

two experience-driven publications produced by CMF that provide new House Members, Senators, and their staff a detailed outline for setting up and running an effective office. "Keeping it Local" stresses the importance of maintaining a strong presence in district offices and the value of effective constituent outreach and interaction at the local level. These publications are time-tested, indispensable resources that provide our leaders with the appropriate tools they need to overcome the challenges of lawmaking on the national stage.

In the past decade, CMF has adapted its mission to keep up with the rapid introduction of new technology on Capitol Hill. Recently CMF has offered guidance on how to design effective and accessible Web sites, culminating in CMF's Gold Mouse Awards for the best congressional Web sites. CMF has helped Senators significantly improve their online operations, resulting in more transparency and accountability in government. Because of CMF's research and guidance in Web sites and online communications, Americans have a better understanding of the Congress and better access to necessary services.

Finally, I wish to congratulate CMF on focusing on improving the Congress in a nonpartisan way. There are only a few places left in Washington where those of us who are in public service can gather and truly engage in problem solving. I congratulate the Congressional Management Foundation on more than three decades of outstanding work and wish them success in all of their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN J. CLOOBECK

Mr. REID. Mr President, I rise to honor my friend Steve Cloobek of Las Vegas, the chairman of the board for Brand USA. This month, Steve will step down from the board after 2 years of working tirelessly to build Brand USA from the ground up.

Over the past decades, the United States lost valuable tourism dollars as international visitors traveled to other destinations instead of the U.S. In part, the United States lost market share because we failed to promote tourism, while other countries invested in tourism promotion. To encourage tourists to visit the U.S., I worked for the passage of the Travel Promotion Act. This bipartisan legislation established the first-ever United States public-private initiative to promote tourism. The new organization would help attract millions of international visitors by advertising our Nation abroad—all at no cost to the taxpayers.

If this new organization, Brand USA, was going to be successful, it would need a strong leader with a bold vision to promote tourism. Fortunately, we found that leader in Steve Cloobek. From the moment he joined the board, Steve established aggressive timelines

for setting up the new organization. He helped draft the organization's strategic platform and goals, while ensuring that operations continued on schedule.

Steve was also actively engaged in building partnerships with the private sector. Because of his business relationships in the tourism industry, Steve received many large commitments and contributions from companies in Nevada and across the Nation. With a slate of committed partners from Marriott to Best Western to Disney, Brand USA will raise more than \$50 million from the private sector this year alone.

Under the direction of Steve and the board, Brand USA unveiled their new advertising campaign. Featuring a song by Rosanne Cash, these ads showcase America as a "Land of Dreams" where anything is possible. These advertisements, which have been running in nine key international markets, have created a strong brand identity for the United States abroad.

Today, we can already see that Brand USA is making a difference. So far this year, international visitation to the U.S. has increased 12 percent and we are heading for a record-setting year. And most importantly, during these hard economic times, travel promotion is creating new, good-paying jobs as we welcome millions of new visitors to our Nation's world-class cities, national parks, and tourist attractions.

Under Chairman Cloobek's leadership, Brand USA has been a tremendous success for our Nation and the travel industry. His enthusiasm and dedication have ensured that Brand USA is well positioned for the future. I am confident that Brand USA will be a critical asset to American tourism for years to come, and I am proud to join everyone at Brand USA and the travel industry in thanking Steve for his important contributions.

TANF

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated September 4, 2012, and the TANF Information Memorandum dated July 12, 2012.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 4, 2012.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives.

By letter of July 31, 2012, you asked whether an Information Memorandum issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on July 12, 2012 concerning the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program constitutes a rule for the purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The CRA is intended to keep Congress

informed of the rulemaking activities of federal agencies and provides that before a rule can take effect, the agency must submit the rule to each House of Congress and the Comptroller General. For the reasons discussed below, we conclude that the July 12, 2012 Information Memorandum is a rule under the CRA. Therefore, it must be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before taking effect.

