

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2182

To establish the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Poverty which will create and carry out a national plan to cut poverty in America in half in ten years.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2013

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VELA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To establish the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Poverty which will create and carry out a national plan to cut poverty in America in half in ten years.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Half in Ten Act of
3 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The persistence of poverty, and especially
7 intergenerational poverty, in America can be seen as
8 a deep, structural problem that implicates our value
9 system and our educational and economic institu-
10 tions.

11 (2) Poverty may be defined as the lack of basic
12 necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing,
13 health care, education, economic security, and eco-
14 nomic opportunity.

15 (3) Policy initiatives and many safety net pro-
16 grams addressing poverty have not kept pace with
17 the needs of millions of Americans.

18 (4) The lack of an equitable distribution of
19 housing choices across the country leads to isolation
20 and concentrated poverty.

21 (5) The number of Americans living in poverty
22 rose by over 2.6 million from 2009 to 2010 (U.S.
23 Census Bureau, September 2011).

24 (6) There were 46.2 million Americans living in
25 poverty in 2010, consisting of 15.1 percent of the

1 American people (U.S. Census Bureau, September
2 2011).

3 (7) Poverty has a disproportionate impact on
4 minority communities in America with 27.4 percent
5 of African-Americans, 26.6 percent of Hispanics,
6 12.1 percent of Asian Americans, and 9.9 percent of
7 Whites living in poverty in the United States in
8 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011).

9 (8) In 2010 a family of 4 was considered poor
10 under the U.S. Census Bureau's official measure if
11 the family's income was below \$22,314.

12 (9) The economic consequences of poverty in
13 the United States are estimated to be at least \$500
14 billion per year (Center for American Progress,
15 2007).

16 (10) Children who grow up in poverty experi-
17 ence higher crime rates, decreased productivity, and
18 higher health costs over their lives (Center for Amer-
19 ican Progress, 2007).

20 (11) 3,500,000 seniors lived in poverty in 2010
21 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

22 (12) Young Americans, ages 18–24, experience
23 a higher poverty rate than the national average
24 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

1 (13) 16,400,000 children lived in poverty in
2 2010—more than one in every five American chil-
3 dren (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

4 (14) Almost 35 percent of African-American
5 children and over 30 percent of Hispanic children
6 lived in poverty in 2009 (U.S. Census Bureau,
7 2011).

8 (15) The 46,180,000 of Americans in poverty
9 in 2010 was the largest number yet recorded in the
10 52 years for which poverty estimates are available
11 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

12 (16) Individuals and families in poverty are
13 more socially vulnerable to natural disasters, ex-
14 treme weather and impacts of climate change and
15 have greater difficulty preparing for, responding to
16 and recovering from such events (Oxfam America,
17 2009).

18 (17) Children who live in families who fall into
19 poverty for even short periods of time are at greater
20 risk of a lifetime of lower earnings, lower edu-
21 cational attainment, and increased reliance on public
22 services and increased rates of incarceration (First
23 Focus, 2008).

24 (18) It is estimated that the additional 3 mil-
25 lion children who were forced into poverty due to the

1 recession of 2008, resulted in \$35 billion in eco-
2 nomic losses annually, and will cause at least \$1.7
3 trillion in economic losses to the United States dur-
4 ing their lifetimes (First Focus, 2008).

5 (19) Reducing poverty, especially child poverty,
6 not only reduces costs for Federal, State, and local
7 social services and benefits programs, but also in-
8 creases tax revenue at all levels of government (Chil-
9 dren’s Defense Fund, 2009).

10 (20) The House of Representatives, on January
11 22, 2008, has resolved that it is the sense of Con-
12 gress that the United States should set a national
13 goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10
14 years.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal
18 agency” means any executive department, Govern-
19 ment corporation, Government-controlled corpora-
20 tion, or other establishment in the executive branch
21 of the Government (including the Executive Office of
22 the President), or any independent regulatory agen-
23 cy.

24 (2) **POVERTY.**—The term “poverty” means an
25 income level and living standard associated with and

1 based on the official poverty measure as established
2 and updated by the U.S. Census Bureau which es-
3 tablishes a threshold of minimum income necessary
4 to achieve a standard of living free from deprivation
5 of basic needs.

