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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. COMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, 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 “Stronger Child Abuse
5 Prevention and Treatment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

1 **SEC. 103. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION**
2 **RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.**

3 Section 103 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
4 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “early
6 learning programs and” after “including”;

7 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

8 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the
9 end;

10 (B) in clause (iv), by adding “and” at the
11 end; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(v) the number of child fatalities and
14 near fatalities due to maltreatment, as re-
15 ported by States in accordance with the
16 uniform standards established pursuant to
17 subsection (d), and any other relevant in-
18 formation related to such fatalities;”;

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(d) **UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR TRACKING AND RE-**
21 **PORTING OF CHILD FATALITIES RESULTING FROM MAL-**
22 **TREATMENT.**—

23 “(1) **REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—Not later than
24 24 months after the date of the enactment of the
25 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
26 Act, the Secretary shall develop and issue final regu-

1 lations establishing uniform standards for the track-
2 ing and reporting of child fatalities and near-fatali-
3 ties resulting from maltreatment. As a condition on
4 eligibility for receipt of funds under section 105,
5 106, or 107, the standards established under this
6 paragraph shall be used by States for the tracking
7 and reporting of such fatalities to the national clear-
8 ingshouse established under subsection (a).

9 “(2) MAINTENANCE OF STATE LAW.—Notwith-
10 standing the uniform standards developed under
11 paragraph (1), a State that defines or describes such
12 fatalities for any purpose other than tracking and
13 reporting under this subsection may continue to use
14 that definition or description for such purpose.

15 “(3) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.—In devel-
16 oping regulations under paragraph (1), the Sec-
17 retary shall submit such regulations to a negotiated
18 rulemaking process, which shall include the partici-
19 pants described in paragraph (4).

20 “(4) PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED.—The partici-
21 pants described in this paragraph are—

22 “(A) State and county officials responsible
23 for administering the State plans under this
24 Act and parts B and E of title IV of the Social

1 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et
2 seq.);

3 “(B) child welfare professionals with field
4 experience;

5 “(C) child welfare researchers;

6 “(D) domestic violence researchers;

7 “(E) domestic violence professionals;

8 “(F) child development professionals;

9 “(G) mental health professionals;

10 “(H) emergency medicine physicians;

11 “(I) child abuse pediatricians, as certified
12 by the American Board of Pediatrics, who spe-
13 cialize in treating victims of child abuse;

14 “(J) forensic pathologists;

15 “(K) public health administrators;

16 “(L) public health researchers;

17 “(M) law enforcement;

18 “(N) family court judges;

19 “(O) prosecutors;

20 “(P) medical examiners and coroners;

21 “(Q) a representative from the National
22 Center for Fatality Review and Prevention; and

23 “(R) such other individuals and entities as
24 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

1 **SEC. 104. RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.**

2 Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(1) TOPICS.—The Secretary shall, in consulta-
8 tion with other Federal agencies and recognized ex-
9 perts in the field, carry out a continuing inter-
10 disciplinary program of research, including longitu-
11 dinal research, that is designed to provide informa-
12 tion needed to improve primary prevention of child
13 abuse and neglect, better protect children from child
14 abuse or neglect, and improve the well-being of vic-
15 tims of child abuse or neglect, with at least a portion
16 of such research being field initiated. Such research
17 program may focus on—

18 “(A) disseminating evidence-based treat-
19 ment directed to individuals and families experi-
20 encing trauma due to child abuse and neglect,
21 including efforts to improve the scalability of
22 the treatments and programs being researched;

23 “(B) developing a set of evidence-based ap-
24 proaches to support child and family well-being
25 and developing ways to identify, relieve, and

1 mitigate stressors affecting families in rural,
2 urban, and suburban communities;

3 “(C) establishing methods to promote ra-
4 cial equity in the child welfare system, including
5 a focus on how neglect is defined, how services
6 are provided, and the unique impact on Native
7 American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian
8 communities;

9 “(D) improving service delivery or out-
10 comes for child protective service agencies en-
11 gaged with families experiencing domestic vio-
12 lence, substance use disorder, or other complex
13 needs;

14 “(E) the extent to which the number of
15 unsubstantiated, unfounded, and false reported
16 cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed
17 to the inability of a State to respond effectively
18 to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

19 “(F) the extent to which the lack of ade-
20 quate resources and the lack of adequate pro-
21 fessional development of individuals required by
22 law to report suspected cases of child abuse and
23 neglect have contributed to the inability of a
24 State to respond effectively to serious cases of
25 child abuse and neglect;

1 “(G) the extent to which unsubstantiated
2 reports return as more serious cases of child
3 abuse or neglect;

4 “(H) the incidence and outcomes of child
5 abuse and neglect allegations reported within
6 the context of divorce, custody, or other family
7 court proceedings, and the interaction between
8 family courts and the child protective services
9 system;

10 “(I) the information on the national inci-
11 dence of child abuse and neglect specified in
12 clauses (i) through (xi) of subparagraph (J);
13 and

14 “(J) the national incidence of child abuse
15 and neglect, including—

16 “(i) the extent to which incidents of
17 child abuse and neglect are increasing or
18 decreasing in number and severity;

19 “(ii) the incidence of substantiated
20 and unsubstantiated reported child abuse
21 and neglect cases;

22 “(iii) the number of substantiated
23 cases that result in a judicial finding of
24 child abuse or neglect or related criminal
25 court convictions;

1 “(iv) the extent to which the number
2 of unsubstantiated, unfounded and false
3 reported cases of child abuse or neglect
4 have contributed to the inability of a State
5 to respond effectively to serious cases of
6 child abuse or neglect;

7 “(v) the extent to which the lack of
8 adequate resources and the lack of ade-
9 quate education of individuals required by
10 law to report suspected cases of child
11 abuse and neglect have contributed to the
12 inability of a State to respond effectively to
13 serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

14 “(vi) the number of unsubstantiated,
15 false, or unfounded reports that have re-
16 sulted in a child being placed in substitute
17 care, and the duration of such placement;

18 “(vii) the extent to which unsubstan-
19 tiated reports return as more serious cases
20 of child abuse or neglect;

21 “(viii) the incidence and prevalence of
22 physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and
23 physical and emotional neglect in sub-
24 stitute care;

1 “(ix) the incidence and prevalence of
2 child maltreatment by a wide array of de-
3 mographic characteristics such as age, sex,
4 race, family structure, household relation-
5 ship (including the living arrangement of
6 the resident parent and family size), school
7 enrollment and education attainment, dis-
8 ability, grandparents as caregivers, labor
9 force status, work status in previous year,
10 and income in previous year;

11 “(x) the extent to which reports of
12 suspected or known instances of child
13 abuse or neglect involving a potential com-
14 bination of jurisdictions, such as intra-
15 state, interstate, Federal-State, and State-
16 Tribal, are being screened out solely on the
17 basis of the cross-jurisdictional complica-
18 tions; and

19 “(xi) the incidence and outcomes of
20 child abuse and neglect allegations re-
21 ported within the context of divorce, cus-
22 tody, or other family court proceedings,
23 and the interaction between family courts
24 and the child protective services system.”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “para-
2 graph (1)(O)” and inserting “paragraph
3 (1)(J)”;

4 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years
8 after the date of the enactment of the Stronger
9 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the
10 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Com-
11 mittee on Education and Labor of the House of
12 Representatives and the Committee on Health,
13 Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate a
14 report that contains the results of the research
15 conducted under paragraph (2).

16 “(B) NATIONAL INCIDENCE.—The Sec-
17 retary shall ensure that research conducted,
18 and data collected, under paragraph (1)(J) are
19 reported in a way that will allow longitudinal
20 comparisons as well as comparisons to reports
21 issued on research conducted under section
22 104(a)(1)(O) of this Act, as in effect before the
23 effective date of the Stronger Child Abuse Pre-
24 vention and Treatment Act.”; and

25 (D) by striking the second paragraph (4);

1 (2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph
2 (2) to read as follows:

3 “(2) AREAS OF EMPHASIS; EVALUATION.—Such
4 technical assistance—

5 “(A) shall focus on—

6 “(i) implementing strategies that can
7 leverage existing community-based and
8 State funded resources to prevent child
9 abuse and neglect and providing education
10 for individuals involved in prevention ac-
11 tivities;

12 “(ii) reducing racial bias in child wel-
13 fare systems, including how such systems
14 interact with health, law enforcement, and
15 education systems;

16 “(iii) promoting best practices for
17 families experiencing domestic violence,
18 substance use disorder, or other complex
19 needs; and

20 “(iv) providing professional develop-
21 ment and other technical assistance to
22 child welfare agencies to improve the un-
23 derstanding of and to help address the ef-
24 fects of trauma and adverse childhood ex-

1 periences in parents and children in con-
2 tact with the child welfare system; and

3 “(B) may include an evaluation or identi-
4 fication of—

5 “(i) various methods and procedures
6 for the investigation, assessment, and pros-
7 ecution of child physical and sexual abuse
8 cases;

9 “(ii) ways to mitigate psychological
10 trauma to the child victim;

11 “(iii) effective programs carried out
12 by the States under titles I and II; and

13 “(iv) effective approaches being uti-
14 lized to link child protective service agen-
15 cies with health care, mental health care,
16 and developmental services to improve fo-
17 rensic diagnosis and health evaluations,
18 and barriers and shortages to such link-
19 ages.”;

20 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3);

21 and

22 (4) by striking subsection (e).

