

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3968

To establish a National Council on Children, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. CASEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish a National Council on Children, 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 “Children’s Act of  
5       2010”.

6       **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL.**

7       There is established a council to be known as the Na-  
8       tional Council on Children (referred to in this Act as the  
9       “Council”).

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES OF COUNCIL.**

2 The purposes of the Council are the following:

3 (1) To conduct a comprehensive study to exam-  
4 ine and assess the health, safety, and learning needs  
5 of children.

6 (2) To examine systems for children's programs  
7 and assess ways to increase spending in preventive  
8 services for children and youth in order to improve  
9 outcomes.

10 (3) To build upon the evaluations of other enti-  
11 ties and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing  
12 the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of  
13 previous commissions, the Federal Government,  
14 State and local governments, and nongovernmental  
15 entities, relating to the health, safety, and learning  
16 needs of children.

17 (4) To submit a report to the President and  
18 Congress on specific findings, conclusions, and rec-  
19 ommendations to address the health, safety, and  
20 learning needs of children.

21 (5) Upon completion of the study and issuance  
22 of recommendations to address the needs of children,  
23 to transition and annually assess the performance of  
24 the United States in ensuring the well-being of chil-  
25 dren, and make recommendations to improve chil-  
26 dren's well-being, by—

1 (A) establishing national goals for improv-  
2 ing children's well-being and developing year-to-  
3 year targets for improvement to determine how  
4 the United States fares with respect to achiev-  
5 ing the national goals, in accordance with sec-  
6 tion 6(b)(1);

7 (B) identifying and selecting national indi-  
8 cators of child well-being to measure children's  
9 positive and negative development in accordance  
10 with section 6(b)(3), and assessing how the  
11 United States fares with respect to achieving  
12 the national goals as described in subparagraph  
13 (A);

14 (C) making legislative and budgetary rec-  
15 ommendations to Congress and the President to  
16 achieve the national goals, in accordance with  
17 paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 6(b), which  
18 may include recommendations regarding—

- 19 (i) policy;  
20 (ii) systemic reforms;  
21 (iii) incentives for States;  
22 (iv) methods for outcomes analysis;  
23 (v) public information; and  
24 (vi) community outreach.

1 **SEC. 4. COMPOSITION.**

2 (a) DATE OF APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Coun-  
 3 cil shall be appointed during the period beginning on Feb-  
 4 ruary 6, 2011, and ending on March 31, 2011.

5 (b) MEMBERS.—The Council shall be composed of 24  
 6 members, of whom—

7 (1) 8 members, not more than 4 of whom may  
 8 be of the same political party, shall be appointed by  
 9 the President;

10 (2) 4 members shall be appointed by the major-  
 11 ity leader of the Senate, after consultation with the  
 12 chairperson and ranking member of—

13 (A) the Committee on Finance;

14 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,  
 15 Labor, and Pensions;

16 (C) the Committee on Appropriations; and

17 (D) other relevant committees of the Sen-  
 18 ate, as determined by the majority leader of the  
 19 Senate;

20 (3) 4 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
 21 ity leader of the Senate, after consultation with the  
 22 chairperson and ranking member of—

23 (A) the Committee on Finance;

24 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,  
 25 Labor, and Pensions;

26 (C) the Committee on Appropriations; and

1 (D) other relevant committees of the Sen-  
2 ate, as determined by the minority leader of the  
3 Senate;

4 (4) 4 members shall be appointed by the Speak-  
5 er of the House of Representatives, after consulta-  
6 tion with the chairperson and ranking member of—

7 (A) the Committee on Ways and Means;

8 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
9 merce;

10 (C) the Committee on Education and  
11 Labor;

12 (D) the Committee on Appropriations; and

13 (E) other relevant committees of the  
14 House of Representatives, as determined by the  
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

16 (5) 4 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
17 ity leader of the House of Representatives, after con-  
18 sultation with the chairperson and ranking member  
19 of—

20 (A) the Committee on Ways and Means;

21 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
22 merce;

23 (C) the Committee on Education and  
24 Labor;

25 (D) the Committee on Appropriations; and

1                   (E) other relevant committees of the  
 2                   House of Representatives, as determined by the  
 3                   minority leader of the House of Representa-  
 4                   tives.