BACKGROUND

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides federal funding to states for both traditional welfare cash assistance as well as a variety of other benefits and services to meet the needs of low-income families and children. While states have some flexibility in implementing and administering their state TANF programs, there are numerous federal requirements and guidelines that states must meet. For example, under section 402 of the Social Security Act, in order to be eligible to receive TANF funds, a state must submit to HHS a written plan outlining, among other things, how it will implement various aspects of its TANF program. More specifically, under section 402(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act, the written plan must outline how the state will ensure that TANF recipients engage in work activities. Under section 407 of the Social Security Act, states must also ensure that a specified percentage of their TANF recipients engage in work activities as defined by federal law.

In its July 12 Information Memorandum, HHS notified states of HHS' willingness to exercise its waiver authority under section 1115 of the Social Security Act. Under section 1115, HHS has the authority to waive compliance with the requirements of section 402 in the case of experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects which the Secretary determines are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of TANF. In its Information Memorandum, HHS asserted that it has the authority to waive the requirement in section 402(a)(1)(A)(iii) and authorize states to "test approaches and methods other than those set forth in section 407," including definitions of work activities and the calculation of participation rates. HHS informed states that it would use this waiver authority to allow states to test various strategies, policies, and procedures designed to improve employment outcomes for needy families. The Information Memorandum sets forth requirements that must be met for a waiver request to be considered by HHS, including an evaluation plan, a set of performance measures that states will track to monitor ongoing performance and outcomes, and a budget including the costs of program evaluation. In addition, the Information Memorandum provides that states must seek public input on the proposal prior to approval by HHS.

ANALYSIS

The definition of "rule" in the CRA incorporates by reference the definition of "rule" in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), with some exceptions. Therefore, our analysis of whether the July 12 Information Memorandum is a rule under the CRA involves determining whether it is rule under the APA and whether it falls within any of the exceptions contained in the CRA. The APA defines a rule as follows:

"[T]he whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency and includes the approval or prescription for the future of

rates, wages, corporate or financial structures or reorganizations thereof, prices, facilities, appliances, services or allowances therefor or of valuations, costs, or accounting, or practices bearing on any of the foregoing[.]”

This definition of a rule has been said to include “nearly every statement an agency may make.”

The CRA identifies 3 exceptions from its definition of a rule: (1) any rule of particular applicability; (2) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or (3) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. 5 U.S.C. 804(3).

The definition of a rule under the CRA is very broad. See B-287557, May 14, 2001 (Congress intended that the CRA should be broadly interpreted both as to type and scope of rules covered). The CRA borrows the definition of a rule from 5 U.S.C. §551, as opposed to the more narrow definition of legislative rules requiring notice and comment contained in 5 U.S.C. §553. As a result, agency pronouncements may be rules within the definition of 5 U.S.C. §551, and the CRA, even if they are not subject to notice and comment rulemaking requirements under section 553. See B-316048, April 17, 2008 (the breadth of the term “rule” reaches agency pronouncements beyond those that require notice and comment rulemaking) and B-287557, cited above. In addition to the plain language of the CRA, the legislative history confirms that it is intended to include within its purview almost all rules that an agency issues and not only those rules that must be promulgated according to the notice and comment requirements in section 553 of the APA. In his floor statement during final consideration of the bill, Representative McIntosh, a principal sponsor of the legislation, emphasized this point:

“Although agency interpretive rules, general statements of policy, guideline documents, and agency policy and procedure manuals may not be subject to the notice and comment provisions of section 553(c) of title 5, United States Code, these types of documents are covered under the congressional review provisions of the new chapter 8 of title 5.

Under section 801(a), covered rules, with very few exceptions, may not go into effect until the relevant agency submits a copy of the rule and an accompanying report to both Houses of Congress. Interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and analogous agency policy guidelines are covered without qualification because they meet the definition of a ‘rule’ borrowed from section 551 of title 5, and are not excluded from the definition of a rule.”