1 **SEC. 105. GRANTS TO STATES, INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL**
2 **ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**
3 **AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

4 Section 105 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
8 paragraph (10); and

9 (B) by striking paragraphs (1) through (6)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(1) PREVENTION SERVICES.—The Secretary
12 may award grants under this subsection to entities
13 to establish or expand prevention services that re-
14 duce incidences of child maltreatment and strength-
15 en families.

16 “(2) TRAUMATIC STRESS.—The Secretary may
17 award grants under this subsection to entities to ad-
18 dress instances of traumatic stress in families due to
19 child abuse and neglect, especially for families with
20 complex needs or families that exhibit high levels of
21 adverse childhood experiences.

22 “(3) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The Sec-
23 retary may award grants under this subsection to
24 entities to educate professionals and paraprofes-
25 sionals in prevention, identification, and treatment
26 of child abuse and neglect.

1 “(4) IMPROVING COORDINATION.—The Sec-
2 retary may award grants under this subsection to
3 entities to carry out activities to improve intrastate
4 coordination among child welfare systems. Such ac-
5 tivities may include—

6 “(A) aligning information technology sys-
7 tems;

8 “(B) improving information sharing re-
9 garding child and family referrals; or

10 “(C) creating collaborative voluntary part-
11 nerships among public and private agencies, the
12 State’s child protective services, local social
13 service agencies, community-based family sup-
14 port programs, State and local legal agencies,
15 developmental disability agencies, substance use
16 disorder treatment providers, health care pro-
17 viders and agencies, domestic violence preven-
18 tion programs, mental health services, schools
19 and early learning providers, religious entities,
20 and other community-based programs.

21 “(5) PRIMARY PREVENTION.—The Secretary
22 may award grants under this subsection to entities
23 to carry out or expand primary prevention programs
24 or strategies that address family or community pro-
25 tective factors.

1 “(6) NEGLECT DUE TO ECONOMIC INSECURITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this
2 subsection to entities to carry out programs or strategies that reduce findings of child neglect due in full
3 or in part to family economic insecurity.
4

5 “(7) EDUCATION OF MANDATORY REPORTERS.—The Secretary may award grants under this
6 subsection to entities for projects that involve research-based strategies for innovative education of
7 mandated child abuse and neglect reporters, and for
8 victims to understand mandatory reporting.
9

10 “(8) SENTINEL INJURIES.—The Secretary may
11 award grants under this subsection to entities to
12 identify and test effective practices to improve early
13 detection and management of injuries indicative of
14 potential abuse in infants to prevent future cases of
15 child abuse and related fatalities.
16

17 “(9) INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to
18 entities to carry out innovative programs or strategies to coordinate the delivery of services to help
19 reduce child abuse and neglect via partnerships among
20 health, mental health, education (including early
21 learning and care programs as appropriate), and
22 child welfare agencies and providers.”; and
23
24
25

1 (2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(b) GOALS AND PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that each entity receiving a grant under this
5 section—

6 “(1) establishes quantifiable goals for the out-
7 come of the project funded with the grant; and

8 “(2) adequately measures the performance of
9 the project relative to such goals.

10 “(c) PERFORMANCE REPORT REQUIRED.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a
12 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
13 retary a performance report that includes—

14 “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
15 the project funded with the grant relative to the
16 goals established for such project under sub-
17 section (b)(1); and

18 “(B) data supporting such evaluation.

19 “(2) SUBMISSION.—The report under para-
20 graph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary at
21 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
22 formation as the Secretary may require.

23 “(d) CONTINUING GRANTS.—The Secretary may only
24 award a continuing grant to an entity under this section
25 if such entity submits a performance report required

1 under subsection (c) that demonstrates effectiveness of the
2 project funded.”.

3 **SEC. 106. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NE-**
4 **GLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PRO-**
5 **GRAMS.**

6 (a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—Sub-
7 section (a) of section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention
8 and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 “(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—The
11 Secretary shall make grants to the States, from allotments
12 under subsection (f) for each State that applies for a grant
13 under this section, for purposes of assisting the States in
14 improving and implementing a child protective services
15 system that is family-centered, integrates community serv-
16 ices, and is capable of providing rapid response to high-
17 risk cases, by carrying out the following:

18 “(1) Conducting the intake, assessment, screen-
19 ing, and investigation of reports of child abuse or
20 neglect.

21 “(2) Ensuring that reports concerning a child’s
22 living arrangements or subsistence needs are ad-
23 dressed through services or benefits and that no
24 child is separated from such child’s parent for rea-
25 sons of poverty.

1 “(3) Creating and improving the use of multi-
2 disciplinary teams and interagency, intra-agency,
3 interstate, and intrastate protocols to enhance fair
4 investigations; and improving legal preparation and
5 representation.

6 “(4) Complying with the assurances in section
7 106(b)(2).

8 “(5) Establishing State and local networks of
9 child and family service providers that support child
10 and family well-being, which shall—

11 “(A) include agencies, including child pro-
12 tective services, and service providers, that ad-
13 dress family-strengthening, parenting skills,
14 child development, early childhood care and
15 learning, child advocacy, public health, mental
16 health, substance use disorder treatment, do-
17 mestic violence, developmental disabilities, juve-
18 nile justice, elementary and secondary edu-
19 cation, and child placement; and

20 “(B) address instances of child abuse and
21 neglect by incorporating evaluations that assess
22 the development of a child, including commu-
23 nication, social, and emotional skills, mental
24 health services, trauma-related services, trau-
25 ma-informed care, and parental needs.

1 “(6) Ensuring child protective services is ad-
2 dressing the safety of children and responding to
3 parent and family needs, which shall include—

4 “(A) family-oriented efforts that emphasize
5 case assessment and follow up casework focused
6 on child safety and child and parent well-being,
7 which may include—

8 “(i) ensuring parents and children un-
9 dergo physical and mental health assess-
10 ments, as appropriate, and ongoing devel-
11 opmental monitoring;

12 “(ii) multidisciplinary approaches to
13 assessing family needs and connecting the
14 family with services, including prevention
15 services under section 471 of the Social Se-
16 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 671);

17 “(iii) organizing a treatment team
18 with the goal of preventing child abuse and
19 neglect, and improving parent and child
20 well-being;

21 “(iv) case monitoring that observes
22 child well-being; and

23 “(v) differential response efforts; and

24 “(B) establishing and maintaining a rapid
25 response system that responds promptly to all

1 reports of child abuse or neglect, with special
2 attention to cases involving children under 3
3 years of age.

4 “(7) Educating caseworkers, community service
5 providers, attorneys, parents, and others engaged in
6 the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child
7 abuse and neglect, which shall include education
8 on—

9 “(A) practices that help ensure child safe-
10 ty;

11 “(B) approaches to family-oriented preven-
12 tion, intervention, and treatment of child abuse
13 and neglect;

14 “(C) early childhood, child, and adolescent
15 development, and the impact of adverse child-
16 hood experiences on such development;

17 “(D) the relationship between child abuse
18 and domestic violence, and support for non-
19 abusing parents;

20 “(E) strategies to work with families im-
21 pacted by substance use disorder and mental
22 health issues (and, when appropriate, be coordi-
23 nated with prevention efforts funded under sec-
24 tion 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
25 671));

1 “(F) effective use of multiple services to
2 address family and child needs, including needs
3 resulting from trauma;

4 “(G) efforts to improve family and child
5 well-being;

6 “(H) support for child welfare workers af-
7 fected by secondary trauma; and

8 “(I) supporting families and caregivers to
9 combat and prevent unsubstantiated, un-
10 founded, or false reports, including through
11 education on the rights of families and care-
12 givers.

13 “(8) Creating or improving data systems that
14 can be shared with law enforcement and allow for—

15 “(A) the identification of cases requiring
16 prompt responses; and

17 “(B) real-time case monitoring that tracks
18 assessments, service referrals, follow-up, case
19 reviews, and progress toward parent and child
20 goals.

21 “(9) Improving the general child protective sys-
22 tem by developing, improving, and implementing
23 safety assessment tools, providing that such tools,
24 protocols and systems shall not authorize the separa-
25 tion of any child from the legal parent or guardian

1 of such child without a judicial order, except in the
2 case of imminent harm.”.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) STATE PLAN.—Paragraph (1) of section
5 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
6 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 “(1) STATE PLAN.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
10 ceive a grant under this section, a State shall
11 submit to the Secretary a State plan that—

12 “(i) specifies how the grant will be
13 used, and the State’s strategic plan, to
14 treat child abuse and neglect and enhance
15 community-based, prevention-centered ap-
16 proaches that attempt to prevent child
17 abuse and neglect while strengthening and
18 supporting families whenever possible;

19 “(ii) meets the requirements of this
20 subsection.

21 “(B) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-
22 TION.—

23 “(i) COORDINATION.—Each State, to
24 the maximum extent practicable, shall co-
25 ordinate its State plan under this sub-

1 section with its State plan under part B of
2 title IV of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) relating to child wel-
4 fare services and family prevention services
5 under part E of title IV of the Social Secu-
6 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.).