6 (3) EXTREME POVERTY.—The term “extreme
7 poverty” means having an income level or living
8 standard at a level of extreme deprivation based on
9 living with income below 50 percent of the Federal
10 poverty line as established by the U.S. Census.

11 (4) NEAR POVERTY.—The term “near poverty”
12 means having a level of household income below 200
13 percent of the Federal poverty line.

14 (5) CHILD POVERTY.—The term “child pov-
15 erty” means poverty which impacts those persons
16 under 18 years of age.

17 (6) DEPRIVATION.—The term “deprivation”
18 means lacking some or all basic human needs.

19 (7) DECENT LIVING STANDARD.—The term
20 “decent living standard” means the amount of an-
21 nual income that would allow an individual to live
22 beyond deprivation at a safe and decent, but modest,
23 standard of living.

24 (8) ALTERNATIVE POVERTY MEASURES.—The
25 term “alternative poverty measures” means meas-

1 ures and indicators, other than the traditional in-
2 come based measure of poverty, which can provide a
3 more detailed picture of the low-income and poverty
4 stricken populations, such as the number of people
5 who were kept above poverty by Government sup-
6 ports, the number of people who are poor due to
7 medical expenses, child care, and work expenses, the
8 rates of food insecurity, the number of people who
9 are asset poor (with less than three months of in-
10 come saved), the number of disconnected youth, teen
11 birth rates, participation rates in Federal anti-pov-
12 erty programs for all eligible populations, and the
13 number of people who are unbanked.

14 (9) REGIONAL COSTS OF LIVING.—The term
15 “regional costs of living” means a measure of the
16 differing costs of maintaining a given living standard
17 in varying regional, geographic, urban or rural re-
18 gions.

19 (10) ECONOMIC INSECURITY.—The term “eco-
20 nomic insecurity” means the inability of individuals
21 and households to cope with routine adverse or cost-
22 ly life events and the lack of means to maintain a
23 decent standard of living and to recover from the
24 costly consequences of those events.

1 (11) ECONOMIC STABILITY.—The term “eco-
2 nomic stability” means individuals and households
3 have access to the means and support systems nec-
4 essary to effectively cope with adverse or costly life
5 events and have the ability to effectively recover
6 from the consequences of those events while main-
7 taining their standard of living or maintaining a de-
8 cent standard of living.

9 (12) DIGITAL DIVIDE.—The term “digital di-
10 vide” means the gap between individuals, house-
11 holds, businesses and geographic areas at different
12 socio-economic levels with regard to both their access
13 information and communications technologies and
14 including the imbalance both in physical access to
15 technology and the resources, education and skills
16 needed to effectively use computer technology and
17 the Internet for a wide variety of activities.

18 (13) OUTCOMES.—The term “outcomes” means
19 change in the economic status, economic instability
20 or economic security of an individual, household or
21 other population which is attributable to a planned
22 intervention, benefit, or service or series of interven-
23 tions, benefits, and services, regardless of whether
24 such an intervention was intended to change such
25 economic status.

1 (14) DISPARATE IMPACT.—The term “disparate
2 impact” refers to the historic and ongoing impacts
3 of the pattern and practice of discrimination in em-
4 ployment, education, housing, banking and nearly
5 every other aspect of American life in the economy,
6 society or culture that have an adverse impact on
7 minorities, women, or other protected groups, re-
8 gardless of whether such practices were motivated by
9 discriminatory intent.

10 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL INTERAGENCY**
11 **WORKING GROUP ON REDUCING POVERTY.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
13 WORKING GROUP ON REDUCING POVERTY.—There is es-
14 tablished within the Department of Health and Human
15 Services, a Federal Interagency Working Group on Reduc-
16 ing Poverty, which shall be chaired by the Secretary of
17 Health and Human Services, and whose members shall be
18 selected by their respective agency heads from the senior
19 ranks of their agencies, which shall—

20 (1) develop, within 180 days of enactment, a
21 National Strategy to reduce the number of persons
22 living in poverty in America in half within 10 years
23 of the release of the 2012 Census report on Income,
24 Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the

1 United States: 2011, that includes goals and objec-
2 tives relating to—

3 (A) reducing in half the number of Ameri-
4 cans living in poverty as reported by the 2012
5 Census report on Income, Poverty and Health
6 Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011;

7 (B) eliminating child poverty in America;

8 (C) eliminating extreme poverty in Amer-
9 ica;

