

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 369

To enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services.

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 “Supporting Adoptive
5 Families Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES.**

7 (a) ENSURING WELL-BEING OF ADOPTED CHILDREN
8 AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Section 421 of the Social Se-
9 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 621) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
11 end;

1 (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
2 graph (6); and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(5) ensuring the well-being of adopted children
6 and their adoptive families and promoting efforts to
7 prevent such children from entering the foster care
8 system through the provision of pre- and post-adop-
9 tive support services; and”.

10 (b) PRE- AND POST-ADOPTIVE SUPPORT SERV-
11 ICES.—Paragraph (8) of section 431(a) of such Act (42
12 U.S.C. 629a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(8) ADOPTION PROMOTION AND SUPPORT
14 SERVICES.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘adoption
16 promotion and support services’ means services
17 and activities designed to encourage more adop-
18 tions out of the foster care system and support
19 domestic adoptions and adoptions from other
20 countries, consistent with promoting the best
21 interests of adopted children and their adoptive
22 families. Such services and activities may in-
23 clude pre- and post-adoptive support services,
24 as described in subparagraph (B), that are de-

signed to support adopted children and their adoptive families.

“(B) PRE- AND POST-ADOPTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—The term ‘pre- and post-adoptive support services’ means the following:

“(i) Pre-adoptive support services, which may include—

“(I) direct services, including training, educational support, counseling, and other services for adoptive parents and families that address caregiver interests and concerns regarding common behavioral issues, such as—

“(aa) issues relating to emotional, behavioral, or developmental health needs;

“(bb) issues relating to attachment, identity, abandonment, cultural differences, grief, and loss; and

“(cc) issues resulting from birth defects due to fetal alcohol syndrome or any other substance

1 abuse-related developmental dis-
2 order;

3 “(II) the provision of educational
4 resources for adoptive parents regard-
5 ing the geographic, ethnic, and cul-
6 tural background of the adopted child;

7 “(III) peer-to-peer mentoring and
8 support groups that permit a newly
9 adoptive parent to communicate and
10 learn from more experienced adoptive
11 parents, including programs that en-
12 hance communication between adop-
13 tive parents with children of similar
14 geographic, ethnic, or cultural back-
15 grounds; and

16 “(IV) the provision of informa-
17 tional resources for adoptive parents,
18 including—

19 “(aa) resources available
20 through Federal and State agen-
21 cies, including information re-
22 garding benefits for children with
23 a medical condition or a physical,
24 mental, or emotional disability;

1 “(bb) newsletters, Web sites,
 2 and other informational resources
 3 regarding adoption-related serv-
 4 ices;

5 “(cc) the establishment of
 6 lending libraries containing infor-
 7 mation and resources for adop-
 8 tive parents; and

9 “(dd) conferences, discus-
 10 sion groups, and seminars that
 11 are available to adoptive parents
 12 and other relevant stakeholders.

13 “(ii) Post-adoptive support services,
 14 which may include—

15 “(I) continued provision to adop-
 16 tive parents of pre-adoptive support
 17 services described in clause (i);

18 “(II) the provision of accessible
 19 and reliable respite services for adop-
 20 tive parents;

21 “(III) direct services and coun-
 22 seling for adopted children, including,
 23 as appropriate—

24 “(aa) support services for an
 25 adopted child with emotional, be-

1 havioral, or developmental health
2 needs;

3 “(bb) support services that
4 address issues relating to attach-
5 ment, identity, abandonment, cul-
6 tural differences, grief, and loss;
7 and

8 “(cc) treatment services that
9 are specialized for adopted chil-
10 dren, including psychiatric resi-
11 dential services, outpatient men-
12 tal health services, social skills
13 training, intensive in-home super-
14 vision services, recreational ther-
15 apy, suicide prevention, and sub-
16 stance abuse treatment;

17 “(IV) peer-to-peer mentoring and
18 support groups that allow adopted
19 children to communicate and socialize
20 with other adopted children, including
21 programs that provide for communica-
22 tion between adopted children from
23 similar geographic, ethnic, or cultural
24 backgrounds; and

1 “(V) crisis and family preserva-
 2 tion services, including crisis coun-
 3 seling and a 24-hour emergency hot-
 4 line for adoptive parents.”.