7 “(ii) CONSULTATION.—In developing
8 a State plan under this subsection, a State
9 shall consult with community-based pre-
10 vention and service agencies, parents and
11 families affected by child abuse or neglect
12 in the State, law enforcement, including
13 family court judges and prosecutors, and
14 medical professionals engaged in the treat-
15 ment of child abuse and neglect.

16 “(C) DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF
17 PLAN.—Each State plan shall—

18 “(i) be submitted not less than every
19 5 years; and

20 “(ii) if necessary, revised by the State
21 to inform the Secretary of any substantive
22 changes, including—

23 “(I) any changes to State law or
24 regulations, relating to the prevention
25 of child abuse and neglect that may

1 affect the eligibility of the State under
2 this section; or

3 “(II) any changes in the State’s
4 activities, strategies, or programs
5 under this section.”.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section
7 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
8 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 “(2) CONTENTS.—A State plan submitted
11 under paragraph (1) shall contain a description of
12 the activities that the State will carry out using
13 amounts received under the grant to achieve the ob-
14 jectives of this title, including—

15 “(A) an assurance in the form of a certifi-
16 cation by the Governor of the State that the
17 State has in effect and is enforcing a State law,
18 or has in effect and is operating a statewide
19 program, relating to child abuse and neglect
20 that includes—

21 “(i) provisions or procedures for an
22 individual to report known and suspected
23 instances of child abuse and neglect, in-
24 cluding a State law for mandatory report-

1 “(II) Federal, State, or local gov-
2 ernment entities, or any agent of such
3 entities, as described in clause (xi) of
4 this subparagraph;

5 “(III) child abuse citizen review
6 panels;

7 “(IV) child fatality review panels;

8 “(V) a grand jury or court, upon
9 a finding that information in the
10 record is necessary for the determina-
11 tion of an issue before the court or
12 grand jury; and

13 “(VI) other entities or classes of
14 individuals statutorily authorized by
15 the State to receive such information
16 pursuant to a legitimate State pur-
17 pose;

18 “(v) provisions and procedures requir-
19 ing that in every case involving a victim of
20 child abuse or neglect which results in a
21 judicial proceeding, a guardian ad litem,
22 who has received education appropriate to
23 the role, including education in early child-
24 hood, child, and adolescent development,
25 and domestic violence, and who may be an

1 attorney or a court appointed special advo-
2 cate who has received education appro-
3 priate to that role (or both), shall be ap-
4 pointed to represent the child (who, for
5 purposes of this section, shall have any age
6 limit elected by the State pursuant to sec-
7 tion 475(8)(B)(iii) of the Social Security
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)(B)(iii)) in such pro-
9 ceedings—

10 “(I) to obtain first-hand, a clear
11 understanding of the situation and
12 needs of such child; and

13 “(II) to make recommendations
14 to the court concerning the best inter-
15 ests of such child;

16 “(vi) the establishment of citizen re-
17 view panels in accordance with subsection
18 (c);

19 “(vii) provisions and procedures to re-
20 quire that a representative of the child pro-
21 tective services agency shall, at the initial
22 time of contact with the individual subject
23 to a child abuse or neglect investigation,
24 advise the individual of the complaints or
25 allegations made against the individual, in

1 a manner that is consistent with laws pro-
2 tecting the rights of the informant;

3 “(viii) provisions, procedures, and
4 mechanisms—

5 “(I) for the expedited termi-
6 nation of parental rights in the case
7 of any infant determined to be aban-
8 doned under State law; and

9 “(II) by which individuals who
10 disagree with an official finding of
11 child abuse or neglect can appeal such
12 finding;

13 “(ix) provisions addressing the profes-
14 sional development of representatives of
15 the child protective services system regard-
16 ing the legal duties of the representatives,
17 which may consist of various methods of
18 informing such representatives of such du-
19 ties (including providing such education in
20 different languages if necessary), in order
21 to protect the legal rights and safety of
22 children and their parents and caregivers
23 from the initial time of contact during in-
24 vestigation through treatment;

1 “(x) provisions for immunity from
2 civil or criminal liability under State and
3 local laws and regulations for individuals
4 making good faith reports of suspected or
5 known instances of child abuse or neglect,
6 or who otherwise provide information or
7 assistance, including medical evaluations or
8 consultations, in connection with a report,
9 investigation, or legal intervention pursu-
10 ant to a good faith report of child abuse or
11 neglect;

12 “(xi) provisions to require the State to
13 disclose confidential information to any
14 Federal, State, or local government entity,
15 or any agent of such entity, that has a
16 need for such information in order to carry
17 out its responsibilities under law to protect
18 children from child abuse and neglect;

19 “(xii) provisions requiring, and proce-
20 dures in place that facilitate the prompt
21 expungement of any records that are ac-
22 cessible to the general public or are used
23 for purposes of employment or other back-
24 ground checks in cases determined to be
25 unsubstantiated or false, except that noth-

1 ing in this section shall prevent State child
2 protective services agencies from keeping
3 information on unsubstantiated reports in
4 their casework files to assist in future risk
5 and safety assessment;

6 “(xiii) provisions and procedures for
7 requiring criminal background record
8 checks that meet the requirements of sec-
9 tion 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)) for prospective fos-
11 ter and adoptive parents and other adult
12 relatives and non- relatives residing in the
13 household;

14 “(xiv) provisions for systems of tech-
15 nology that support the State child protec-
16 tive services system and track reports of
17 child abuse and neglect from intake
18 through final disposition;

19 “(xv) provisions and procedures re-
20 quiring identification and assessment of all
21 reports involving children known or sus-
22 pected to be victims of sex trafficking (as
23 defined in section 103(12) of the Traf-
24 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22
25 U.S.C. 7102 (12));

1 “(xvi) provisions, procedures, and
2 mechanisms that assure that the State
3 does not require reunification of a sur-
4 viving child with a parent who has been
5 found by a court of competent jurisdic-
6 tion—

7 “(I) to have committed murder
8 (which would have been an offense
9 under section 1111(a) of title 18,
10 United States Code, if the offense had
11 occurred in the special maritime or
12 territorial jurisdiction of the United
13 States) of another child of such par-
14 ent;

15 “(II) to have committed vol-
16 untary manslaughter (which would
17 have been an offense under section
18 1112(a) of title 18, United States
19 Code, if the offense had occurred in
20 the special maritime or territorial ju-
21 risdiction of the United States) of an-
22 other child of such parent;

23 “(III) to have aided or abetted,
24 attempted, conspired, or solicited to

1 commit such murder or voluntary
2 manslaughter;

3 “ (IV) to have committed a felony
4 assault that results in the serious bod-
5 ily injury to the surviving child or an-
6 other child of such parent;

7 “ (V) to have committed sexual
8 abuse against the surviving child or
9 another child of such parent; or

10 “ (VI) to be required to register
11 with a sex offender registry under sec-
12 tion 113(a) of the Adam Walsh Child
13 Protection and Safety Act of 2006
14 (42 U.S.C. 16913(a)); and

15 “ (xvii) an assurance that, upon the
16 implementation by the State of the provi-
17 sions, procedures, and mechanisms under
18 clause (xvi), conviction of any one of the
19 felonies listed in clause (xvi) constitute
20 grounds under State law for the termi-
21 nation of parental rights of the convicted
22 parent as to the surviving children (al-
23 though case-by-case determinations of
24 whether or not to seek termination of pa-

1 rental rights shall be within the sole discre-
2 tion of the State);

3 “(B) an assurance that the State has in
4 place procedures for responding to the reporting
5 of medical neglect (including instances of with-
6 holding of medically indicated treatment from
7 infants with disabilities who have life-threat-
8 ening conditions), procedures or programs, or
9 both (within the State child protective services
10 system), to provide for—

11 “(i) coordination and consultation
12 with individuals designated by and within
13 appropriate health-care facilities;

14 “(ii) prompt notification by individ-
15 uals designated by and within appropriate
16 health-care facilities of cases of suspected
17 medical neglect (including instances of
18 withholding of medically indicated treat-
19 ment from infants with disabilities who
20 have life-threatening conditions); and

21 “(iii) authority, under State law, for
22 the State child protective services system
23 to pursue any legal remedies, including the
24 authority to initiate legal proceedings in a
25 court of competent jurisdiction, as may be

1 necessary to prevent the withholding of
2 medically indicated treatment from infants
3 with disabilities who have life-threatening
4 conditions;

5 “(C) an assurance or certification that pro-
6 grams and education conducted under this title
7 address the unique needs of unaccompanied
8 homeless youth, including access to enrollment
9 and support services and that such youth are
10 eligible for under parts B and E of title IV of
11 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.,
12 670 et seq.) and meet the requirements of the
13 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
14 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.);

15 “(D) a description of—

16 “(i) policies and procedures (including
17 appropriate referrals to child protective
18 service systems and for other appropriate
19 services (including home visiting services
20 and mutual support and parent partner
21 programs)) to address the needs of infants
22 born with and identified as being affected
23 by substance use disorder or withdrawal
24 symptoms resulting from prenatal drug ex-
25 posure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Dis-

1 order, including a requirement that health
2 care providers involved in the delivery or
3 care of such infants notify the child protec-
4 tive services system of the occurrence of
5 such condition in such infants, except that
6 such notification shall not be construed
7 to—

8 “(I) establish a definition under
9 Federal law of what constitutes child
10 abuse or neglect; or

11 “(II) require prosecution for any
12 illegal action;