5           (c) CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, AND MEET-  
 6           INGS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which  
 7           all members of the Council have been appointed under  
 8           subsection (a), the members shall meet to elect a Chair-  
 9           person and Vice Chairperson from among such members  
 10          and shall determine a schedule of Council meetings.

11          (d) COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AND QUALIFICA-  
 12          TIONS.—

13               (1) KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE.—Each mem-  
 14          ber of the Council, including each member appointed  
 15          under paragraph (2), shall have substantial knowl-  
 16          edge or experience relating to—

17                   (A)(i) child or adolescent development (in-  
 18                   cluding early childhood development); and

19                   (ii) child health, social and behavioral de-  
 20                   velopment, and education;

21                   (B) indicators of child well-being;

22                   (C) neurology and brain development;

23                   (D) law;

24                   (E) finance and economics;

1 (F) policy, programs, or research relating  
 2 to children and their families;

3 (G) methods of proven preventive practice  
 4 and policy to promote optimal child outcomes;  
 5 or

6 (H) functions of the family, family  
 7 strengthening, and parent involvement.

8 (2) REPRESENTED GROUPS.—

9 (A) APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.—

10 In carrying out subsection (b)(1)(A), the Presi-  
 11 dent shall appoint—

12 (i) 1 individual who represents an or-  
 13 ganization that—

14 (I) provides services to children;

15 (II) is involved in activities on  
 16 behalf of children; or

17 (III) has engaged in academic re-  
 18 search with respect to the problems  
 19 and needs of children;

20 (ii) 1 individual who represents elect-  
 21 ed or appointed public officials (at the  
 22 Federal, State, or local level) involved in  
 23 issues and programs relating to children;

24 (iii) 1 individual who represents par-  
 25 ents (including fathers), relative caregivers

1 and guardians, or parents' organizations;  
 2 and

3 (iv) not less than 1 other individual  
 4 who represents any of the groups described  
 5 in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii).

6 (B) APPOINTMENTS BY CONGRESSIONAL  
 7 LEADERS.—Not less than 1 of the 4 individuals  
 8 that the majority leader of the Senate, the mi-  
 9 nority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
 10 House of Representatives, and the minority  
 11 leader of the House of Representatives each ap-  
 12 point as members of the Council shall be a rep-  
 13 resentative of not less than one of the groups  
 14 described in clauses (i) through (iii) of subpara-  
 15 graph (A).

16 (C) OTHER GROUPS.—A Council member  
 17 appointed under this subsection may, in addi-  
 18 tion to meeting all other requirements of this  
 19 paragraph, be a representative of—

20 (i) a philanthropy focused on the  
 21 needs of children;

22 (ii) the business sector;

23 (iii) a public safety organization;

24 (iv) a civil rights organization;

25 (v) an institution of higher education;



- 1 (vi) a senior citizen organization; or
- 2 (vii) the media.

3 (3) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT COMMIT-  
4 TEES.—The appointments made under subpara-  
5 graphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall be made  
6 in consultation with the chairpersons and ranking  
7 members of—

8 (A) the Committee on Health, Education,  
9 Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Fi-  
10 nance of the Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Education and  
12 Labor, the Committee on Energy and Com-  
13 merce, and the Committee on Ways and Means  
14 of the House of Representatives.

15 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

16 (1) LENGTH OF TERM.—Each member of the  
17 Council shall serve a 2-year term, except as provided  
18 in paragraph (3).

19 (2) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—A member of the  
20 Council may be reappointed at the end of the mem-  
21 ber's first term, but may not serve for more than 1  
22 additional 2-year term.

23 (3) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
24 (2), an active member of Congress or an employee  
25 of the Federal Government may only serve as a

1 member of the Council for the first 2-year term of  
 2 the Council or until the report described in section  
 3 5(b) has been finalized and submitted, whichever is  
 4 later, and may not be reappointed after the end of  
 5 such period.

6 (4) CONTINUITY.—Notwithstanding paragraphs  
 7 (2) and (3), a member may serve after the expira-  
 8 tion of the member's term until the member's suc-  
 9 cessor has taken office.

10 (f) QUORUM AND VACANCY.—

11 (1) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of  
 12 the Council shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser  
 13 number of members may hold hearings.

14 (2) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Council  
 15 shall—

16 (A) not affect the powers of the Council;  
 17 and

18 (B) be filled in the same manner in which  
 19 the original appointment was made.