On its face, the July 12 Information Memorandum falls within the definition of a rule under the APA definition incorporated into the CRA. First, consistent with our prior decisions, we look to the scope of the agency’s action to determine whether it is a general statement of policy or an interpretation of law of general applicability. That determination does not require a finding that it has general applicability to the population as a whole; instead, all that is required is that it has general applicability within its intended range. See B-287557, cited above (a record of decision affecting the issues of water flow in two rivers was a general statement of policy with general applicability within its intended range). Applying these principles, we have held that a letter released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to state health officials concerning the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was of general applicability because it extended to all states that sought to en-

roll children with family incomes exceeding 250 percent of the federal poverty level in their SCHIP programs, as well as all states that had already enrolled such children. Similarly, the July 12 Information Memorandum is of general, rather than particular, applicability because it extends to all states administering Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs that seek a waiver for a demonstration project.

Next we must determine whether the action is prospective in nature, that is, whether it is concerned with policy considerations for the future and not with the evaluation of past conduct. In B-316048, we held that the SCHIP letter was intended to clarify and explain the manner in which CMS applies statutory and regulatory requirements to states that wanted to extend coverage under the SCHIP programs. Similarly, the July 12 Information Memorandum is concerned with authorizing demonstration projects in the future, rather than the evaluation of past or present demonstration projects. Specifically, the Information Memorandum informs states that HHS will use its statutory authority to consider waiver requests, and sets out requirements that waiver requests must meet. Accordingly, it is designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy.

In addition, the Information Memorandum does not fall within any of the three exclusions for a rule under the CRA. As discussed above, the Information Memorandum applies to all states that administer TANF programs, and therefore is of general applicability, rather than particular applicability. The Information Memorandum applies to the states, and does not relate to agency management or personnel. Finally, the Information Memorandum sets out the criteria by which states may apply for waivers from certain requirements of the TANF program. These criteria affect the obligations of the states, which are non-agency parties.

GAO has consistently emphasized the broad scope of the definition of “rule” in the CRA in determining the applicability of the CRA to an agency document. Other documents deemed to be rules include letters, records of decision, booklets, interim guidance, and memoranda. See, for example, B-316048, April 17, 2008 (a letter released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of HHS concerning a State Children’s Health Insurance Program measure, to ensure that coverage under a state plan does not substitute for coverage under group health plans, described by the agency as a general statement of policy, was a rule) and B-287557, May 14, 2001 (a “record of decision” issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior in connection with a federal irrigation project was a rule).

Finally, the cases where we have found that an agency pronouncement was not a rule involved facts that are clearly distinguishable from the July 12 Information Memorandum.

We requested the views of the General Counsel of HHS on whether the July 12 Information Memorandum is a rule for purposes of the CRA by letter dated August 3, 2012. HHS responded on August 31, 2012, stating that the Information Memorandum was issued as a non-binding guidance document, and that HHS contends that guidance documents do not need to be submitted pursuant to the CRA. Furthermore, HHS notes that it informally notified Congress by providing notice to the Majority and Minority staff members of the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee on the day the Information Memorandum was issued.

We cannot agree with HHS’s conclusion that guidance documents are not rules for the purposes of the CRA and HHS cites no

support for this position. The definition of “rule” is expansive and specifically includes documents that implement or interpret law or policy. This is exactly what the HHS Information Memorandum does. It interprets section 402(a) and section 1115 to permit waivers for a demonstration program HHS is initiating. We have held that agency guidance, including guidance characterized as non-binding, constitutes a rule under the CRA. See B-281575, cited above. In addition, the legislative history of the CRA specifically includes guidance documents as an example of an agency pronouncement subject to the CRA. A joint statement for the record by Senators Nickles, Reid, and Stevens, submitted to the Congressional Record upon enactment of the CRA, details four categories of rules covered by the definition in section 551. These categories include formal rulemaking under sections 556 and 557, notice-and-comment rulemaking under section 553, statements of general policy and interpretations of general applicability under section 552, and “a body of materials that fall within the APA definition of a ‘rule’ . . . but that meet none of procedural specifications of the first three classes. These include guidance documents and the like.” Finally, while HHS may have informally notified the cited Congressional committees of the issuance of the Information Memorandum, informal notification does not meet the reporting requirements of the CRA.