5 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES.**

6 Paragraph (8) of section 473(a) of the Social Secu-
 7 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(8) With respect to the amount of savings (if
 9 any) in State expenditures under this part resulting
 10 from the application of paragraph (2)(A)(ii) to all
 11 applicable children for a fiscal year, a State shall—

12 “(A) spend a significant portion of such
 13 amount to provide pre- and post-adoptive sup-
 14 port services (as defined in section
 15 431(a)(8)(B));

16 “(B) spend the remainder of such amount
 17 to provide to children or families any other
 18 services that may be provided under this part
 19 or part B; and

20 “(C) on an annual basis, submit to the
 21 Secretary a report that provides a detailed ac-
 22 count of any services that were funded pursuant
 23 to this paragraph.”.

1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR POST-ADOPTION**
 2 **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

3 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health
 4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.) is amended by
 5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 520L. POST-ADOPTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 8 the Administrator, shall award grants or cooperative
 9 agreements to eligible entities to—

10 “(1) develop and implement State-sponsored
 11 Statewide or tribal post-adoption mental health serv-
 12 ice programs for all adopted children;

13 “(2) support public organization and private
 14 nonprofit organizations actively involved in State-
 15 sponsored Statewide or tribal post-adoption mental
 16 health service programs;

17 “(3) collect and analyze data on State-spon-
 18 sored Statewide or tribal post-adoption mental
 19 health service programs that can be used to monitor
 20 the effectiveness of such services and for research,
 21 technical assistance, and policy development;

22 “(4) develop and provide educational and train-
 23 ing opportunities concerning the mental health needs
 24 of adopted children and their families for use by
 25 teachers, social workers, and other community men-
 26 tal health service providers; and

1 “(5) develop and provide materials for potential
 2 adoptive parents, both for domestic adoptions and
 3 adoptions from other countries, describing the pos-
 4 sible need for post-adoption mental health services
 5 and available resources.

6 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

7 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term
 8 ‘eligible entity’ means—

9 “(A) a State;

10 “(B) a public organization or private non-
 11 profit organization designated by a State to de-
 12 velop or direct the State-sponsored Statewide
 13 post-adoption mental health service program
 14 under a grant under this section; and

15 “(C) a Federally recognized Indian tribe or
 16 tribal organization (as defined in the Indian
 17 Self-Determination and Education Assistance
 18 Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)) or an urban In-
 19 dian organization (as defined in the Indian
 20 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601
 21 et seq.)) that is actively involved in the develop-
 22 ment and continuation of a post-adoption men-
 23 tal health service program.

24 “(2) LIMITATION.—In carrying out this section,
 25 the Secretary shall ensure that each State is award-

1 ed only 1 grant or cooperative agreement under this
2 section. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a
3 State shall be considered to have been awarded a
4 grant or cooperative agreement if the eligible entity
5 involved is the State or an entity designated by the
6 State under paragraph (1)(B). Nothing in this para-
7 graph shall be construed to apply to entities de-
8 scribed in paragraph (1)(C).

9 “(c) PREFERENCE.—In providing assistance under a
10 grant or cooperative agreement under this section, the
11 Secretary shall give preference to eligible entities that have
12 demonstrated success in increasing the level of adoption
13 competency among mental health providers, adoption law-
14 yers, social workers, case workers, and adoptive parents.

15 “(d) REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECT SERVICES.—Not
16 less than 85 percent of funds received under a grant or
17 cooperative agreement under this section shall be used to
18 provide direct services, of which not less than 5 percent
19 shall be used for activities authorized under subsection
20 (a)(3).

21 “(e) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this sec-
23 tion, the Secretary shall collaborate with relevant
24 Federal agencies and adoption-related working
25 groups to promote interaction between domestic fos-

1 ter care agencies and private adoption agencies in
2 other countries.

3 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary shall consult with—

5 “(A) State and social service agencies en-
6 gaged in the placement of children for adoption,
7 domestically or from other countries;

8 “(B) local and national organizations that
9 serve foster and adopted youth;

10 “(C) health and education specialists who
11 focus on adoption and foster care medicine;

12 “(D) youth who have been in foster care or
13 adopted, domestically or from other countries;

14 “(E) families and friends of youth who
15 have been in foster care or adopted, domesti-
16 cally or from other countries; and

17 “(F) qualified professionals who possess
18 the specialized knowledge, skills, experience,
19 and relevant attributes needed to serve adopted
20 children and their families.