20 **SEC. 5. DUTIES.**

21 (a) COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.—Pursuant to section  
 22 3(1), the Council shall conduct a comprehensive study that  
 23 examines and assesses the needs of children, including  
 24 specific findings relating to the following domains:

1           (1) HEALTH AND SAFETY.—The Council shall  
2       study children’s health and safety, including how  
3       to—

4                   (A) reduce infant mortality and the num-  
5       ber of babies with low birth-weight;

6                   (B) reduce the number of children with  
7       chronic illnesses and disabilities;

8                   (C) improve the nutrition of children and  
9       promote the physical fitness of children;

10                  (D) reduce child mortality rates and the  
11       suicide rate for children and youth;

12                  (E) improve mental health outcomes for  
13       infants, toddlers, preschoolers, children, and  
14       youth;

15                  (F) ensure that pregnant women and teen-  
16       agers receive adequate prenatal care and edu-  
17       cation;

18                  (G) improve the provision of health care  
19       for foster care children and other vulnerable  
20       populations;

21                  (H) ensure that all children have access to  
22       both preventive and acute health care services,  
23       including dental, vision, and mental health care;

1 (I) improve the quality and availability of  
2 health care coverage, including dental, vision,  
3 and mental health care, for children;

4 (J) reduce the number of children with  
5 dental disease through prevention, family edu-  
6 cation, and disease management;

7 (K) improve coordination of care among  
8 child health services; and

9 (L) improve health and safety standards in  
10 child care settings.

11 (2) SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—

12 The Council shall study the social and emotional de-  
13 velopment of children, including how to—

14 (A) prevent and treat child abuse and ne-  
15 glect;

16 (B) improve the provision of services and  
17 supports to vulnerable parents and families, in-  
18 cluding those affected by poverty, violence, sub-  
19 stance abuse, and parental depression;

20 (C) improve counseling services for chil-  
21 dren;

22 (D) strengthen family functioning;

23 (E) improve the quality of early care and  
24 education and increase access to such services;

1 (F) improve foster care and adoption serv-  
 2 ices, safely reduce the number of children in  
 3 foster care, and increase permanency;

4 (G) reduce violent crime victimization rates  
 5 among youth;

6 (H) provide services effectively for youth in  
 7 transition to adulthood, particularly for vulner-  
 8 able youth;

9 (I) reduce cigarette smoking and illicit  
 10 drug and alcohol use by children and youth,  
 11 and support children affected (including chil-  
 12 dren affected prenatally and in the early years)  
 13 by parental substance use and abuse; and

14 (J) reduce the incidence of teenage preg-  
 15 nancy.

16 (3) EDUCATION AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOP-  
 17 MENT.—The Council shall study education and the  
 18 intellectual development of children, including—

19 (A) how to encourage academic excellence  
 20 for all children at all levels of education;

21 (B) how to improve access to high-quality  
 22 early care and education opportunities to en-  
 23 hance educational achievement;

24 (C) how to improve the qualifications of  
 25 teachers and early care and education providers

1 and ensure that schools can better prepare our  
 2 youth for the competitive global economy;

3 (D) how parents, communities, schools,  
 4 and early childhood programs can work to-  
 5 gether to help children achieve success at each  
 6 step of the academic ladder;

7 (E) how to encourage students to complete  
 8 secondary school and remain in school to fulfill  
 9 the students' academic potential and how to re-  
 10 engage students who drop out of school;

11 (F) how to improve—

12 (i) school stability, including stability  
 13 in postsecondary education, for pregnant,  
 14 parenting, homeless, and foster youth; and

15 (ii) the provision of support services  
 16 for such youth;

17 (G) how schools and early childhood pro-  
 18 grams can better meet—

19 (i) the needs of the diverse children of  
 20 the United States, including the needs of  
 21 children from various ethnic and racial  
 22 backgrounds; and

23 (ii) the special needs of children with  
 24 disabilities and children with limited  
 25 English proficiency;

1 (H) how to leverage data, standards, as-  
2 sessments, and accountability systems to appro-  
3 priately improve educational opportunities for  
4 all children;

5 (I) how to improve access to affordable  
6 higher education opportunities for all youth,  
7 particularly for low- and moderate-income  
8 youth, including improving such access for  
9 youth in foster care and former foster care  
10 youth; and

11 (J) how to improve access to and quality  
12 of after-school and youth development pro-  
13 grams.