13 “(ii) the development of a plan of safe
14 care for the infant born and identified as
15 being affected by substance use disorder or
16 withdrawal symptoms, or a Fetal Alcohol
17 Spectrum Disorder to ensure the safety
18 and well-being of such infant following re-
19 lease from the care of health care pro-
20 viders, including through—

21 “(I) addressing the health and
22 substance use disorder treatment
23 needs of the infant and affected fam-
24 ily or caregiver; and

1 “(II) the development and imple-
2 mentation by the State of monitoring
3 systems regarding the implementation
4 of such plans to determine whether
5 and in what manner local entities are
6 providing, in accordance with State
7 requirements, referrals to and delivery
8 of appropriate services for the infant
9 and affected family or caregiver;

10 “(iii) policies and procedures to make
11 available to the public on the State website
12 the findings and information about the
13 case of child abuse or neglect which has re-
14 sulted in a child fatality or near fatality,
15 including a description of—

16 “(I) how the State will not create
17 an exception to such public disclosure,
18 except in a case in which—

19 “(aa) the State would like to
20 delay public release of such find-
21 ings or information (including
22 any previous reports of domestic
23 violence and subsequent actions
24 taken to assess and address such
25 reports) while a criminal inves-

1 tigation or prosecution of such a
2 fatality or near fatality is pend-
3 ing;

4 “ (bb) the State is protecting
5 the identity of a reporter of child
6 abuse or neglect; or

7 “ (cc) the State is with-
8 holding identifying information of
9 members of the victim’s family
10 who are not perpetrators of the
11 fatality or near fatality; and

12 “ (II) how the State will ensure
13 that in providing the public disclosure
14 required under this clause, the State
15 will include—

16 “ (aa) the cause and cir-
17 cumstances of the fatality or near
18 fatality;

19 “ (bb) the age and gender of
20 the child; and

21 “ (cc) any previous reports or
22 child abuse or neglect investiga-
23 tions that are relevant to the
24 child abuse or neglect that led to
25 the fatality or near fatality;

1 “(iv) how the State will use data col-
2 lected on child abuse or neglect to prevent
3 child fatalities and near fatalities;

4 “(v) how the State will implement ef-
5 forts to prevent child fatalities and near
6 fatalities;

7 “(vi) the cooperation of State law en-
8 forcement officials, court of competent ju-
9 risdiction, and appropriate State agencies
10 providing human services in the investiga-
11 tion, assessment, prosecution, and treat-
12 ment of child abuse and neglect;

13 “(vii) the steps the State will take to
14 improve the education, retention, and su-
15 pervision of caseworkers and how the State
16 will measure the effectiveness of such ef-
17 forts;

18 “(viii) the State’s plan to ensure each
19 child under the age of 3 who is involved in
20 a substantiated case of child abuse or ne-
21 glect will be referred to the State’s child
22 find system under section 635(a)(5) of the
23 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
24 (20 U.S.C. 1435(a)(5)) in order to deter-
25 mine if the child is an infant or toddler

1 with a disability (as defined in section
2 632(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1432(5)));

3 “(ix) the State’s plan to improve, as
4 part of a comprehensive State strategy, the
5 professional development for child protec-
6 tive services workers in identifying, assess-
7 ing, and providing comprehensive services
8 for children who are sex trafficking vic-
9 tims, including the role of child protective
10 services, law enforcement, juvenile justice
11 agencies, and social service agencies, such
12 as runaway and homeless youth shelters;

13 “(x) the services to be provided under
14 the grant to individuals, families, or com-
15 munities, either directly or through refer-
16 rals, aimed at preventing the occurrence of
17 child abuse and neglect;

18 “(xi) the State’s efforts to ensure pro-
19 fessionals who are required to report sus-
20 pected cases of child abuse and neglect are
21 aware of their responsibilities under sub-
22 paragraph (A)(i) and receive professional
23 development relating to performing such
24 responsibilities that is specific to their pro-
25 fession and workplace;

1 “(xii) policies and procedures encour-
2 aging the appropriate involvement of fami-
3 lies in decisionmaking pertaining to chil-
4 dren who experienced child abuse or ne-
5 glect;

6 “(xiii) the State’s efforts to improve
7 appropriate collaboration among child pro-
8 tective services agencies, domestic violence
9 services agencies, substance use disorder
10 treatment agencies, and other agencies in
11 investigations, interventions, and the deliv-
12 ery of services and treatment provided to
13 children and families affected by child
14 abuse or neglect, including children ex-
15 posed to domestic violence, where appro-
16 priate;

17 “(xiv) policies and procedures regard-
18 ing the use of differential response, as ap-
19 plicable, to improve outcomes for children;
20 and

21 “(xv) the State’s efforts to reduce ra-
22 cial bias in its child protective services sys-
23 tem.”.

1 (3) LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section
2 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
3 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

4 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
5 “Limitation” and inserting “Limitations”;

6 (B) by striking “With regard to clauses
7 (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (2)(B),” and insert-
8 ing the following:

9 “(A) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN IDENTI-
10 FYING INFORMATION.—With regard to subpara-
11 graphs (A)(iii) and (D)(iii) of paragraph (2),”;

12 (C) by striking the period at the end and
13 inserting “; and”; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PRO-
16 CEEDINGS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be
17 construed to limit the State’s flexibility to de-
18 termine State policies relating to public access
19 to court proceedings to determine child abuse
20 and neglect, except that such policies shall, at
21 a minimum, ensure the safety and well-being of
22 the child, parents, and families.”.

23 (4) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section
24 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
25 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

1 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
2 “Definitions” and inserting “Definition”;

3 (B) by striking “this subsection” and all
4 that follows through “means an act” and in-
5 serting the following: “this subsection, the term
6 ‘near fatality’ means an act”;

7 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
8 riod; and

9 (D) by striking subparagraph (B).

10 (c) CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS.—Section 106(c) of the
11 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
12 5106a(c)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “EXCEP-
14 TIONS.” and all that follows through “A State may”
15 and inserting “EXCEPTION.—A State may”;

16 (2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “and where
17 appropriate, specific cases,”; and

18 (3) by amending the first sentence of paragraph
19 (6) to read as follows: “Each panel established
20 under paragraph (1) shall prepare and make avail-
21 able to the State and the public, on an annual basis,
22 a report containing a summary of the activities of
23 the panel, the criteria used for determining which
24 activities the panel engaged in, and recommenda-
25 tions or observations to improve the child protective

1 services system at the State and local levels, and the
2 data upon which these recommendations or observa-
3 tions are based.”.

4 (d) ANNUAL STATE DATA REPORTS.—Section
5 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended—

7 (1) by amending paragraph (13) to read as fol-
8 lows:

9 “(13) The annual report containing the sum-
10 mary of the activities and recommendations of the
11 citizen review panels of the State required by sub-
12 section (c)(6), and the actions taken by the State as
13 a result of such recommendations.”;

14 (2) in paragraph (15), by striking “subsection
15 (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection
16 (b)(2)(D)(i)”;

17 (3) in paragraph (16), by striking “subsection
18 (b)(2)(B)(xxi)” and inserting “subsection
19 (b)(2)(D)(viii)”;

20 (4) in paragraph (17), by striking “subsection
21 (b)(2)(B)(xxiv)” and inserting “subsection
22 (b)(2)(D)(xv)”;

23 (5) in paragraph (18)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
2 section (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection
3 (b)(2)(D)(i)”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sub-
5 section (b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “subsection
6 (b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

7 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “sub-
8 section (b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “subsection
9 (b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

10 (6) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(19) The number of child fatalities and near
12 fatalities from maltreatment and related information
13 in accordance with the uniform standards estab-
14 lished under section 103(d).”.

15 (e) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 106(f) of the Child Abuse
16 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(f)) is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(6) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for
19 which the amount allotted to a State or territory
20 under this subsection exceeds the amount allotted to
21 the State or territory under such subsection for fis-
22 cal year 2019, the State or territory may use not
23 more than 2 percent of such excess amount for ad-
24 ministrative expenses.”.

1 **SEC. 107. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.**

2 Section 108 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106d) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (e)
5 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(c) PROTECTING AGAINST SYSTEMIC CHILD SEX-
9 UAL ABUSE.—

10 “(1) REPORTING AND TASK FORCE.—Not later
11 than 24 months after the date of the enactment of
12 the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
13 Act, each State task force established under section
14 107(c) and expanded as described in paragraph (2)
15 shall study and make recommendations on the fol-
16 lowing, with a focus on preventing systemic child
17 sexual abuse:

18 “(A) How to detect systemic child sexual
19 abuse that occurs in an organization.

20 “(B) How to prevent child sexual abuse
21 and systemic child sexual abuse from occurring
22 in organizations, which shall include rec-
23 ommendations to improve—

24 “(i) practices and policies for the edu-
25 cation of parents, caregivers, and victims,
26 and age appropriate education of children,

1 about risk factors or signs of potential
2 child sexual abuse; and

3 “(ii) the efficacy of applicable State
4 laws and the role such laws play in deter-
5 ring or preventing incidences of child sex-
6 ual abuse.

7 “(C) The feasibility of making available
8 the disposition of a perpetrator within an orga-
9 nization to—

10 “(i) the child alleging sexual abuse or
11 the child’s family; or

12 “(ii) an adult who was a child at the
13 time of the sexual abuse claim in question
14 or the adult’s family.