21 “(3) POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—In carrying out
22 this section, the Secretary shall—

23 “(A) coordinate and collaborate on policy
24 development with the Administration for Chil-
25 dren and Families and other relevant Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services agencies
and adoption-related working groups; and

“(B) consult on policy development at the
Federal level with those in the private sector
engaged in the recruitment of foster and adop-
tive parents, the placement of children in foster
care and for adoption, and the provision of
post-adoption services.

“(f) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

“(1) EVALUATIONS BY ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

Not later than 18 months after receipt of a grant or
cooperative agreement under this section, an eligible
entity shall submit to the Secretary the results of an
evaluation to be conducted by the entity concerning
the effectiveness of the activities carried out under
the grant or agreement.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a
report concerning the results of—

“(A) the evaluations conducted under
paragraph (1); and

“(B) an evaluation conducted by the Sec-
retary to analyze the effectiveness and efficacy

1 of the activities conducted with grants, collabo-
 2 rations, and consultations under this section.

3 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ADOPTED CHILD.—The term ‘adopted
 5 child’ means an individual who is under 21 years of
 6 age and was adopted from foster care, through a
 7 private placement agency, or from another country.

8 “(2) ADOPTION COMPETENCY.—The term
 9 ‘adoption competency’ means an understanding of—

10 “(A) the nature of adoption as a form of
 11 family formation and the different types of
 12 adoption;

13 “(B) relevant emotional and physical
 14 issues involved in the adoption process, includ-
 15 ing issues relating to separation, loss, attach-
 16 ment, abuse, trauma, and neglect;

17 “(C) common developmental challenges as-
 18 sociated with adoption;

19 “(D) the characteristics and skills that
 20 allow for successful adoptive families;

21 “(E) proper sensitivity with respect to the
 22 different geographic, ethnic, or cultural back-
 23 grounds of adopted children and adoptive fami-
 24 lies; and

1 “(F) the necessary skills for effectively ad-
 2 vocating on behalf of birth and adoptive fami-
 3 lies.

4 “(3) POST-ADOPTION MENTAL HEALTH SERV-
 5 ICES.—The term ‘post-adoption mental health serv-
 6 ices’ includes—

7 “(A) direct services, including training,
 8 educational support, counseling, and other serv-
 9 ices for adoptive parents and families that ad-
 10 dress caregiver interests and concerns regarding
 11 child behavioral issues that are common among
 12 adopted children and children in foster care, in-
 13 cluding, as appropriate—

14 “(i) caring for an adopted child with
 15 emotional, behavioral, or developmental
 16 health needs; and

17 “(ii) providing for the emotional needs
 18 of an adopted child, including issues relat-
 19 ing to attachment, identity, abandonment,
 20 cultural differences, grief, and loss;

21 “(B) peer-to-peer mentoring and support
 22 groups that permit a newly adoptive parent to
 23 communicate and learn from more experienced
 24 adoptive parents;

1 “(C) the provision of informational re-
2 sources and available services for adoptive par-
3 ents;

4 “(D) direct services, including counseling,
5 peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups, and
6 other services for adopted children that address
7 common behavioral and adjustment issues, in-
8 cluding, as appropriate—

9 “(i) support services for an adopted
10 child with emotional, behavioral, or devel-
11 opmental health needs;

12 “(ii) support services that address the
13 emotional needs of an adopted child, in-
14 cluding issues relating to attachment, iden-
15 tity, abandonment, cultural differences,
16 grief, and loss; and

17 “(iii) treatment services that are spe-
18 cialized for adopted children, including
19 psychiatric residential services, outpatient
20 mental health services, social skills train-
21 ing, intensive in-home supervision services,
22 recreational therapy, suicide prevention,
23 and substance abuse treatment;

24 “(E) peer-to-peer mentoring and support
25 groups that allow adopted children to commu-

1 nicate and socialize with other adopted children;
2 and

3 “(F) crisis intervention and family preser-
4 vation services.