14 (4) ECONOMIC SECURITY.—The Council shall  
15 study economic security and tax policy, including—

16 (A) how to reduce short- and long-term  
17 poverty among children;

18 (B) how to ensure that parents support  
19 their children to the fullest extent possible;

20 (C) how to ensure that cash assistance to  
21 needy children is adequate;

22 (D) how to ensure that child care assist-  
23 ance to families is adequate;

24 (E) how to ensure the equitable tax treat-  
25 ment of families with children;

1 (F) the effect of existing tax provisions, in-  
 2 cluding the dependent care tax credit, the  
 3 earned income tax credit, and the child tax  
 4 credit, on children living in poverty, as well as  
 5 children in other low and moderate income  
 6 working families;

7 (G) whether and how the dependent care  
 8 tax credit should be modified and the effect of  
 9 such a policy;

10 (H) whether and how the earned income  
 11 tax credit should be modified and the effect of  
 12 such a policy;

13 (I) whether and how the child tax credit  
 14 should be modified and the effect of such a pol-  
 15 icy; and

16 (J) whether other tax-related policies  
 17 would reduce poverty among children, and im-  
 18 prove child well-being generally.

19 (5) OTHER DOMAINS.—In addition to making  
 20 the findings described in paragraphs (1) through  
 21 (4), the Council shall—

22 (A)(i) identify ways in which public and  
 23 private organizations and institutions can work  
 24 together at the community level to identify defi-



1           ciencies in existing services (as of the time of  
2           the study) for children and families; and

3                 (ii) develop recommendations to ensure  
4           that the needs of families and children are met,  
5           using all available resources, in a coordinated  
6           and comprehensive manner;

7                 (B)(i) assess the existing capacities of  
8           agencies to collect and analyze data on the sta-  
9           tus of children and on relevant programs;

10                (ii) identify gaps in the data collection sys-  
11           tem for such data; and

12                (iii) recommend ways to improve the collec-  
13           tion of data and the coordination among agen-  
14           cies in the collection and utilization of such  
15           data;

16                (C) identify, review, and evaluate pertinent  
17           laws, regulations, policies, and programs exist-  
18           ing as of the time of the study that are relevant  
19           to the needs of children;

20                (D) identify promising approaches to en-  
21           suring that all children have equal access to  
22           high-quality programs, services, and resources,  
23           irrespective of—

24                       (i) geographic location;

25                       (ii) ethnic and racial background;

1 (iii) special needs; or

2 (iv) disabilities;

3 (E) identify ways to ensure the integration  
4 of policies, programs, and efforts across the do-  
5 mains described in paragraphs (1) through (4);

6 (F) identify ways to ensure the integration  
7 of policies, programs, and efforts for children  
8 across age groups, including infants, toddlers,  
9 preschoolers, children, and youth;

10 (G) identify ways to promote proven prac-  
11 tices with a return on investment for children  
12 and youth; and

13 (H) identify ways to incentivize Federal  
14 agencies and State governments to promote  
15 prevention practices and policies, rather than a  
16 crisis response, in addressing children's needs.

17 (b) REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall prepare,  
19 in accordance with this subsection—

20 (A) an interim report not later than 1 year  
21 after the date of the first meeting of the Coun-  
22 cil; and

23 (B) a final report not later than 2 years  
24 after the date of the first meeting of the Coun-  
25 cil.

1           (2) CONTENT.—The Council shall include, in  
2       each report described in paragraph (1), the specific  
3       findings and conclusions from the Council’s study  
4       and the recommendations of the Council addressing  
5       the needs of children, including specific rec-  
6       ommendations on the need for actions, policies, reg-  
7       ulations, and legislative changes as the Council con-  
8       siders appropriate.

9           (3) INFORMATION.—The Council shall hold re-  
10      gional public hearings to collect information for the  
11      report and shall make such information available for  
12      use by the public.

13          (4) TESTIMONY, DATA, AND FINDINGS.—Each  
14      report described in paragraph (1) shall—

15                (A) be based upon the testimony received  
16                in the hearings conducted pursuant to para-  
17                graph (3) and section 8(a), and upon other  
18                data and findings developed by the Council; and

19                (B) be agreed to by a majority of the  
20      Council members.