15 “(2) TASK FORCE COMPOSITION.—For purposes
16 of this subsection, a State task force shall include—

17 “(A) the members of the State task force
18 described in section 107(c) for the State; and

19 “(B) the following:

20 “(i) Family court judges.

21 “(ii) Individuals from religious organi-
22 zations.

23 “(iii) Individuals from organized
24 youth athletics.

1 “(3) REPORTING ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not
2 later than 6 months after a State task force makes
3 recommendations under paragraph (1), the State
4 maintaining such State task force shall—

5 “(A) make public the recommendations of
6 such report;

7 “(B) report to the Secretary on the status
8 of adopting such recommendations; and

9 “(C) in a case in which the State declines
10 to adopt a particular recommendation, make
11 public the explanation for such declination.

12 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
13 section—

14 “(A) the terms ‘child sexual abuse’ and
15 ‘sexual abuse’ shall not be limited to an act or
16 a failure to act on the part of a parent or care-
17 taker;

18 “(B) the term ‘organization’ means any
19 entity that serves children; and

20 “(C) the term ‘systemic child sexual abuse’
21 means—

22 “(i) a pattern of informal or formal
23 policy or de facto policy to not follow State
24 and local requirements to report instances
25 of child sexual abuse in violation of State

1 and local mandatory reporting laws or pol-
2 icy; or

3 “(ii) a pattern of assisting individual
4 perpetrators in maintaining their careers
5 despite substantiated evidence of child sex-
6 ual abuse.”.

7 **SEC. 108. REPORTS.**

8 Section 110 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
9 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106f) is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **“SEC. 110. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO SCALING EVI-
12 DENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE
13 AND NEGLECT.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
15 study that examines challenges to, and best practices for,
16 the scalability of treatments that reduce the trauma re-
17 sulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk
18 of revictimization, such as those allowable under sections
19 105 and 106.

20 “(b) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study described in
21 subsection (a) shall be completed in a manner that con-
22 sideres the variability among treatment programs and
23 among populations vulnerable to child abuse and neglect.
24 The study shall include, at minimum:

1 “(1) A detailed synthesis of the existing re-
2 search literature examining barriers and challenges
3 to, and best practices for the scalability of child wel-
4 fare programs and services as well as programs and
5 services for vulnerable children and families in re-
6 lated fields, including healthcare and education.

7 “(2) Data describing state and local providers’
8 experiences with scaling treatments that reduce the
9 trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and
10 reduce the risk of revictimization.

11 “(3) Consultation with experts in child welfare,
12 healthcare, and education.

13 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
14 of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention
15 and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the
16 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
17 the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor
18 of the House of Representatives a report that contains the
19 results of the study conducted under subsection (a), in-
20 cluding recommendations for best practices for scaling
21 treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child
22 abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.”.

1 **SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.—Section 112(a) of
3 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5106h(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “to carry out” through
7 “fiscal year 2010” and inserting “to carry out
8 this title \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2020”;
9 and

10 (B) by striking “2011 through 2015” and
11 inserting “2021 through 2025”; and

12 (2) by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting
13 the following:

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts ap-
15 propriated for a fiscal year under paragraph
16 (1), the Secretary shall make available 30 per-
17 cent of such amounts, or \$100,000,000, which-
18 ever is less, to fund discretionary activities
19 under this title.”.

20 **SEC. 110. NATIONAL ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EX-**
21 **CHANGE SYSTEM.**

22 (a) INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services shall establish a national electronic
25 interstate data exchange system that allows State
26 entities responsible under State law for maintaining

1 child abuse and neglect registries to communicate in-
2 formation across State lines.

3 (2) STANDARDS.—In establishing the national
4 electronic interstate data exchange system under
5 paragraph (1), the Secretary—

6 (A) shall use interoperable standards devel-
7 oped and maintained by intergovernmental
8 partnerships, such as the National Information
9 Exchange Model;

10 (B) shall develop data sharing policies and
11 governance standards that ensure consistency in
12 types of information shared and specify cir-
13 cumstances under which data should be shared;
14 and

15 (C) shall ensure that all standards and
16 policies adhere to the privacy, security, and civil
17 rights laws of each State.

18 (3) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 2 years
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary of Health and Human Services shall carry out
21 and complete a pilot program to determine the best
22 practices for developing the standards and policies
23 required under paragraph (2) prior to the integra-
24 tion of the national electronic interstate data ex-
25 change system in all States. Such pilot program

1 shall include not less than 10 States and not more
2 than 15 States.

3 (4) INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of Health
4 and Human Services may assist States in the inte-
5 gration of this system into the infrastructure of each
6 State using funds appropriated under this sub-
7 section.

8 (5) PARTICIPATION.—As a condition on eligi-
9 bility for receipt of funds under section 105, 106, or
10 107 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 5106, 5106a, 5106e), each State
12 shall participate in to the national electronic inter-
13 state data exchange system to the fullest extent pos-
14 sible (as determined by the Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services) not later than December 31, 2027.

16 (6) REPORT.—Not later than January 31,
17 2025, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
18 shall prepare and submit to the Committee on
19 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
20 ate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of
21 the House of Representatives, a report on the
22 progress made in implementing this subsection.

23 (7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of
24 the funds appropriated under section 112 for any

1 fiscal year, \$1,333,000 shall be reserved to carry out
2 this subsection.

3 (b) WORKING GROUP.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.— Not later than 2 years after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
6 of Health and Human Services shall convene a
7 working group to study and make recommendations
8 on the following:

9 (A) The feasibility of making publicly
10 available on the website of each State defini-
11 tions and standards of substantiated child
12 abuse and neglect for the State.

13 (B) Whether requirements under the Child
14 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42
15 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.), the Child Care and Devel-
16 opment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
17 9858 et seq.), and part E of title IV of the So-
18 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) are
19 complementary or if there are discrepancies
20 that need to be addressed.

21 (C) How to improve communication be-
22 tween and across States, including through the
23 use of technology and the use of the national
24 electronic interstate data exchange system es-
25 tablished under subsection (a), to allow for

1 more accurate and efficient exchange of child
2 abuse and neglect records.

3 (D) How to reduce barriers and establish
4 best practices for the State to provide timely re-
5 sponses to requests from other States for infor-
6 mation contained in the State's child abuse and
7 neglect registry through the national electronic
8 interstate data exchange system established
9 under subsection (a).

10 (2) REPORT.—The working group convened
11 under paragraph (1) shall submit a report con-
12 taining its recommendations to the Secretary of
13 Health and Human Services, the Committee on
14 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
15 ate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of
16 the House of Representatives.

17 (3) CONSTRUCTION.—There shall be no require-
18 ment for any State to adopt the recommendations of
19 the working group, nor shall the Secretary of Health
20 and Human Services incentivize or coerce any State
21 to adopt any such recommendation.

22 **SEC. 111. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

23 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.— The Child Abuse
24 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.)

1 , as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is
2 further amended—

3 (1) by striking “Committee on Education and
4 the Workforce” each place it appears and inserting
5 “Committee on Education and Labor”; and

6 (2) in section 103(c)(1)(F), by striking “abused
7 and neglected children” and inserting “victims of
8 child abuse or neglect”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) SECTION 103.—Section 103(b)(5) (42
11 U.S.C. 5104(b)(5)) is amended by striking “section
12 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section
13 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”.

14 (2) SECTION 105.—Section 105(a)(10) (25
15 U.S.C. 5106(a)(10) (as redesignated by section
16 105(1)(A) of this Act) is amended—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sec-
18 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section
19 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

21 (i) in clause (i)(II), by striking “sec-
22 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “sec-
23 tion 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

- 1 (ii) in clause (i)(IV), by striking “sec-
2 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(II)” and inserting
3 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(II)”; and
- 4 (iii) in clause (ii), by striking “clauses
5 (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and
6 inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section
7 106(b)(2)(D)”;
- 8 (C) in subparagraph (D)—
- 9 (i) in clause (i)(I), by striking “sec-
10 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(I)” and inserting
11 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;
- 12 (ii) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “sec-
13 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “sec-
14 tion 106(b)(2)(D)(i)”;
- 15 (iii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “sec-
16 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(I)” and inserting
17 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;
- 18 (iv) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “sec-
19 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(i)” and inserting “sec-
20 tion 106(b)(2)(A)(i)”;
- 21 (v) in clause (iii)(IV), by striking
22 “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting
23 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”; and

1 (vi) in clause (v), by striking “section
2 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section
3 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

4 (D) in subparagraph (E), by striking “sec-
5 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section
6 106(b)(2)(D)(i)”;

7 (E) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking
8 “clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)”
9 and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section
10 106(b)(2)(D)”.

11 (3) SECTION 114.—Section 114(1)(B) (42
12 U.S.C. 5108(1)(B)) is amended by striking “clauses
13 (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and inserting
14 “clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)”.

15 (4) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-
16 tents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention
17 and Treatment Act is amended by striking the items
18 relating to sections 2 and 102.