10 (D) improving the effectiveness and out-
11 comes of poverty related programs by improving
12 our understanding of the root causes of poverty,
13 the social, economic, and the cultural contribu-
14 tors to persistent intergenerational poverty;

15 (E) improving the measure of poverty to
16 include more indicators and measures that can
17 meaningfully account for other aspects relating
18 to the measure of poverty, such as regional dif-
19 ferences in costs of living, the impact of rising
20 income inequality, the impact of the persistent
21 “digital divide”, expanding the understanding
22 of poverty by distinguishing a standard that
23 measures a level of freedom from deprivation
24 versus a standard that measures a standard of
25 economic adequacy provided by a living wage

1 and access to a decent living standard, and the
2 impact of poverty on other measures of eco-
3 nomic stability and economic outcomes, such as
4 educational attainment, rates of incarceration,
5 lifetime earnings, access to health care, health
6 care outcomes, access to housing, and including
7 other measures as necessary to improve our un-
8 derstanding of why poverty persists in America;

9 (F) eliminating the disparate rates of pov-
10 erty based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, or
11 sexual orientation and identity, especially
12 among children in those households so im-
13 pacted;

14 (G) measuring effectiveness of poverty re-
15 lated programs on the basis of long-term out-
16 comes, including the long-term savings and
17 value of preventive practice and policy, and em-
18 ploying fact based measures of programs to
19 make improvements;

20 (H) improving the accessibility of benefit
21 and social services programs, reducing the com-
22 plexity and difficulty of enrollment, and improv-
23 ing the rates of enrollment in need based pro-
24 grams for all eligible recipients to maximize the
25 impact of benefits and social services programs

1 on reducing the impacts of poverty and improv-
2 ing economic outcomes;

3 (I) making more uniform eligibility re-
4 quirements to improve the coordination of serv-
5 ice delivery, reduce gaps in eligibility, and im-
6 prove outcomes of programs addressing poverty
7 in the Federal Government;

8 (J) reducing the negative impacts of asset
9 limits for eligibility which impact Federal, State
10 and local poverty programs on the effectiveness
11 of programs where limited eligibility creates
12 gaps in necessary service and benefit delivery,
13 and restricts access to benefits as individuals
14 and families attempt to transition off of assist-
15 ance programs and which can prevent needy
16 beneficiaries from improving long-term out-
17 comes and achieving long-term economic inde-
18 pendence from need based programs;

19 (K) identifying Federal programs, includ-
20 ing those related to disaster relief, hazard miti-
21 gation, extreme weather and climate change,
22 and necessary reforms to better target re-
23 sources towards disproportionately impacted so-
24 cially vulnerable, low income and disadvantaged

1 communities may provide greater socio-economic
2 benefits;

3 (L) improving the ability of community-
4 based organizations to participate in the devel-
5 opment, oversight and implementation of Fed-
6 eral poverty-related programs;

7 (M) improving access to good jobs with
8 adequate wages and benefits by individuals liv-
9 ing in poverty, low-income households, and the
10 unemployed;

11 (N) expanding and stabilizing poor and low
12 income persons connection to work and access
13 to critical job training and/or skills upgrade
14 training that will lead to re-entry in the work-
15 force;

16 (O) developing a comprehensive strategy to
17 connect low-income young people and to re-con-
18 nect currently disconnected youth to education,
19 work, and their community; and

20 (P) shifting the focus of poverty and
21 means tested programs across the Federal Gov-
22 ernment beyond the relief of deprivation and in-
23 stead setting goals, measures, and outcomes
24 more focused on measuring the success of pro-
25 grams in supporting and improving how capable

1 individuals and families can access educational
2 and economic opportunities to successfully tran-
3 sition away from accessing public assistance
4 and benefits and achieving long-term economic
5 stability which will reduce long-term costs in
6 domestic social needs programs, reduce long-
7 term health care costs due to the improved
8 health of formerly poverty stricken households,
9 increase the number of taxpaying individuals
10 which will increase revenue, and lower the en-
11 rollment and costs in need based benefits and
12 services programs, thus improving the economy
13 and reducing long-term deficits for Federal,
14 State, and local governments;

