

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3223

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about sensitivities regarding adoption in the health care industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about sensitivities regarding adoption in the health care industry, 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 “Hospital Adoption
5 Education Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) 24 percent of people of the United States
2 say that they have considered adopting a child.

3 (2) 80 percent of women who consider adoption
4 do so after their sixth month of pregnancy.

5 (3) 81 percent of birth parents report that easy
6 access to objective information is important to them
7 when making the decision to choose adoption.

8 (4) 93 percent of people of the United States
9 consider hospitals and health care facilities to be
10 trustworthy sources of information about adoption.

11 (5) 98.2 percent of nurses have no formal pro-
12 fessional training in the sensitivities around adop-
13 tion.

14 (6) Fewer than 1 percent of women with unin-
15 tended pregnancies place their children through
16 adoption.

17 **SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF ADOPTION**
18 **RESOURCES.**

19 Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
20 and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et
21 seq.) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating section 205 as section 208;

23 (2) by inserting after section 204 the following:

1 **“SEC. 205. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF ADOPT-**
2 **ION RESOURCES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

4 “(1) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF
5 RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall develop and na-
6 tionally disseminate accurate, relevant, and acces-
7 sible resources to promote understanding about—

8 “(A) the sensitivities in the health care in-
9 dustry regarding adoption; and

10 “(B) best practices when interacting with
11 prospective birth mothers and adoptive families.

12 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The resources described
13 in paragraph (1)—

14 “(A) shall include digital resources; and

15 “(B) may include other types of resources,
16 such as print resources.

17 “(b) ONLINE ADOPTION RESOURCES FOR HEALTH
18 CARE WORKERS.—The Secretary shall maintain on the
19 public website of the Administration for Children and
20 Families a web page on adoption resources to improve the
21 awareness and understanding of health care workers re-
22 garding adoption.

23 “(c) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.—

24 “(1) COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall develop
25 the resources under subsections (a) and (b) in con-
26 sultation with a committee of adoption experts.

1 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the
2 committee described in paragraph (1) shall in-
3 clude—

4 “(A) representatives of organizations in-
5 volved in adoption education;

6 “(B) maternal health experts;

7 “(C) child welfare experts;

8 “(D) licensed social workers;

9 “(E) hospital case managers; and

10 “(F) adoption attorneys.

11 **“SEC. 206. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
12 **FOR CARE PROVIDERS REGARDING PATIENT**
13 **CARE FOR PROSPECTIVE BIRTH MOTHERS**
14 **AND POTENTIAL ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
16 the Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Chil-
17 dren and Families, directly or through grants or contracts
18 awarded in accordance with subsection (b), shall—

19 “(1) provide to care providers at hospitals and
20 birthing centers education and professional develop-
21 ment regarding patient care for families pursuing
22 adoption, including prospective birth mothers and
23 potential adoptive families; and

24 “(2) provide consultation services to hospitals
25 and birthing centers employing care providers on

1 standardized policies, guidelines, and procedures re-
2 garding such education and professional development
3 for such providers.

4 “(b) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS.—With respect to a
5 grant or contract awarded for the purposes described in
6 subsection (a), the following shall apply:

7 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for such an
8 award, an entity—

9 “(A) shall—

10 “(i) be a health care-based, nonprofit
11 education organization that focuses on
12 adoption;

13 “(ii) partner with care professionals,
14 hospitals, birthing centers, and community
15 organizations to implement patient-cen-
16 tered care models;

17 “(iii) emphasize holistic parenting
18 support in the perinatal setting; and

19 “(iv) have demonstrated experience
20 providing non-directive education to health
21 care professionals supporting expectant
22 parents considering adoption, parenting,
23 and kinship care;

24 “(B) shall not—

1 “(i) be or represent a child-placing
2 agency;

3 “(ii) provide or refer for abortions; or

4 “(iii) hold any other vested interest in
5 a particular pregnancy outcome; and

6 “(C) shall submit an application to the
7 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
8 containing such information and assurances as
9 the Secretary may require.

10 “(2) PERIOD.—The period of a grant or con-
11 tract awarded under this section shall not exceed 3
12 fiscal years.

13 “(3) REPORTS.—As a condition on receipt of a
14 grant or contract under this section, an eligible enti-
15 ty shall submit to the Secretary, each fiscal year, a
16 report on the activities carried out through the
17 award. Each such report shall include such informa-
18 tion as the Secretary determines is necessary to pro-
19 vide an accurate description of such activities.

20 “(4) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Activities
21 carried out using funds made available through a
22 grant or contract awarded under this section shall
23 supplement, and not supplant, activities carried out
24 by such entity using other funds made available
25 from the Federal Government or other sources.

1 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; COORDINATION.—The
2 Secretary shall—

3 “(1) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
4 ties regarding activities carried out through an
5 award under this section; and

6 “(2) as appropriate, coordinate the provision of
7 education, professional development, and consulta-
8 tion services under subsection (a) with other adop-
9 tion-related research, professional development, serv-
10 ices, and assistance activities carried out by the De-
11 partment of Health and Human Services.

12 “(d) EVALUATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall evalu-
14 ate the implementation and effectiveness of the ac-
15 tivities carried out (directly or through grants or
16 contracts) under this section, including by calcu-
17 lating—

18 “(A) the number of hospitals and birthing
19 centers that implement adoption-sensitive pro-
20 gramming and education and professional devel-
21 opment as a result of the activities under this
22 section; and

23 “(B) the number of care providers who re-
24 ceive adoption education or professional devel-

1 opment as a result of the activities under this
2 section.

3 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3
4 years after the date of enactment of the Hospital
5 Adoption Education Act of 2025, the Secretary shall
6 complete the evaluation under paragraph (1) and
7 submit to Congress a report that contains the re-
8 sults of such evaluation, including the calculations
9 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

10 **“SEC. 207. DEFINITIONS.**

11 “In this title:

12 “(1) The term ‘birth mother’ means a woman
13 who terminates parental rights with respect to her
14 baby and allows for placement of such baby with
15 adoptive parents.

16 “(2) The term ‘care provider’ includes any
17 health care personnel (including bedside staff) and
18 ancillary staff who have contact in a hospital or
19 birthing center with expectant mothers, birth moth-
20 ers, and potential adoptive families.

21 “(3) The term ‘child-placing agency’ means a
22 business or service conducted, maintained, or oper-
23 ated by a person engaged in finding homes for new-
24 born infants by placing, or arranging for the place-

1 ment of, such newborn infants for adoption or foster
2 care.

3 “(4) The term ‘potential adoptive family’ means
4 one or more individuals who are actively seeking to
5 adopt a child.

6 “(5) The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary
7 of Health and Human Services.”;

8 (3) in section 203(d)(3)(A) (42 U.S.C.
9 5113(d)(3)(A)), by striking “section 205(a)” and in-
10 serting “section 208(a)”; and

11 (4) in section 208, as so redesignated—

12 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “this
13 subtitle” and inserting “this title (other than
14 sections 205 and 206)”;

15 (B) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
16 section (d); and

17 (C) by inserting after subsection (b) the
18 following:

19 “(c) The Secretary shall carry out sections 205 and
20 206 using amounts otherwise made available to the Ad-
21 ministration for Children and Families.”.

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