21          (5) RECIPIENTS.—The Council shall submit  
22      each report described in paragraph (1) to—

23                (A) the President;

1 (B) the Committee on Finance and the  
 2 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
 3 Pensions of the Senate; and

4 (C) the Committee on Ways and Means,  
 5 the Committee on Education and Labor, and  
 6 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the  
 7 House of Representatives.

8 (6) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—The Council may  
 9 issue additional reports as the Council determines  
 10 necessary.

11 **SEC. 6. TRANSITION PERIOD AND ONGOING DUTIES.**

12 (a) TRANSITION AND PLANNING PERIOD.—Imme-  
 13 diately after submitting a final report described in section  
 14 5(b)(1)(B), the Council shall begin a 60-day period during  
 15 which the Council shall plan how to transition to the ongo-  
 16 ing duties described in subsection (b).

17 (b) DUTIES.—After the transition and planning pe-  
 18 riod described in subsection (a), the Council shall begin  
 19 to annually assess the performance of the United States  
 20 in ensuring the well-being of children, and to make rec-  
 21 ommendations to improve children’s well-being, by car-  
 22 rying out the following:

23 (1) SETTING NATIONAL GOALS AND TAR-  
 24 GETS.—

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS AND TAR-  
2 GETS.—Not later than 1 year after the issuance  
3 of the final report under section 5(b), the Coun-  
4 cil shall—

5 (i) establish national goals to help  
6 guide the selection of national indicators of  
7 child well-being, and of systems indicators  
8 to improve child well-being and to promote  
9 prevention practices, in each domain de-  
10 scribed in paragraph (3)(A);

11 (ii) develop year-to-year targets to  
12 measure improvements in such national in-  
13 dicators and systems indicators toward  
14 achieving the national goals; and

15 (iii) in carrying out clauses (i) and  
16 (ii), review and consider any existing na-  
17 tional goals and year-to-year targets.

18 (B) REVISIONS.—The Council may, as the  
19 Council determines appropriate, revise the na-  
20 tional goals and year-to-year targets established  
21 under subparagraph (A).

22 (2) ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ANNUAL EVAL-  
23 UATION.—The Council shall annually evaluate the  
24 progress of the United States toward achieving the

1 national goals and year-by-year targets under para-  
 2 graph (1)(A).

3 (3) DEFINING THE DOMAINS OF CHILD WELL-  
 4 BEING.—The Council shall define each domain of  
 5 child well-being described in paragraphs (1) through  
 6 (4) of section 5(a).

7 (4) INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING.—

8 (A) NATIONAL INDICATORS.—For pur-  
 9 poses of this Act, the indicators of child well-  
 10 being selected under subparagraph (B)(ii), in-  
 11 cluding any modifications to such indicators  
 12 made in accordance with subparagraph (D)(i),  
 13 shall be known as the “national indicators of  
 14 child well-being”.

15 (B) ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL INDICA-  
 16 TORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING.—The Council  
 17 shall establish the initial national indicators of  
 18 child well-being by—

19 (i) identifying existing indicators of  
 20 child well-being in each domain defined  
 21 under paragraph (3); and

22 (ii) selecting indicators of child well-  
 23 being in each domain that meet the re-  
 24 quirements of subparagraph (C) and that

1 directly correspond to the national goals  
 2 established under paragraph (1)(A).

3 (C) RELIABILITY AND MEASUREMENT.—In  
 4 order to be selected as a national indicator of  
 5 child well-being, an indicator shall be—

6 (i) reliable, valid, and grounded in sci-  
 7 entific theory and research in existence as  
 8 of the date of the selection or revision of  
 9 the indicator;

10 (ii) measured regularly to assess  
 11 trends over time;

12 (iii) measured across population sub-  
 13 groups;

14 (iv) culturally appropriate and rel-  
 15 evant;

16 (v) disaggregated, to the extent prac-  
 17 ticable, by social characteristics such as  
 18 gender, age, race, ethnicity, poverty status,  
 19 family structure, immigrant status of the  
 20 child and the child's parents, educational  
 21 level, and disability status;

22 (vi) measured across age-groups, in  
 23 order to set a standard to be utilized in fu-  
 24 ture research or surveys; and

1 (vii) measured across consistent demo-  
2 graphic criteria in order to identify appro-  
3 priate social characteristics and race cat-  
4 egories, setting a standard to be utilized in  
5 future research or surveys.