15 (2) oversee, coordinate, and integrate all poli-
16 cies and activities of the Federal Government, in co-
17 ordination and consultation with the Domestic Pol-
18 icy Council and the National Economic Council,
19 across all agencies relating to reducing the number
20 of individuals, families, and children living below the
21 Federal poverty line, in extreme poverty or near pov-
22 erty and increasing the number of households able
23 to achieve long-term economic stability with assets
24 sufficient to maintain a decent living standard with-
25 out relying on public supports—

1 (A) economic, commercial, and pro-
2 grammatic policies that can effect or relieve the
3 effects of poverty through job creation, and eco-
4 nomic development targeted to low income, mi-
5 nority, rural, urban and other populations who
6 suffer disparate rates of poverty, among Fed-
7 eral agencies; and

8 (B) services and benefits including emer-
9 gency programs, discretionary economic pro-
10 grams, and other policies and activities nec-
11 essary to ensure that the Federal Government
12 is able to mount effective responses to economic
13 downturns and increases in the rates of poverty;

14 (3) ensure that all relevant Federal agencies
15 comply with appropriate guidelines, policies, and di-
16 rectives from the Federal Interagency Working
17 Group on Reducing Poverty and the Department of
18 Health and Human Services and other Federal
19 agencies with responsibilities relating to poverty re-
20 duction or improving economic stability and inde-
21 pendence;

22 (4) ensure that Federal agencies, State govern-
23 ments and relevant congressional committees have
24 access to, receive, and appropriately disseminate best
25 practices in the administration of programs, have

1 adequate resources to maximize the public awareness
2 of programs, increase the reach of those programs,
3 especially into historically disenfranchised commu-
4 nities, maximize enrollment for all eligible Ameri-
5 cans, share relevant data, and issue relevant guid-
6 ance in consultation with non-government organiza-
7 tions and policy experts in the field and State and
8 local government officials who administer or direct
9 policy for anti-poverty programs in increasing and
10 maximizing the enrollment into and administration
11 of programs and services designed to alleviate pov-
12 erty;

13 (5) enact best practices for improved data col-
14 lection, relevant to—

15 (A) reducing poverty;

16 (B) reducing the racial, ethnic, age, gen-
17 der, and sexual orientation or sexual identity
18 based disparities in the rates of poverty;

19 (C) adequately measuring the effectiveness,
20 efficiency and impact of programs on the out-
21 comes for individuals, families and communities
22 who receive benefits and services;

23 (D) streamlining enrollment and eligibility
24 for programs;

1 (E) improving long-term outcomes for indi-
2 viduals who are enrolled in service and benefit
3 programs;

4 (F) reducing reliance on public programs;

5 (G) improving connections to work;

6 (H) improving economic stability;

7 (I) improving savings and investment, ac-
8 cess to capital, increasing rates of entrepreneur-
9 ship;

10 (J) improving our understanding of the
11 impact of extreme weather and natural disas-
12 ters on economically vulnerable communities
13 and improving those communities' resilience to
14 and recovery from extreme weather and natural
15 disasters;

16 (K) improving access to living wage em-
17 ployment; and

18 (L) improving access to employment based
19 benefits; and

20 (6) study the feasibility of and test different
21 interagency, State and local, public/private models of
22 cooperative service and benefit delivery by creating
23 necessary exemptions, waivers and funding sources
24 to allow improved cooperation and innovation in the
25 development of programs, practices, policies and pro-

cedures that advance the goal of reducing poverty and increasing economic opportunity.

(b) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL POVERTY POLICY.—

There shall be a Staff Director of National Poverty Policy, who shall be the head of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Poverty.

SEC. 5. APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Staff Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall appoint the Staff Director from among individuals who have demonstrated ability and knowledge in social policy, improving outcome based management, issues of equity and equal opportunity and access to services and economic opportunity.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Staff Director shall—

(1) advise the Secretary and all relevant cabinet secretaries, and agency officials regarding the establishment of policies, goals, objectives, and priorities for reducing poverty in America in half in ten years, ending child poverty, ending extreme poverty and eliminating racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual iden-

1 tity and orientation based disparities in the rates of
2 poverty;

3 (2) advise the Secretary, when directed by the
4 Secretary, advise relevant cabinet secretaries, heads
5 of independent Federal agencies and other entities
6 within the Executive Office of the President regard-
7 ing mechanisms to improve the effectiveness, coordi-
8 nation, impact, and outcomes of social services, ben-
9 efits, and other poverty reduction and economic op-
10 portunity programs, in collaboration with experts in
11 the field, non-governmental organizations, and other
12 governments;

