

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2375

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide services for mothers who are considering placing or have placed a child for adoption, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2021

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. MOORE of Utah) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide services for mothers who are considering placing or have placed a child for adoption, 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 “Improving Adoption
5 Outcomes and Affordability Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES FOR**
2 **MOTHERS CONSIDERING ADOPTION.**

3 (a) **SERVICES AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of
4 Health and Human Services acting through the Adminis-
5 tration for Children and Families (in this section referred
6 to as the “Secretary”), either directly or by grant to or
7 contract with eligible entities described in subsection (b),
8 shall provide services described in subsection (c) for moth-
9 ers who are considering placing or have placed a child for
10 adoption.

11 (b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The eligible entities re-
12 ferred to in subsection (a) are States, local governmental
13 entities, and public or private agencies or organizations,
14 including public or private licensed child welfare or adop-
15 tion agencies and faith-based organizations, focused on
16 adoption services or education in health care to promote
17 hospital-based programming.

18 (c) **TYPES OF SERVICES.**—The types of services re-
19 ferred to in subsection (a) are—

20 (1) counseling services for mothers who are
21 considering placing or have placed a child for adop-
22 tion, including—

23 (A) individual and support group coun-
24 seling;

25 (B) mental health counseling;

26 (C) substance abuse counseling; and

1 (D) grief counseling;

2 (2) providing post-adoption or post-placement
3 support services and benefits for mothers, including
4 support groups or retreats, licensed professional
5 counseling, complementary or alternative therapy,
6 and workforce or educational development training,
7 as appropriate; and

8 (3) training of staff at hospitals and other ap-
9 propriate birth care facilities relating to interaction
10 of such staff with families pursuing adoption, includ-
11 ing both expectant mothers and potential adoptive
12 families.

13 (d) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity referred to in
14 subsection (a) that desires to receive a grant or enter into
15 a contract with the Secretary under subsection (a) shall
16 submit an application to the Secretary that describes the
17 manner in which the entity will use funds under the grant
18 or contract during the 3 fiscal years subsequent to the
19 date of the application to accomplish the purposes of this
20 section. Such application shall be submitted in a form and
21 manner determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

22 (e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require each eli-
23 gible entity referred to in subsection (a) that receives a
24 grant or enters into a contract with the Secretary under
25 subsection (a) to submit to the Secretary a report on the

1 services provided or activities carried out by the entity for
2 each fiscal year for which the entity receives amounts
3 under the grant or contract. The report shall contain such
4 information as the Secretary determines is necessary to
5 provide an accurate description of the services provided
6 or activities carried out with such amounts.

7 (f) SERVICES TO SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUP-
8 PLANT.—Services provided under a grant or contract
9 under subsection (a) shall supplement, and not supplant,
10 services provided using any other funds made available for
11 the same general purposes.

12 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
13 PROVISIONS.—The Secretary shall—

14 (1) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
15 ties referred to in subsection (a) that receive a grant
16 or enter into a contract with the Secretary under
17 subsection (a) for purposes of providing the services
18 described in subsection (c);

19 (2) as appropriate, coordinate the provision of
20 services described in subsection (c) with other adop-
21 tion-related research, training, services, and assist-
22 ance activities carried out by the Department of
23 Health and Human Services; and

24 (3) either directly, or by grant to or contract
25 with a public or private agency or organization—

1 (A) evaluate the implementation and effec-
2 tiveness of the provision of services described in
3 subsection (c) and other activities carried out
4 under this section;

5 (B) identify different pre-placement serv-
6 ices provided for mothers, the availability and
7 utilization of such services, and how pre-place-
8 ment services might be improved; and

9 (C) not later than 3 years after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, submit to Con-
11 gress a report that contains the results of the
12 evaluation under subparagraph (A) and the in-
13 formation described in subparagraph (B).

14 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act, there are
16 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
17 and Human Services—

18 (1) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

19 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of
20 fiscal years 2023 through 2026.

21 (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be
22 appropriated by subsection (a) for each of fiscal years
23 2022 through 2026—

1 (1) $\frac{2}{3}$ of such amounts shall be used for serv-
2 ices described in subsection (c) in connection with
3 prenatal care; and

4 (2) $\frac{1}{3}$ of such amounts shall be used for serv-
5 ices described in subsection (c) in connection with
6 post-adoption or post-placement services.

7 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Sec-
8 tions 506 and 507 of division H of the Consolidated Ap-
9 propriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) shall apply
10 with respect to funds made available for any fiscal year
11 to carry out this Act to the same extent and in the same
12 manner as such sections 506 and 507 apply with respect
13 to funds appropriated for fiscal year 2021 to the Depart-
14 ment of Health and Human Services by such division H.

15 (d) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
16 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
17 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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