CONCLUSION

We find that the July 12 Information Memorandum issued by HHS is a statement of general applicability and future effect, designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy with regard to TANF. Furthermore, it does not come within any of the exceptions to the definition of rule contained in the CRA. Accordingly, the Information Memorandum is a rule under the Congressional Review Act.

We note that this opinion is limited to the issue of whether the Information Memorandum is a rule under the CRA. We are not expressing an opinion on the applicability of any other legal requirements, including, but not limited to, notice and comment rulemaking requirements under the APA, or whether the Information Memorandum would be a valid exercise or interpretation of statutes or regulations.

Accordingly, given our conclusions above, and in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1), the Information Memorandum is subject to the requirement that it be submitted to both Houses of Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

If you have any questions concerning this opinion, please contact Edda Emmanuelli Perez, Managing Associate General Counsel.

LYNN H. GIBSON,
General Counsel.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Washington, DC.

Transmittal No. TANF-ACF-IM-2012-03, July 12, 2012

To: States administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program and other interested parties

Subject: Guidance concerning waiver and expenditure authority under Section 1115

Reference: Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, [42 U.S.C. 1315]; Section 402 of the Social Security Act, [42 U.S.C. 602]

Background: Section 1115 of the Social Security Act provides authority for the Secretary of the Department of Health and

Human Services (HHS) to consider and approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects which, in the Secretary's judgment, are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of Title IV-A. Section 1115 allows for waiver of compliance with section 402 of the Social Security Act to the extent and for the period necessary to enable a state to carry out an approved project. The statute also provides authority for costs of such projects which would not otherwise be an allowable use of funds under Part A of Title IV to be regarded as an allowable use of funds, to the extent and for the period approved.

As specified in statute, the purpose of Part A is to increase the flexibility of states in operating a program designed to: (1) provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; (2) end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Purpose: HHS is encouraging states to consider new, more effective ways to meet the goals of TANF, particularly helping parents successfully prepare for, find, and retain employment. Therefore, HHS is issuing this information memorandum to notify states of the Secretary's willingness to exercise her waiver authority under section 1115 of the Social Security Act to allow states to test alternative and innovative strategies, policies, and procedures that are designed to improve employment outcomes for needy families.

States led the way on welfare reform in the 1990s—testing new approaches and learning what worked and what did not. The Secretary is interested in using her authority to approve waiver demonstrations to challenge states to engage in a new round of innovation that seeks to find more effective mechanisms for helping families succeed in employment. In providing for these demonstrations, HHS will hold states accountable by requiring both a federally-approved evaluation and interim performance targets that ensure an immediate focus on measurable outcomes. States must develop evaluation plans that are sufficient to evaluate the effect of the proposed approach in furthering a TANF purpose as well as interim targets the state commits to achieve. States that fail to meet interim outcome targets will be required to develop an improvement plan and can face termination of the waiver project.

The demonstration authority provided by section 1115 and sound evaluation of approved projects will provide valuable knowledge that will help lead to improvements in achieving the purposes of the TANF program.

Information: *Scope of Authority.* Section 1115 authorizes waivers concerning section 402. Accordingly, other provisions of the TANF statute are not waivable. For example, the purposes of TANF are not waivable, because they are contained in section 401. The prohibitions on assistance are not waivable, because they are contained in section 408.