13 (3) work with Federal agencies to oversee, co-
14 ordinate, and integrate the implementation of the
15 National Plan or Strategy, including consultation
16 with independent non-governmental policy experts
17 and service provider groups engaged in serving low-
18 income persons, children and households, State and
19 local government officials who administer or direct
20 policy for anti-poverty programs, and with as many
21 groups that directly represent low-income people,
22 such as public housing tenants' associations, or
23 other similar groups; and

24 (4) resolve any disputes that arise between Fed-
25 eral agencies relating to the National Plan to reduce

1 poverty in half in ten years or other matters within
2 the responsibility of the Office.

3 **SEC. 6. CONSULTATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may consult and ob-
5 tain recommendations from, as needed, such Presidential
6 and other advisory entities such as consultation with inde-
7 pendent non-governmental policy experts and service pro-
8 vider groups engaged in serving low-income persons, chil-
9 dren, and households; State and local government officials
10 who administer or direct policy for anti-poverty programs,
11 and groups made up of low-income people, such as public
12 housing tenants' associations, or other similar groups as
13 the Director determines will assist in carrying out the mis-
14 sion of the Office, including, but not limited to—

- 15 (1) the Administration for Children and Fami-
16 lies (ACF);
- 17 (2) the Administration on Aging (AoA);
- 18 (3) the Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- 19 (4) the Bankruptcy Courts;
- 20 (5) the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protec-
21 tion;
- 22 (6) the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA);
- 23 (7) the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA);
- 24 (8) the Bureau of the Census;

1 (9) the Center for Nutrition Policy and Pro-
2 motion;

3 (10) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv-
4 ices (formerly the Health Care Financing Adminis-
5 tration);

6 (11) the Commission on Civil Rights;

7 (12) the Office of Community Planning and
8 Development;

9 (13) the Consumer Financial Protection Bu-
10 reau;

11 (14) the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Jus-
12 tice and Delinquency Prevention;

13 (15) the Corporation for National and Commu-
14 nity Service;

15 (16) the Council of Economic Advisers;

16 (17) the Department of Agriculture (USDA);

17 (18) the Department of Commerce (DOC);

18 (19) the Department of Defense (DOD);

19 (20) the Department of Education (ED);

20 (21) the Department of Health and Human
21 Services (HHS);

22 (22) the Department of Housing and Urban
23 Development (HUD);

24 (23) the Department of Justice (DOJ);

25 (24) the Department of Labor (DOL);

- 1 (25) the Department of the Treasury;
- 2 (26) the Department of Transportation (DOT);
- 3 (27) the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);
- 4 (28) the Disability Employment Policy Office;
- 5 (29) the Domestic Policy Council;
- 6 (30) the Drug Enforcement Administration
- 7 (DEA);
- 8 (31) the Economic Development Administra-
- 9 tion;
- 10 (32) the Economic Research Service;
- 11 (33) the English Language Acquisition Office;
- 12 (34) the Equal Employment Opportunity Com-
- 13 mission (EEOC);
- 14 (35) the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity;
- 15 (36) the Federal Bureau of Prisons;
- 16 (37) the Federal Housing Finance Board;
- 17 (38) the Federal Labor Relations Authority;
- 18 (39) the Federal Trade Commission (FTC);
- 19 (40) the Food and Nutrition Service;
- 20 (41) the Indian Health Service;
- 21 (42) the Interagency Council on Homelessness;
- 22 (43) the Internal Revenue Service (IRS);
- 23 (44) the Legal Services Corporation;
- 24 (45) the National AIDS Policy Office;
- 25 (46) the National Credit Union Administration;

- 1 (47) the National Economic Council;
- 2 (48) the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- 3 (49) the National Labor Relations Board;
- 4 (50) the Occupational Safety & Health Admin-
- 5 istration (OSHA);
- 6 (51) the Office of Management and Budget
- 7 (OMB);
- 8 (52) the Office of Refugee Resettlement;
- 9 (53) the Office of Policy Development and Re-
- 10 search (Housing and Urban Development Depart-
- 11 ment);
- 12 (54) the Small Business Administration (SBA);
- 13 (55) the Social Security Administration (SSA);
- 14 (56) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- 15 Services Administration;
- 16 (57) the Veterans' Employment and Training
- 17 Service; and
- 18 (58) the Women's Bureau (Labor Department).