5 “(h) FUNDING FOR POST-ADOPTION MENTAL
6 HEALTH SERVICES.—From amounts appropriated to
7 carry out title III, V, or XIX of the Public Health Service
8 Act for each fiscal year, \$20,000,000 shall be used by the
9 Secretary in each such fiscal year to fund services and
10 programs authorized under this section.”.

11 **SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND**
12 **DISSOLUTION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 479 of the Social Security
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 679) is amended by adding at the end the
15 following new subsection:

16 “(e)(1) Not later than 12 months after the date of
17 enactment of the Supporting Adoptive Families Act, the
18 Secretary shall, as part of the data collection system es-
19 tablished under this section, promulgate final regulations
20 providing for the collection and analysis of information re-
21 garding children who enter into State custody as a result
22 of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dis-
23 solution of an adoption, which shall require States to col-
24 lect and report—

1 “(A) information on children who are adopted
2 within the United States or from other countries and
3 who enter into State custody as a result of the dis-
4 ruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolu-
5 tion of an adoption, including—

6 “(i) the number of children who enter into
7 State custody as a result of—

8 “(I) the disruption of placement for
9 adoption; or

10 “(II) the dissolution of an adoption;
11 and

12 “(ii) for each child identified under clause
13 (i)—

14 “(I) as applicable, the country of birth
15 for any child who was not born in the
16 United States;

17 “(II) the length of the adoption place-
18 ment prior to disruption or dissolution;

19 “(III) the age of the child at the time
20 of the disruption or dissolution;

21 “(IV) the reason for the disruption or
22 dissolution; and

23 “(V) the agencies who handled the
24 placement for adoption; and

1 “(B) such other information as determined ap-
2 propriate by the Secretary.

3 “(2) The information described in paragraph (1)
4 shall be used—

5 “(A) to consolidate and expand the collection of
6 information on adoption disruption and dissolution;

7 “(B) to improve research and data collection
8 systems in order to more accurately determine and
9 measure the rates, outcomes, and causes of adoption
10 disruption and dissolution;

11 “(C) to identify pre- and post-adoptive support
12 services (including services described in section
13 431(a)(8)(B)) that result in lower rates of disrup-
14 tion and dissolution of adoptions;

15 “(D) to develop an understanding of the rela-
16 tionship between the rate of incidence of adoption
17 disruptions and dissolutions and the support services
18 that are provided to adoptive families in order to
19 identify and develop effective evidence-based strate-
20 gies, programs, and support services that help to
21 prevent adoption disruption and dissolution; and

22 “(E) to develop and enhance training and edu-
23 cational services regarding strategies for prevention
24 of adoption disruption and dissolution.

1 “(3)(A) Not later than 6 months after the date of
2 enactment of the Supporting Adoptive Families Act, the
3 Secretary shall, subject to subparagraph (B), establish an
4 advisory committee to study methods to effectively collect
5 data regarding disruption and dissolution of adoptions
6 that are not included in the data collection system estab-
7 lished under this section, including—

8 “(i) data on children whose adoptions are dis-
9 rupted or dissolved but do not enter into State cus-
10 tody as a result of such disruption or dissolution;

11 “(ii) data on adoption displacements, whereby
12 an adopted child is temporarily placed out of the
13 home of an adoptive parent in order to receive med-
14 ical, mental health, behavioral, or other forms of
15 treatment; and

16 “(iii) such other data as determined appropriate
17 by the Secretary.

18 “(B) The membership and organization of the advi-
19 sory committee described in subparagraph (A) shall be de-
20 termined by the Secretary and shall include—

21 “(i) State and child welfare agencies that are
22 engaged in the placement of children for adoption
23 domestically or from other countries;

24 “(ii) local and national organizations that serve
25 adopted children and children in foster care; and

1 “(iii) members of State and local judiciary and
2 court staff.

3 “(C) Not later than 12 months after establishment
4 of the advisory committee described in subparagraph (A),
5 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees
6 of Congress a report containing recommendations of the
7 advisory committee for improvement of the data collection
8 system established under this section.”.

9 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 479A(a) of the Social
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 679b(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” after
12 the semicolon;

13 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(8) include in the report submitted pursuant
18 to paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2014 or any suc-
19 ceeding fiscal year, national and State-by-State data
20 on the numbers and rates of disruptions and dissolu-
21 tions of adoptions, as collected pursuant to section
22 479(e)(1).”.

○