While the TANF work participation requirements are contained in section 407, section 402(a)(1)(A)(iii) requires that the state plan "[e]nsure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 407." Thus, HHS has authority to waive compliance with this 402 requirement and authorize a state to test approaches and methods other than those set forth in section 407, including definitions of work activi-

ties and engagement, specified limitations, verification procedures, and the calculation of participation rates. As described below, however, HHS will only consider approving waivers relating to the work participation requirements that make changes intended to lead to more effective means of meeting the work goals of TANF.

Moreover, HHS is committed to ensuring that any demonstration projects approved under this authority will be focused on improving employment outcomes and contributing to the evidence base for effective programs; therefore, terms and conditions will require a federally-approved evaluation plan designed to build our knowledge base. TANF funds may be used to fund an approved evaluation and state funds spent on an approved evaluation may be considered state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) expenditures. In addition, terms and conditions will require either interim targets for each performance measure or a strategy for establishing baseline performance on a set of performance measures and a framework for how interim goals will be set after the baseline measures are established. The terms and conditions will establish consequences for failing to meet interim performance targets including, but not limited to, the implementation of an improvement plan and, if the failure to meet performance targets continues, termination of the waivers and demonstration project.

HHS Priorities. In exercising her broad discretion for waivers, the Secretary is interested in approaches that seek to improve employment outcomes. Accordingly:

Waivers will be granted only for provisions related to section 402.

The purposes of TANF, the prohibitions contained in section 408 (including the time limits on assistance contained in that section), or any other provision of TANF other than those specified in section 402 will not be waived.

The Secretary will not approve a waiver for an initiative that appears substantially likely to reduce access to assistance or employment for needy families.

The Secretary will not use her authority to allow use of TANF funds to provide assistance to individuals or families subject to the TANF prohibitions on assistance.

The Secretary will not waive section 402(a)(5) relating to requirements to provide equitable access to Indians.

Waiver demonstration projects may be conducted in limited geographic areas or statewide. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is interested in more efficient or effective means to promote employment entry, retention, advancement, or access to jobs that offer opportunities for earnings and advancement that will allow participants to avoid dependence on government benefits. The following are examples of projects that states may want to consider—these are illustrative only:

Projects that improve coordination with other components of the workforce investment system, including programs operated under the Workforce Investment Act, or to test an innovative approach to use performance-based contracts and management in order to improve employment outcomes.

Projects that demonstrate attainment of superior employment outcomes if a state is held accountable for negotiated employment outcomes in lieu of participation rate requirements.

Projects under which a state would count individuals in TANF-subsidized jobs but no longer receiving TANF assistance toward participation rates for a specified period of time in conjunction with an evaluation of the effectiveness of a subsidized jobs strategy.

Projects that improve collaboration with the workforce and/or post-secondary edu-

cation systems to test multi-year career pathways models for TANF recipients that combine learning and work.

Projects that demonstrate strategies for more effectively serving individuals with disabilities, along with an alternative approach to measuring participation and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Projects that test the impact of a comprehensive universal engagement system in lieu of certain participation rate requirements.

Projects that test systematically extending the period in which vocational educational training or job search/readiness programs count toward participation rates, either generally or for particular subgroups, such as an extended training period for those pursuing a credential. The purpose of such a waiver would be to determine through evaluation whether a program that allows for longer periods in certain activities improves employment outcomes.

Note that this is not a comprehensive list, and HHS will consider other projects consistent with the statute and the guidance provided in this IM. HHS is especially interested in testing approaches that build on existing evidence on successful strategies for improving employment outcomes.

Waiver requests must include an evaluation plan. In order to provide the strongest evidence about the effectiveness of the demonstration, the preferred evaluation approach is a random assignment methodology, unless the Secretary determines that an alternative approach is more appropriate in light of the demonstration proposed. All evaluation plans and funds to support them must reflect an adequate level of effort and sound methods to produce credible findings. ACF anticipates actively engaging with states to ensure that evaluation plans are appropriate in light of the nature of the demonstration and that the evaluation findings can reasonably be expected to provide information that will enhance understanding of whether the initiative was successful in furthering HHS priorities. ACF staff members are available to work collaboratively with states to develop further or refine the evaluation plan.