6 (D) MODIFICATIONS.—The Council shall  
7 modify the national indicators of child well-  
8 being as the Council determines appropriate  
9 by—

10 (i) revising the national indicators of  
11 child well-being (including by adding or re-  
12 moving indicators); and

13 (ii) identifying or, as necessary, pro-  
14 viding research and recommendations to  
15 support the development of, new or im-  
16 proved indicators of child well-being in  
17 such domains.

18 (5) PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDA-  
19 TIONS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
21 after the Council establishes national goals  
22 under paragraph (1)(A), and annually there-  
23 after, the Council shall submit to Congress spe-  
24 cific legislative recommendations, including spe-



cific legislative language to achieve the national goals.

(B) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The annual legislative recommendations made by the Council under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to notice and opportunity for comment by the public for not less than 60 days before the submission of the legislative recommendations to Congress, and such notice and comments shall be published in the Federal Register.

(6) PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the Council establishes national goals under paragraph (1)(A), and annually thereafter, the Council shall submit, in a timely manner for consideration in the budget process, the recommendations described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) to the President, the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, and the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(B) BUDGETARY RECOMMENDATIONS.—  
The Council shall submit budgetary rec-

ommendations as to the amount of funding required by Federal departments and agencies for the purpose of achieving the national goals.

(C) REPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Council shall submit specific recommendations for how Federal expenditures for children and youth should be reported in order to determine what percentage of those expenses are spent on prevention services.

(D) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEEDS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL RESOURCES.—The Council shall submit specific recommendations as to what Federal resources are required by, and how the Federal resources should be distributed to, the States in order to best achieve—

(i) the national goals; and

(ii) goals developed by the States to improve children’s well-being, if applicable.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30 of the year following the year the Council establishes initial national goals under paragraph (1)(A), and each September 30 thereafter, the Council shall prepare and submit

1 to the President and Congress a report entitled  
2 “National Indicators of Child Well-being: A Re-  
3 port Card” that shall—

4 (i) assess the status of the United  
5 States in achieving the national goals and  
6 year-by-year targets established and devel-  
7 oped under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of  
8 paragraph (1); and

9 (ii) present, as appropriate, available  
10 data relating to children on health, edu-  
11 cation, personal development, housing, em-  
12 ployment, insurance, prevention, and early  
13 intervention.

14 (B) PUBLIC INPUT.—In determining the  
15 findings, conclusions, and recommendations to  
16 include in the report described in subparagraph  
17 (A), the Council shall seek input from the pub-  
18 lic, particularly—

- 19 (i) parents;  
20 (ii) educators;  
21 (iii) pediatricians;  
22 (iv) pediatric nurse practitioners;  
23 (v) mental health professionals;  
24 (vi) child welfare professionals;  
25 (vii) psychiatrists;

- 1 (viii) psychologists;
- 2 (ix) behavioral scientists;
- 3 (x) social workers;
- 4 (xi) demographers; and
- 5 (xii) representatives of organizations
- 6 with a broad range of expertise in—
- 7 (I) child development;
- 8 (II) indicators of child well-being;
- 9 or
- 10 (III) policy, programs, or re-
- 11 search relating to children and their
- 12 families.

13 (8) USE OF NATIONAL INDICATORS OF CHILD  
 14 WELL-BEING.—The Council or a Federal department  
 15 or agency that elects to use the national indicators  
 16 of child well-being shall use the indicators only to—

- 17 (A) identify positive and negative trends in
- 18 child well-being;
- 19 (B) identify policies or programs that are
- 20 deserving of rigorous, formal evaluation;
- 21 (C) describe or elucidate circumstances
- 22 and particular trends and patterns, in the areas
- 23 of positive and negative outcomes for children;
- 24 (D) monitor or track positive and negative
- 25 outcomes for children; or

1 (E) set goals or establish measurable tar-  
2 gets or thresholds.

3 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

4 (a) HEARINGS.—The Council may hold such hear-  
5 ings, meet and act at such times and places, and receive  
6 such evidence as may be necessary to carry out the func-  
7 tions of the Council.

8 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council may access, to  
10 the extent authorized by law, from any executive de-  
11 partment, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,  
12 independent establishment, or instrumentality of the  
13 Federal Government such information, suggestions,  
14 estimates, and statistics as the Council considers  
15 necessary to carry out this Act.