1 **TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED**
2 **GRANTS FOR THE PREVEN-**
3 **TION OF CHILD ABUSE AND**
4 **NEGLECT**

5 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.**

6 Subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Child
7 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116)
8 are amended to read as follows:

9 “(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purposes of this title are—

10 “(1) to establish and maintain support for com-
11 munity-based family strengthening services and
12 statewide systems-building approaches to the extent
13 practicable, to ensure the development, operation,
14 expansion, coordination, and evaluation of quality
15 services, initiatives, programs, and activities to pre-
16 vent child abuse and neglect; and

17 “(2) to promote improved access for diverse
18 populations with demonstrated need, including low-
19 income families, racial and ethnic minorities, fami-
20 lies with children or caregivers with disabilities, un-
21 derserved communities, and rural communities, to
22 family strengthening services in order to more effec-
23 tively prevent child abuse and neglect.

24 “(b) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall make grants
25 under this title on a formula basis to the entity designated

1 by the State as the lead entity (referred to in this title
2 as the ‘lead entity’) under section 202(1) for the following
3 purposes:

4 “(1) Developing or enhancing statewide and
5 local networks to operate, expand, or enhance com-
6 munity-based family strengthening services, initia-
7 tives, and activities that promote child, parent, fam-
8 ily, and community health and well-being, prevent
9 child abuse and neglect, and that—

10 “(A) are accessible to diverse populations;

11 “(B) are effective;

12 “(C) are culturally appropriate; and

13 “(D) build upon existing strengths.

14 “(2) Providing programs, activities, and initia-
15 tives to help families build protective factors linked
16 to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, such as
17 knowledge of parenting and child development, pa-
18 rental resilience, social connections, time-limited and
19 need-based concrete support, and social and emo-
20 tional development of children that—

21 “(A) offer assistance to families;

22 “(B) provide early, comprehensive support
23 for parents;

24 “(C) promote the development of healthy
25 familial relationships and parenting skills, espe-

1 cially in young parents and parents with very
2 young children;

3 “(D) increase family stability;

4 “(E) improve family access to formal and
5 informal community-based resources, including
6 health and mental health services, time-limited
7 and need-based concrete supports, and services
8 and supports to meet the needs of families with
9 children or caregivers with disabilities; and

10 “(F) support the additional needs of fami-
11 lies with children with disabilities, including
12 through respite care.

13 “(3) Fostering the development of a continuum
14 of preventive services to strengthen families through
15 State- and community-based collaborations and both
16 public and private partnerships.

17 “(4) Financing the start-up, maintenance, ex-
18 pansion, or redesign of core services described in
19 section 205, where communities have identified gaps
20 and decided to prioritize the establishment of such
21 services, to the extent practicable given funding lev-
22 els and community priorities.

23 “(5) Maximizing funding through leveraging
24 Federal, State, local, public, and private funds to
25 carry out the purposes of this title.

1 “(6) Promoting the development of, and coordi-
2 nation with, existing community coalitions of net-
3 works of family strengthening services that utilize
4 culturally responsive providers in order to enhance
5 child, family, and community well-being and prevent
6 child abuse and neglect in all families.

7 “(7) Financing public information activities
8 that focus on parent and child development and
9 child abuse and neglect prevention.

10 “(8) To the extent practicable—

11 “(A) promoting the development and im-
12 plementation of a statewide systems-building
13 strategy to address the unmet needs identified
14 in the inventory described in section 204(3), in-
15 cluding the participation of public and private
16 stakeholders, community-based organizations,
17 legislators, parents and other relevant stake-
18 holders, and State agencies, including the child
19 welfare agency, the health agency, housing
20 agency, and the State education agency, to
21 scale evidence-based, evidence-informed, and
22 promising programs that expand access to fam-
23 ily strengthening services and reduce the num-
24 bers of children entering the foster care system;

1 “(B) developing comprehensive outreach
2 strategies to engage families with various risk
3 factors, including families who have experienced
4 trauma, parents with substance use disorder,
5 and families with children or caregivers with
6 disabilities; and

7 “(C) providing capacity-building supports
8 to local programs to improve desired outcomes
9 for children and family, such as—

10 “(i) technical assistance, including
11 support for local programs to collect out-
12 come data that helps improve service deliv-
13 ery;

14 “(ii) professional development; and

15 “(iii) peer support networks, including
16 through developing a problem-solving
17 forum.”.

18 **SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY.**

19 Section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
20 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)—

22 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
23 sserting the following:

24 “(A) the Governor of the State has designated
25 a lead entity to administer funds under this title for

1 the purposes identified under the authority of this
2 title, including to develop, implement, operate, en-
3 hance, or expand community-based family strength-
4 ening services designed to prevent child abuse and
5 neglect;”; and

6 (B) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(D) the Governor of the State has given con-
9 sideration to the capacity and expertise of all entities
10 requesting to be designated under subparagraph
11 (A);”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (3)—

13 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
14 serting the following:

15 “(A) has demonstrated ongoing meaningful
16 partnerships with parents in the development,
17 operation, and oversight of State- and commu-
18 nity-based family strengthening services de-
19 signed to prevent child abuse and neglect;”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
21 “community-based and prevention-focused pro-
22 grams and activities designed to strengthen and
23 support families” and inserting “community-
24 based family strengthening services designed”;

1 (C) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(C) has the capacity to provide oper-
4 ational support (both financial and pro-
5 grammatic) professional development, technical
6 assistance, and evaluation assistance, to com-
7 munity-based organizations;” and

8 (D) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(D) will integrate efforts with individuals
11 and organizations experienced in working in
12 partnership with low-income families, racial and
13 ethnic minorities, families with children or care-
14 givers with disabilities, sexual and gender mi-
15 nority youth, victims of domestic violence, and
16 with the child abuse and neglect prevention ac-
17 tivities in the State, and demonstrate a finan-
18 cial commitment to those activities; and

19 “(E) will take into consideration access for
20 diverse populations and gaps in need when dis-
21 tributing funds to local programs under section
22 205.”.

23 **SEC. 203. AMOUNT OF GRANT.**

24 Section 203 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
25 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116b) is amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) RESERVATION.—For the purpose of making al-
4 lotments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations and mi-
5 grant programs, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of
6 the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for each
7 fiscal year, except that, if making such reservation would
8 cause the total amount allotted to States under this sec-
9 tion for a fiscal year to be less than such total for fiscal
10 year 2019, the Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of the
11 amount appropriated under section 210(a) for the year for
12 such purpose.”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the
15 amount allotted to a State under subsection (b) exceeds
16 the amount allotted to the State under such subsection
17 for fiscal year 2019, the State’s lead entity may use not
18 more than 4 percent of such excess amount for adminis-
19 trative expenses.”.

20 **SEC. 204. APPLICATION.**

21 Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
22 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d) is amended—

23 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
24 striking “specified by the Secretary as essential to
25 carrying out the provisions of section 202, includ-

1 ing” and inserting “and assurances required in
2 paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202 and types of
3 information specified by the Secretary as essential in
4 carrying out the provisions of section 201(b), includ-
5 ing”;

6 (2) in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), by
7 striking “community-based and prevention-focused
8 programs and activities designed to strengthen and
9 support families” and inserting “community-based
10 family strengthening services designed”;

11 (3) in paragraph (5), by striking “and preven-
12 tion-focused programs and activities designed to
13 strengthen and support families to prevent child
14 abuse and neglect;” and inserting “services and
15 statewide strategies designed to strengthen and sup-
16 port families to promote child, family, and commu-
17 nity well-being and prevent child abuse and ne-
18 glect;”;

19 (4) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the
20 following:

21 “(6) a description of the State’s capacity and
22 commitment to ensure the meaningful involvement
23 of parents who are or have been consumers of pre-
24 ventative supports, including the involvement of par-
25 ents of diverse populations, such as low-income fami-

1 lies, families with children or caregivers with disabili-
2 ties, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of
3 other underrepresented or underserved groups, fam-
4 ily advocates, and adult former victims of child
5 abuse or neglect who can provide leadership in the
6 planning, implementation, and evaluation of the pro-
7 grams and policy decisions of the applicant agency
8 in accomplishing the desired outcomes for such ef-
9 forts;”;

10 (5) by redesignating paragraph (12) as para-
11 graph (15);

12 (6) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
13 (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), respectively;

14 (7) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(7) a description of the process and criteria
17 the lead entity will use to identify and select commu-
18 nities in which to build a continuum of family
19 strengthening services, including an assurance that
20 the process will ensure access for all families, includ-
21 ing families in communities with high rates of child
22 abuse and neglect relative to other communities in
23 the State;”;

24 (8) by striking paragraph (9), as so redesign-
25 ated, and inserting the following:

1 “(9) a description of outreach activities that the
2 lead entity and local grantees will undertake to
3 maximize the participation of low-income families,
4 racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or
5 caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minor-
6 ity youth, victims of domestic violence, homeless
7 families and those at risk of homelessness, and
8 members of other underserved or underrepresented
9 groups;”.