Waiver requests must include a set of performance measures that states will track to monitor ongoing performance and outcomes throughout the length of the demonstration project, along with the evaluation. Waiver applications must specify interim targets for each performance measure, including a framework for how often the measures will be reported, or a strategy for establishing baseline performance on a set of performance measures and a framework for how interim goals will be set after the baseline measures are established. Performance measures must be designed to track improvement across the entire set of families targeted as well as appropriate subgroups. In developing the final terms and conditions for an approved waiver, ACF will work with the state to further refine the appropriate performance measures and interim targets as needed. All approved waivers will include a provision that requires timely reporting to HHS on the agreed upon performance measures and progress toward meeting established interim targets. States that fail to meet interim targets will be required to develop improvement plans. Repeated failure to meet performance benchmarks may lead to the termination of the waiver demonstration pilot.

The request must specify the proposed length of time for the demonstration project. The final terms and conditions will specify the approved length of the project. Absent special circumstances, the length of an approved project will not exceed five years.

A state will need to develop and submit a budget that includes the costs of program

evaluation. TANF and state MOE funds can be used for the costs of evaluation, including third party contributions counting toward meeting a state's MOE requirement.

HHS recognizes the importance of public input into the process of developing and implementing a waiver demonstration project. Therefore, the state must provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to provide input into the decision-making process prior to the time a proposal is approved by HHS. Further guidance concerning this requirement will be forthcoming.

Waivers are subject to HHS and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval and terms and conditions may include additional requirements, such as site visits, before implementation.

Terms and conditions will require periodic reporting on how the implementation and operation of the demonstration is progressing, including reporting on the performance measures, in addition to evaluation reports. To support learning and knowledge development, ACF staff may conduct on-site visits to observe demonstration operations and meet with relevant managers and staff.

Inquiries: Inquiries and applications for projects involving waiver requests should be directed to the appropriate Regional TANF Program Manager.

EARL S. JOHNSON,
Director, Office of Family Assistance.

JULY 12, 2012.

DEAR STATE HUMAN SERVICE OFFICIAL: Today, the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance issued an Information Memorandum that informs states that the Department of Health and Human Services will use its statutory authority to consider waiver requests that strengthen the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This Information Memorandum reflects the Department's commitment to provide states, tribes, and territories with more flexibility to innovate in the TANF program with the goal of helping more families find jobs and move toward self-sufficiency.

On February 28, 2011, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum that directed federal agencies "to work closely with state, local, and tribal governments to identify administrative, regulatory, and legislative barriers in Federally funded programs that currently prevent states, localities, and tribes, from efficiently using tax dollars to achieve the best results for their constituents."

The Administration for Children and Families took this charge seriously and held a series of consultation meetings with states, tribes, and territories on a variety of topics including TANF. During those consultations, many jurisdictions expressed a strong interest in greater flexibility in TANF and indicated that greater flexibility could be used by states to improve program effectiveness. We also heard concerns that some TANF rules stifle innovation and focus attention on paperwork rather than helping parents find jobs. States offered a range of suggestions for ways in which expanded flexibility could lead to more effective employment outcomes for families. Two states—Utah and Nevada—submitted written comments that specifically identified waivers as one mechanism for testing new approaches to promoting employment and self-sufficiency, and a number of others states—including California, Connecticut, and Minnesota—have asked about the potential for waivers.

As described in more detail in the Information Memorandum, the Social Security Act provides the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services with the authority to grant states waivers of certain TANF

provisions for the purpose of testing new approaches to meeting the goals of the TANF statute. The Secretary is interested in using her authority to allow states to test alternative and innovative strategies, policies, and procedures that are designed to improve employment outcomes for needy families. The statute does not permit tribes to receive waivers under Section 1115, however we are committed to using the underlying flexibility in federal law to help tribes innovate in their programs.