19 (b) NATIONAL STRATEGY.—In developing and updat-

20 ing the National Strategy the Executive Director shall

21 consult with the Domestic Policy Council, the National

22 Economic Council, and, as appropriate, hold regional pub-

23 lic hearings around the country to collect information and

24 feedback from the public on their efforts and experience

1 for the development and updating of the National Strategy
2 and make this information available to the public.

3 **SEC. 7. REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Federal Inter-
5 agency Working Group on Reducing Poverty shall submit
6 an annual report to the appropriate congressional commit-
7 tees describing the activities, ongoing projects, and plans
8 of the Federal Government designed to meet the goals and
9 objectives of the National Strategy on Poverty. The report
10 shall include an accounting of the savings to the Govern-
11 ment from any increased efficiencies in the delivery of
12 services, any savings from reducing the numbers of Ameri-
13 cans living in poverty and reductions in the demand for
14 need based services and benefits for which persons living
15 in and near poverty are eligible, as well as an accounting
16 of any increase in revenue collections due to the numbers
17 of persons who become gainfully employed and pay taxes
18 into the Treasury instead of drawing benefits and services
19 from it.

20 (b) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WORK-
21 SHOP.—Within 90 days after funds are made available to
22 carry out this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
23 Services shall contract with the National Academy of
24 Sciences (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the
25 “NAS”) to initiate a workshop series to provide necessary

1 background information to enable the Working Group on
2 Reducing Poverty to develop and finalize its plan.

3 (1) The NAS shall convene a steering com-
4 mittee to organize, plan, and conduct a public work-
5 shop on what is known about the economic and so-
6 cial costs of poverty, including, but not limited to
7 the following:

8 (A) Macroeconomic costs (effects on pro-
9 ductivity and economic output).

10 (B) Health costs (effects on health expend-
11 itures and health status).

12 (C) Crime and other social costs.

13 (D) Direct Federal budget effects (e.g.,
14 outlays for income support and other poverty
15 reduction programs).

16 (E) Natural Disaster related risks and
17 costs.

18 (F) The workshop shall also consider pov-
19 erty metrics (e.g., income poverty, food insecu-
20 rity, and other measures of deprivation), and
21 their role in assessing the effects of poverty and
22 the performance of anti-poverty programs.

23 The NAS shall commission experts to prepare pa-
24 pers that summarize and critique the relevant lit-
25 erature estimating monetary and non-monetary eco-

1 nomic and social impacts of poverty. A workshop
2 summary shall be produced that, along with the pa-
3 pers, shall be available electronically on the NAS
4 website. This workshop shall be convened within 6
5 months of receipt of a contract, the papers posted
6 immediately, and the summary released by the end
7 of month.

8 (2) The NAS steering committee shall organize,
9 plan, and conduct a second public workshop on what
10 is known about the economic and social costs and
11 benefits of a variety of programs and strategies to
12 reduce and prevent poverty. It shall take account of
13 such issues as the following:

14 (A) Short-term versus long-term effects,
15 including budget implications.

16 (B) Effects for different population
17 groups, such as children, the elderly, immi-
18 grants, long-term single-parent families, dis-
19 placed older workers, young people with large
20 loans, people in areas of concentrated poverty
21 and other social ills (e.g., Indian reservations,
22 some inner city areas, some rural areas).

23 (C) Effects by depth of poverty and near-
24 poverty (e.g., income to poverty ratios of less

1 than 50 percent, less than 100 percent, less
2 than 200 percent).

3 This second workshop shall be convened within 9
4 months of receipt of a contract, the papers posted
5 immediately, and a summary released by the end of
6 month 12.

7 (c) REPORT.—The relevant sections of the report
8 shall be posted on each agency’s website on the plans and
9 impacts specific to their agency.

10 (d) PUBLIC REPORT.—A version of each report sub-
11 mitted under this section shall be made available to the
12 public.

13 (e) LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—The Working Group
14 on Reducing Poverty shall submit, as necessary, legislative
15 language, including specific legislative recommendations to
16 the Congress of the United States towards achieving the
17 national goals.

○