10 (9) by striking paragraph (10), as so redesign-
11 nated, and inserting the following:

12 “(10) a plan for providing operational support,
13 professional development, and technical assistance to
14 grantees, other State and local programs and pro-
15 viders, families, and other entities involved in
16 strengthening families and preventing child abuse
17 and neglect;”;

18 (10) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by
19 striking “and its members (where appropriate)” and
20 inserting “of community-based family strengthening
21 services and statewide initiatives”; and

22 (11) by striking paragraph (12), as so redesign-
23 nated, and inserting the following:

24 “(12) a description of the actions that the ap-
25 plicant entity will take to inform systemic changes in

1 State policies, practices, procedures, and regulations
2 to improve the delivery of community-based family
3 strengthening services designed to promote child,
4 family, and community well-being, and to prevent
5 child abuse and neglect;

6 “(13) a description of how the lead entity will
7 incorporate research evidence in its process for se-
8 lecting community-based family strengthening serv-
9 ices;

10 “(14) an assurance that, in issuing regulations
11 to improve the delivery of community-based family
12 strengthening services designed to promote child,
13 family, and community well-being, and to prevent
14 child abuse and neglect, the State will—

15 “(A) take into account how such regula-
16 tions will impact activities funded under this
17 Act; and

18 “(B) where appropriate, attempt to avoid
19 duplication of efforts, minimize costs of compli-
20 ance with such regulations, and maximize local
21 flexibility with respect to such regulations;
22 and”.

1 **SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

2 Section 205 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e) is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **“SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grants from the lead entity
7 made under this title shall be used to develop, implement,
8 operate, expand, and enhance community-based family
9 strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and
10 neglect that—

11 “(1) assess community assets and needs and
12 develop a strategy to create a comprehensive con-
13 tinuum of effective services that strengthen and sup-
14 port families to prevent child abuse and neglect,
15 through a planning process involving parents, local
16 and public agencies, local nonprofit organizations
17 and service providers, and private sector representa-
18 tives in meaningful ways;

19 “(2) develop or enhance existing place-based
20 family strengthening services, other parenting sup-
21 port services, and connections and coordination
22 among key family services in the community by
23 reaching spaces familiar to such families; and

24 “(3) help families build protective factors that
25 support child and family well-being and help prevent
26 child abuse and neglect, including knowledge of par-

1 enting and child development, parental resilience, so-
2 cial connections, time-limited and need-based con-
3 crete support, and social and emotional development
4 of children.

5 “(b) LOCAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants,
6 the lead entity shall consider, consistent with the needs
7 of the State and community, how the grantee—

8 “(1) demonstrates the ability to form collabora-
9 tions across a range of services or initiatives and the
10 commitment to engage in long-term planning and
11 strategic development for community-based family
12 strengthening services as well as provide on-going
13 troubleshooting support;

14 “(2) involves parents, including parents of chil-
15 dren with disabilities, diverse racial and ethnic
16 groups, and members of other underrepresented or
17 underserved populations, in the development, imple-
18 mentation, oversight, and evaluation of services;

19 “(3) addresses the need for place-based services
20 and the need to reach families in hard-to-reach areas
21 through approaches that provide core family
22 strengthening services;

23 “(4) promotes improved access to family
24 strengthening services for diverse populations and

1 ensures that the services address identified needs of
2 all families; and

3 “(5) demonstrates an understanding of the
4 sources of child and family trauma and the strate-
5 gies that mitigate the impact of and prevent adverse
6 childhood experiences.

7 “(c) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds from the
8 lead entity shall be used for community-based family
9 strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and
10 neglect, which may include the following:

11 “(1) Developing a strategy based on supporting
12 a comprehensive continuum of preventive, family-
13 centered services that strengthen and support fami-
14 lies to prevent child abuse and neglect, especially to
15 young parents, to parents with young children, and
16 to parents who are adult former victims of domestic
17 violence or child abuse or neglect, through public-
18 private partnerships.

19 “(2) Addressing the needs of families in hard-
20 to-reach areas by creating access to place-based fam-
21 ily strengthening services.

22 “(3) Performing an assessment of community
23 needs, including by partnering, at the option of the
24 grantee, with an organization that already has per-
25 formed a needs assessment (such as a Maternal, In-

1 fant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program
2 under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 711) or a Head Start program under the
4 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

5 “(4) Supporting outreach for services, including
6 by coordinating with existing family strengthening
7 services such as home visiting and other early inter-
8 vention programs.

9 “(5) Providing, promoting the development or
10 enhancement of, or connecting families to, core serv-
11 ices that include—

12 “(A) parenting support and parent edu-
13 cation programs, including services that help
14 parents and other caregivers support children’s
15 development;

16 “(B) parent leadership skills development
17 programs that support parents’ personal growth
18 as leaders in their families and communities;

19 “(C) mutual support groups for parents,
20 their children and youth, and parent partners;

21 “(D) respite and crisis care; and

22 “(E) referrals to optional community and
23 social services, including—

24 “(i) domestic violence services;

1 “(ii) screening and referrals to early
2 intervention;

3 “(iii) voluntary home visiting pro-
4 grams;

5 “(iv) health and mental health serv-
6 ices, including referrals for information on
7 the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of
8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
9 seq.);

10 “(v) early care and learning programs
11 including child care and Head Start pro-
12 grams and Early Head Start programs
13 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
14 et seq.);

15 “(vi) nutrition programs, including
16 the special supplemental nutrition program
17 for women, infants, and children estab-
18 lished under section 17 of the Child Nutri-
19 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) and the
20 supplemental nutrition assistance program
21 established under the Food and Nutrition
22 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

23 “(vii) education and workforce devel-
24 opment programs, including adult literacy,

1 child development, wellness, and family so-
2 cioeconomic mobility programs; and

3 “(viii) services and supports to meet
4 the needs of families with children or care-
5 givers with disabilities, such as early inter-
6 vention services for infants and toddlers
7 with disabilities and their families, as early
8 intervention services are defined in section
9 632 of the Individuals with Disabilities
10 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

11 “(6) Providing leadership in mobilizing local
12 public and private resources to support the provision
13 of community-based family strengthening services
14 designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

15 “(7) Developing and maintaining meaningful
16 partnerships with parents relating to the develop-
17 ment, operation, evaluation, and oversight of the
18 programs and services.

19 “(8) Coordinating with other community-based
20 family strengthening services designed to prevent
21 child abuse and neglect in the development, oper-
22 ation, and expansion of networks where appropriate.

23 “(d) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants, a lead enti-
24 ty shall give priority to effective community-based efforts
25 that serve low-income communities and are focused on

1 comprehensive approaches to serving young parents or
2 parents with young children.”.

3 **SEC. 206. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

4 Section 206 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116f) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraphs (1), (5), (6), and (8), by
7 striking “community-based and prevention-focused
8 programs and activities designed to strengthen and
9 support families” and inserting “community-based
10 family strengthening services designed”;

11 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “meets” and
12 inserting “meet”;

13 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “including
14 core and optional services as described in section
15 202”;

16 (4) in paragraph (3), by striking “section
17 205(3)” and inserting “section 204”;

18 (5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(4) shall describe the number of families
21 served, including families with children or caregivers
22 with disabilities, and the involvement of a diverse
23 representation of families in the design, operation,
24 and evaluation of both community-based family

1 strengthening services and networks of such serv-
2 ices;”;

3 (6) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(7) shall describe—

6 “(A) the number of programs funded
7 disaggregated by urban, suburban, and rural
8 community type;

9 “(B) the number of children and families
10 served under each such program disaggregated
11 by urban, suburban, and rural community type;
12 and

13 “(C) the number of programs that partner
14 with outside entities and the services such out-
15 side entities provide;”;

16 (7) in paragraph (8)—

17 (A) by striking “leadership of” and insert
18 “partnership with”; and

19 (B) by striking the period at the end and
20 inserting “; and”; and

21 (8) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(9) shall describe the extent to which there is
23 evidence to support the effectiveness of activities
24 conducted under this title for the program’s in-
25 tended purpose, or, in instances where such evidence

1 is not available, shall describe barriers and chal-
2 lenges to developing evidence of effectiveness.”.

3 **SEC. 207. NATIONAL NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY-BASED**
4 **FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 207 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
6 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116fg) is amended—

7 (1) in the matter preceeding paragraph (1), by
8 striking “such sums as may be necessary” and in-
9 serting “not more than 5 percent”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “community-
11 based and prevention-focused programs and activi-
12 ties designed to strengthen and support families”
13 and inserting “community-based family strength-
14 ening services designed”.

15 **SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.**

16 Section 208 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
17 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116h) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
19 paragraphs (2) and (1), respectively; and

20 (2) by striking paragraph (1) (as so redesign-
21 nated) and inserting the following:

22 “(1) **COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY STRENGTH-**
23 **ENING SERVICES.**—The term ‘community-based fam-
24 ily strengthening services’ includes organizations
25 such as family resource programs, family support

1 programs, voluntary home visiting programs, respite
2 care services, parenting education, mutual support
3 groups for parents, children, and youth, parent part-
4 ner programs, and other community programs or
5 networks of such programs that provide activities
6 that are designed to prevent child abuse and ne-
7 glect.”.

8 **SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Child Abuse the
10 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
11 5116 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210;

13 and

14 (2) by inserting after section 208 the following:

15 **“SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

16 “Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit
17 grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, adop-
18 tive parents, or any other individual in a parenting role
19 from receiving or participating in services and programs
20 under this title.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
22 tents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
23 Treatment Act is amended by striking the item relating
24 to section 209 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 209. Rule of construction.

“Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.”.

1 **SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 210 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.), as redesignated
4 by section 209 of this Act, is amended—

5 (1) by striking “There are” and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are”;

8 (2) by striking “to carry out” through “fiscal
9 year 2010” and inserting “to carry out this title
10 \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2020”;

11 (3) by striking “2011 through 2015” and in-
12 serting “2021 through 2025”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(b) TREATMENT OF NON-FEDERAL FUNDS IN CER-
15 TAIN FISCAL YEARS.—For any fiscal year for which the
16 amount appropriated under subsection (a) exceeds the
17 amount appropriated under such subsection for fiscal year
18 2019, the Secretary shall consider non-Federal funds and
19 in-kind contributions as part of the State contribution for
20 the activities specified in section 204(4).”.