16 (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On written  
17 request of the Chairperson of the Council, each de-  
18 partment, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,  
19 independent establishment, or instrumentality shall,  
20 to the extent authorized by law, provide the re-  
21 quested information to the Council.

22 (3) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DIS-  
23 SEMINATION.—Information shall only be received,  
24 handled, stored, and disseminated by members and

1 staff of the Council consistent with all applicable  
2 statutes, regulations, and Executive orders.

3 (c) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

4 (1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—On  
5 request of the Chairperson of the Council, the Ad-  
6 ministrator of General Services shall provide to the  
7 Council, on a reimbursable basis, administrative sup-  
8 port and other assistance necessary for the Council  
9 to carry out the duties of the Council.

10 (2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In  
11 addition to the assistance provided under paragraph  
12 (1), departments and agencies of the United States  
13 may provide to the Council such assistance as they  
14 may determine advisable and as authorized by law.

15 (d) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

16 The Council may enter into contracts or cooperative agree-  
17 ments with Federal or State agencies, other entities, in-  
18 cluding private entities and institutions of higher edu-  
19 cation, or individuals for activities necessary to the dis-  
20 charge of the duties and responsibilities of the Council,  
21 including—

22 (1) the conduct of research and surveys;

23 (2) the preparation of reports; and

24 (3) the identification and development of indica-  
25 tors of child well-being;

1 (e) DONATIONS.—The Council may accept, use, and  
 2 dispose of donations of services or property.

3 (f) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Council may use the  
 4 United States mails in the same manner and under the  
 5 same conditions as a department or agency of the United  
 6 States.

7 **SEC. 8. STAFF.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson, in consultation  
 9 with the Vice Chairperson and in accordance with rules  
 10 agreed upon by the Council, may appoint and fix the com-  
 11 pensation of an executive director and such other per-  
 12 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Council to carry  
 13 out the functions of the Council, in accordance with the  
 14 provisions of title 5, United States Code, except that no  
 15 rate of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the  
 16 equivalent of that payable for a position at level V of the  
 17 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United  
 18 States Code.

19 (b) QUALIFICATIONS OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

20 (1) EXPERIENCE.—The executive director shall  
 21 be an individual who has demonstrated experience in  
 22 strategic planning, administration, and business  
 23 management, and has exhibited competency in—

24 (A) planning or operations of programs for  
 25 children and families;

1 (B) working cooperatively and effectively  
 2 with others to set goals, resolve problems and  
 3 make decisions that will enhance the Council's  
 4 effectiveness;

5 (C) managing projects effectively; and

6 (D) developing realistic action plans and  
 7 time schedules.

8 (2) EXPERTISE.—The executive director shall  
 9 have—

10 (A) expertise in child well-being or child  
 11 development; and

12 (B) an understanding of and appreciation  
 13 for—

14 (i) research relating to children and  
 15 families; and

16 (ii) indicators of child well-being.

17 (c) DETAILEES.—Upon request of the Chairperson of  
 18 the Council, the head of any executive department, bu-  
 19 reau, agency, board, commission, office, independent es-  
 20 tablishment, or instrumentality of the Federal Govern-  
 21 ment may detail, without reimbursement, any of its per-  
 22 sonnel to the Council to assist the Council in carrying out  
 23 the duties of the Council under this Act. Any detail of  
 24 an employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
 25 service status or privilege.



1 (d) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Council may pro-  
2 cure the services of experts and consultants in accordance  
3 with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at  
4 rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying  
5 a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-  
6 tion 5315 of such title.

7 **SEC. 9. TRAVEL EXPENSES.**

8 Each member of the Council shall serve without com-  
9 pensation, but shall receive travel expenses, including per  
10 diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable  
11 provisions in the same manner as persons employed inter-  
12 mittently in the Government service are allowed expenses  
13 under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

14 **SEC. 10. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-**  
15 **BILITY.**

16 The provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee  
17 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Council, except that  
18 sections 10 and 14 of such Act shall not apply.

19 **SEC. 11. BUDGET.**

20 The Council shall prepare annually a budget justi-  
21 fying amounts necessary to carry out the duties of the  
22 Council and shall annually submit the budget and any ap-  
23 propriations requests both to Congress and to the Director  
24 of the Office of Management and Budget.

1 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
3 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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