

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4747

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to provide information about available benefits and services to kinship caregivers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to provide information about available benefits and services to kinship caregivers.

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 “Informing Grandfami-
5 lies Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATE NOTIFICATIONS TO KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**
7 **OF CHILD TANF RECIPIENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(a) of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)) is amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

1 “(13) STATE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING NO-
2 TICE AND GUIDANCE TO KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a
4 grant is made under section 403 shall ensure
5 that the State agency provides to any kinship
6 caregiver, including grandparents and other rel-
7 ative caregivers, of a minor child if the child is
8 a recipient of assistance under the State pro-
9 gram funded under this part (or under a State
10 program funded with qualified State expendi-
11 tures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))),
12 written notice that—

13 “(i) explains the options of the kin-
14 ship caregiver under Federal, State, and
15 local law to participate in the care and
16 placement of the child, including the finan-
17 cial ramifications of the options and any
18 options that may be lost by choosing cer-
19 tain benefits;

20 “(ii) describes the requirements under
21 section 471(a)(10) to become a foster fam-
22 ily home and the additional services and
23 supports that are available for a child
24 placed in such a home;

1 “(iii) if the State has elected the op-
 2 tion to make guardianship assistance pay-
 3 ments under section 471(a)(28), describes
 4 how the kinship caregiver may enter into
 5 an agreement with the State to receive the
 6 payments;

7 “(iv) describes policies under the
 8 State program funded under this part that
 9 may help kinship caregivers and the rel-
 10 ative children they care for; and

11 “(v) provides direct contact informa-
 12 tion for kinship navigator programs de-
 13 scribed in section 427(a)(1) or other agen-
 14 cies and community organizations that
 15 provide resources and assistance, such as
 16 housing, supplemental nutrition assistance,
 17 health care, and child care.

18 “(B) TIMING OF NOTICE.—The notice re-
 19 quired under subparagraph (A)—

20 “(i) shall be provided to a kinship
 21 caregiver of a minor child at the time that
 22 the kinship caregiver attends an eligibility
 23 interview for assistance (either on the kin-
 24 ship caregiver’s own behalf or on behalf of
 25 the child) under the State program funded

1 under this part (or under a State program
 2 funded with qualified State expenditures
 3 (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))); or

4 “(ii) if the kinship caregiver (or the
 5 minor child) is already receiving assistance
 6 under such a program on the date of en-
 7 actment of this paragraph, shall be sent to
 8 the kinship caregiver as soon as practicable
 9 after such date.

10 “(C) PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO KINSHIP
 11 CAREGIVERS.—A State to which a grant is
 12 made under section 403 shall ensure that the
 13 State agency responsible for administering the
 14 State program funded under this part employs
 15 a resource employee who is trained to provide
 16 guidance to kinship caregivers, including grand-
 17 parents and other relative caregivers, of a
 18 minor child if the child is a recipient of assist-
 19 ance under the program (or under a State pro-
 20 gram funded with qualified State expenditures
 21 (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))), on
 22 legal options regarding custody and guardian-
 23 ship of the child, including explaining to the
 24 kinship caregiver how each legal option cor-
 25 responds to the availability of benefits and serv-

1 ices, and who serves as a liaison with other
2 agencies and community organizations that pro-
3 vide resources and assistance to kinship care-
4 givers.”.

5 (b) INCLUSION IN STATE PLAN.—Section
6 402(a)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(vi) The document shall provide a
9 detailed explanation of how the State in-
10 tends to comply with section 408(a)(13).”.

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