TANF Waiver demonstration projects under Section 1115 must be accompanied by a high quality evaluation plan, which is critical to ensuring that the pilots result in rigorous evidence about what works and what doesn't in order to inform future decisions made by policymakers at the federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local levels. In addition, states that apply for a waiver must identify interim performance targets that will be used to hold states accountable for improving outcomes for families. We will work with states interested in developing waiver demonstration projects to design these performance measures and targets.

The Information Memorandum outlines the types of waivers that will and will not be considered. The Secretary is only interested in approving waivers if the state can explain in a compelling fashion why the proposed approach may be a more efficient or effective means to promote employment entry, retention, advancement, or access to jobs that offer opportunities for earnings and advancement that will allow participants to avoid dependence on government benefits.

States have shown their ability to innovate in ways that help parents find jobs. In 2009 and 2010, 42 states used the TANF Emergency Fund authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create 260,000 subsidized jobs for jobless parents and disadvantaged youth. Over a short period of time, states exhibited enormous creativity as they developed new subsidized employment initiatives that responded to an urgent need for jobs in communities across the country.

It is critical that we work together to develop effective employment strategies that prepare workers for the jobs of the 21st century. We stand ready to work with states interested in developing innovative demonstration projects that test new approaches to helping parents succeed in the labor market.

Sincerely,

GEORGE SHELDON,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD F. GRIMMETT

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the extraordinary career achievements of Richard F. Grimmert, specialist in international security with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service, who is retiring on September 30, after 38 years of distinguished government service. A native of Akron, OH, Richard graduated with honors from Kent State University, where he also received a Ph.D. in American history with a focus on recent U.S. national security policy.

Since 1974, when he joined CRS, Richard has been involved in a wide range of major international security policy issues that have confronted the Congress, from questions involving intelligence community oversight, war pow-

ers, and the basing and use of U.S. military forces overseas, to the international arms trade and arms export controls. Through his nearly four decades as a staff adviser to the Congress and several of its major committees, his various appearances as a committee witness, and through his authoring of numerous in-depth CRS reports, Richard has become recognized as a national expert in these critical defense and foreign policy issues.

The broad sweep of his intellect is reflected in the substantive reports and memoranda he has written for the Congress. Yet an especially significant part of his contributions to congressional policy debates has been through the numerous consultations and briefings he has provided to major committees of the Senate and House on key issues before them. At the beginning of his career at CRS, Richard provided direct support to major congressional investigations of events of great consequence for U.S. national security interests. Among these were his analytical support for the Senate and House Select Intelligence Committees—the panels chaired by Senator Frank Church and Representative Otis Pike—charged with investigating the activities of the U.S. intelligence community during 1975 to 1976, investigations that ultimately led to the creation of permanent select committees in the House and Senate that oversee the budget and activities of the U.S. intelligence community today. Later, in 1985 to 1987, Richard was a senior coordinator of the support provided by CRS to the House and Senate joint committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair, personally providing advice and suggestions that focused attention on key deficiencies in U.S. law, several of which were later corrected by legislative enactment. Immediately after the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, he directly assisted the Senate and the House in clarifying its understanding of the legislative options available to the Congress to respond, through use of force, against those responsible for the attacks on this country. His comprehensive understanding of the War Powers Resolution and its provisions have proven invaluable to the Congress when it has needed to consider what actions it might take when the President has engaged the U.S. military in hostile operations overseas. In 2005 Richard provided the Congress with an analytical roadmap that highlighted the common policy suggestions for legislation that the 9/11 Commission and previous similar inquiries had made to bolster U.S. internal security against the threat of terrorism. Subsequently, several of these proposals were enacted into law.

Throughout his career Richard has been the leading specialist at CRS on issues relating to U.S. arms sales to foreign nations, U.S. arms export control law, and the international arms trade in general. From the mid-1970s to the present, he has advised the Congress and its policy committees on