaining
17 what acts they must perform to cooperate
18 in obtaining verification and otherwise
19 completing the application process; and

20 “(vii) if they have completed the ap-
21 plication process, to have their eligibility
22 determined promptly, and to be provided
23 assistance retroactive to the application
24 date if determined eligible within 30 days
25 after the application date.”; and

1 (3) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by in-
3 serting “OR SEXUAL” after “DOMESTIC”; and

4 (B) in the text, by inserting “or sexual”
5 after “domestic”.

6 (b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON BEST PRACTICES
7 OF STATES.—Section 413 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 613)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON BEST PRACTICES OF
10 STATES IN ADDRESSING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIO-
11 LENCE SUFFERED BY TANF RECIPIENTS.—Every 4
12 years, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Con-
13 gress a report which examines the practices of States in
14 implementing section 402(a)(7), and identifies the best
15 practices used to do so.”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2012.

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