

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1786

To encourage the placement of children in foster care with siblings.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2013

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To encourage the placement of children in foster care with  
siblings.

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 “Sibling Connections  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENCOURAGING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN**  
7 **FOSTER CARE WITH SIBLINGS.**

8 (a) STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—

9 (1) NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OF SIBLINGS.—

10 Section 471(a)(29) of the Social Security Act (42  
11 U.S.C. 671(a)(29)) is amended by striking “all adult

grandparents” and inserting “the following relatives:  
all adult grandparents, all parents of a sibling of the  
child, where such parent has legal custody of such  
sibling,”.

(2) SIBLING DEFINED.—Section 475 of the So-  
cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended by  
adding at the end the following:

“(9) The term ‘sibling’ means an individual  
who satisfies at least one of the following conditions  
with respect to a child:

“(A) The individual is considered by State  
law to be a sibling of the child.

“(B) The individual would have been con-  
sidered a sibling of the child under State law  
but for a termination or other disruption of pa-  
rental rights, such as the death of a parent.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
this section shall take effect on the date of enact-  
ment of this Act.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION  
REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan approved  
under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act  
which the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
determines requires State legislation (other than leg-

1        isolation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to  
2        meet the additional requirements imposed by this  
3        Act, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing  
4        to comply with the requirements of such part solely  
5        on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such  
6        additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st  
7        calendar quarter beginning after the close of the 1st  
8        regular session of the State legislature that ends  
9        after the 1-year period beginning with the date of  
10       enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preceding  
11       sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year  
12       legislative session, each year of the session is deemed  
13       to be a separate regular session of the State legisla-  
14       ture.

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