21 **SEC. 211. STUDY AND REPORT.**

22 (a) STUDY RELATING TO NEW PREVENTION PRO-
23 GRAMS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
25 the United States shall complete a study, using data
26 reported by States to the Secretary of Health and

1 Human Services under section 206 of the Child
2 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
3 5116f), as amended by this Act—

4 (A) to determine how many families and
5 children in the first 3 years after the date of
6 the enactment of this Act are served annually
7 through programs funded under title II of the
8 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42
9 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.); and

10 (B) to compare the number of such fami-
11 lies and children served annually in the first 3
12 years after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act to the number of such families and children
14 served in fiscal year 2019.

15 (2) CONTENTS.—The study required under
16 paragraph (1) shall include the following for each of
17 the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of
18 this Act:

19 (A) An examination of how many families
20 received evidence-based programming under
21 title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and
22 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.).

23 (B) An examination of the extent to which
24 local programs conduct evaluations using funds

1 provided under such title and the findings of
2 such evaluations.

3 (C) An examination of whether findings of
4 effectiveness in evaluation studies vary by
5 urban, suburban, or rural community type.

6 (D) An examination of whether programs
7 partnering with other entities are more effective
8 than those that do not partner with other enti-
9 ties.

10 (E) An examination of barriers to imple-
11 ment evidence-based programming or to con-
12 duct evaluations in instances where such activi-
13 ties do not occur.

14 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
16 the United States shall submit to the Committee on
17 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and
18 the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
19 Representatives a report that contains the results of the
20 study conducted under paragraph (1).

1 **TITLE III—ADOPTION**
2 **OPPORTUNITIES**

3 **SEC. 301. PURPOSE.**

4 Section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
6 5111) is amended—

7 (1) in the heading, by striking “**CONGRES-**
8 **SIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PUR-**
9 **POSE**” and inserting “**PURPOSE**”;

10 (2) by striking subsection (a); and

11 (3) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) by striking “(B) PURPOSE.—”;

13 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
14 by inserting “sexual and gender minority
15 youth” after “particularly older children, minor-
16 ity children,”; and

17 (C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “serv-
18 ices and,” after “post-legal adoption”.

19 **SEC. 302. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUS-**
20 **TODY TRANSFERS.**

21 The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and
22 Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.)
23 is amended by inserting after section 201 the following:

1 **“SEC. 202. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUS-**
2 **TODY TRANSFERS.**

3 “(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that:

5 “(1) Some adopted children may be at risk of
6 experiencing an unregulated custody transfer be-
7 cause the challenges associated with adoptions (in-
8 cluding the child’s mental health needs and the dif-
9 ficulties many families face in acquiring support
10 services) may lead families to seek out unregulated
11 custody transfers.

12 “(2) Some adopted children experience trauma,
13 and the disruption and placement in another home
14 by unregulated custody transfer creates additional
15 trauma and instability for children.

16 “(3) Children who experience an unregulated
17 custody transfer may be placed with families who
18 have not completed required child welfare or crimi-
19 nal background checks or clearances.

20 “(4) Social services agencies and courts are
21 often unaware of the placement of children through
22 unregulated custody transfer and therefore do not
23 conduct assessments on the child’s safety and well-
24 being in such placements.

1 “(5) Such lack of placement oversight places a
2 child at risk for future abuse and increases the
3 chance that the child may experience—

4 “(A) abuse or neglect;

5 “(B) contact with unsafe adults or youth;

6 and

7 “(C) exposure to unsafe or isolated envi-
8 ronments.

9 “(6) The caregivers with whom a child is placed
10 through unregulated custody transfer often have no
11 legal responsibility with respect to such child, plac-
12 ing the child at risk for additional unregulated cus-
13 tody transfers.

14 “(7) Such caregivers also may not have com-
15 plete records with respect to such child, including
16 the child’s birth, medical, or immigration records.

17 “(8) A child adopted through intercountry
18 adoption may be at risk of not acquiring United
19 States citizenship if an unregulated custody transfer
20 occurs before the adoptive parents complete all nec-
21 essary steps to finalize the adoption of such child.

22 “(9) Engaging in, or offering to engage in, un-
23 regulated custody transfer places children at risk of
24 harm.

25 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
3 retary of Health and Human Services shall provide
4 to the Committee on Education and Labor of the
5 House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways
6 and Means of the House of Representatives, and the
7 Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pen-
8 sions of the Senate a report on unregulated custody
9 transfers of children, including of adopted children.

10 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
11 paragraph (1) shall include—

12 “(A) the causes, methods, and characteris-
13 tics of unregulated custody transfers, including
14 the use of social media and the internet;

15 “(B) the effects of unregulated custody
16 transfer on children, including the lack of as-
17 sessment of a child’s safety and well-being by
18 social services agencies and courts due to such
19 unregulated custody transfer;

20 “(C) the prevalence of unregulated custody
21 transfers within each State and across all
22 States; and

23 “(D) recommended policies for preventing,
24 identifying, and responding to unregulated cus-

1 today transfers, including of adopted children,
2 that include—

3 “(i) amendments to Federal and State
4 law to address unregulated custody trans-
5 fers;

6 “(ii) amendments to child protection
7 practices to address unregulated custody
8 transfers; and

9 “(iii) methods of providing the public
10 information regarding adoption and child
11 protection.

12 “(c) GUIDANCE TO STATES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date specified in subsection (b)(1), the Sec-
15 retary shall issue guidance and technical assistance
16 to States related to preventing, identifying, and re-
17 sponding to unregulated custody transfers, including
18 of adopted children.

19 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance required under
20 paragraph (1) shall include—

21 “(A) education materials related to pre-
22 venting, identifying, and responding to unregu-
23 lated custody transfers for employees of State,
24 local, and Tribal agencies that provide child
25 welfare services;

1 “(B) guidance on appropriate pre-adoption
2 education and post-adoption services for domes-
3 tic and international adoptive families to pro-
4 mote child permanency; and

5 “(C) the assistance available through the
6 National Resource Center for Special Needs
7 Adoption under section 203(b)(9).

8 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
10 the several States, the District of Columbia, and any
11 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
12 States.

13 “(2) UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFER.—
14 The term ‘unregulated custody transfer’ means the
15 abandonment of a child, by the child’s parent, legal
16 guardian, or a person or entity acting on behalf, and
17 with the consent, of such parent or guardian—

18 “(A) by placing a child with a person who
19 is not—

20 “(i) the child’s parent, step-parent,
21 grandparent, adult sibling, legal guardian,
22 or other adult relative;

23 “(ii) a friend of the family who is an
24 adult and with whom the child is familiar;
25 or

1 “(iii) a member of the Federally rec-
2 ognized Indian tribe of which the child is
3 also a member;

4 “(B) with the intent of severing the rela-
5 tionship between the child and the parent or
6 guardian of such child; and

7 “(C) without—

8 “(i) reasonably ensuring the safety of
9 the child and permanency of the placement
10 of the child, including by conducting an of-
11 ficial home study, background check, and
12 supervision; and

13 “(ii) transferring the legal rights and
14 responsibilities of parenthood or guardian-
15 ship under applicable Federal and State
16 law to a person described in subparagraph
17 (A).”.

18 **SEC. 303. INFORMATION AND SERVICES.**

19 (a) NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR SPECIAL
20 NEEDS ADOPTION.—Section 203(b)(9) of the Child Abuse
21 Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of
22 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(9)) is amended by inserting “not
23 later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the
24 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, es-
25 tablish and” before “maintain”.

1 (b) PLACEMENT WITH ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Sec-
2 tion 203(b)(11)(C) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
4 5113(b)(11)(C)) is amended by striking “such children”
5 and inserting “the children and youth described in the
6 matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 201”.

7 (c) PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(1) of
8 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption
9 Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(1)) is amended
10 by striking “post” and inserting “pre- and post-”.

11 (d) SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(2) of the Child Abuse
12 Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of
13 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(2)) is amended by inserting
14 “and the development of such services,” after “not sup-
15 plant, services”.

16 (e) ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO ADOPTION
17 ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES.—Section
18 203(e)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
19 and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(e)(1))
20 is amended—

21 (1) by striking “with, States,” and inserting
22 “with States, Indian Tribes,”; and

23 (2) by inserting “, including through the use of
24 web-based tools such as the electronic interstate
25 case-processing system referred to in section 437(g)

1 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(g))” be-
2 fore the period at the end.

3 **SEC. 304. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOP-**
4 **TIONS.**

5 Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
6 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
7 5114) is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 204. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOP-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 “(a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study
11 (directly or by grant to, or contract with, public or private
12 nonprofit research agencies or organizations) on adoption
13 outcomes and the factors affecting those outcomes.

14 “(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than the date that is 36
15 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger
16 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act the Secretary
17 shall submit a report to Congress that includes the results
18 of the study required under subsection (a).”.

19 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 Section 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
21 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
22 5115(a)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “fiscal year 2010” and inserting
24 “fiscal year 2020”; and

1 (2) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through
2 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 through
3 2025”.