

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 485

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17 (legislative day, MARCH 16), 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions

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## AN ACT

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,*

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

**2** This Act may be cited as the “Stronger Child Abuse  
**3** Prevention and Treatment Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

**5** The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

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

**TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM**

- Sec. 101. Repeal of findings.
- Sec. 102. Repeal of Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect.
- Sec. 103. National clearinghouse for information relating to child abuse.
- Sec. 104. Research and assistance activities.
- Sec. 105. Grants to States, Indian Tribes or tribal organizations, and public or private agencies and organizations.
- Sec. 106. Grants to States for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs.
- Sec. 107. Miscellaneous requirements.
- Sec. 108. Reports.
- Sec. 109. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 110. Monitoring and oversight.
- Sec. 111. Electronic interstate data exchange system.
- Sec. 112. Technical and conforming amendments.

**TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

- Sec. 201. Purpose and authority.
- Sec. 202. Eligibility.
- Sec. 203. Amount of grant.
- Sec. 204. Application.
- Sec. 205. Local program requirements.
- Sec. 206. Performance measures.
- Sec. 207. National network for community-based family resource programs.
- Sec. 208. Definitions.
- Sec. 209. Rule of construction.
- Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 211. Study and report.

**TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES**

- Sec. 301. Purpose.
- Sec. 302. Report and guidance on unregulated custody transfers.
- Sec. 303. Information and services.
- Sec. 304. Study and report on successful adoptions.
- Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

**TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS**

- Sec. 401. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.

# **1      TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM**

## **2      SEC. 101. REPEAL OF FINDINGS.**

3            Section 2 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-  
4      ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is repealed.

## **5      SEC. 102. REPEAL OF ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE 6                                      AND NEGLECT.**

7            Section 102 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
8      Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102) is repealed.

## **9      SEC. 103. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION 10                                      RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.**

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

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

15                      (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

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

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

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

21                                      “(v) the number of child fatalities and  
22                                      near fatalities due to maltreatment, as re-  
23                                      ported by States in accordance with the  
24                                      uniform standards established pursuant to

1 subsection (d), and any other relevant in-  
2 formation related to such fatalities;” and

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

4 “(d) UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR TRACKING AND RE-  
5 PORTING OF CHILD FATALITIES RESULTING FROM MAL-  
6 TREATMENT.—

7 “(1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than  
8 24 months after the date of the enactment of the  
9 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
10 Act, the Secretary shall develop and issue final regu-  
11 lations establishing uniform standards for the track-  
12 ing and reporting of child fatalities and near-fatali-  
13 ties resulting from maltreatment. As a condition on  
14 eligibility for receipt of funds under section 106, the  
15 standards established under this paragraph shall be  
16 used by States for the tracking and reporting of  
17 such fatalities under subsection (d) of such section.

18 “(2) MAINTENANCE OF STATE LAW.—Notwith-  
19 standing the uniform standards developed under  
20 paragraph (1), a State that defines or describes such  
21 fatalities for any purpose other than tracking and  
22 reporting under this subsection may continue to use  
23 that definition or description for such purpose.

24 “(3) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.—In devel-  
25 oping regulations under paragraph (1), the Sec-

1       retary shall submit such regulations to a negotiated  
2       rulemaking process, which shall include the partici-  
3       pants described in paragraph (4).

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

6               “(A) State and county officials responsible  
7       for administering the State plans under this  
8       Act and parts B and E of title IV of the Social  
9       Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et  
10      seq.);

11              “(B) child welfare professionals with field  
12      experience;

13              “(C) child welfare researchers;

14              “(D) domestic violence researchers;

15              “(E) domestic violence professionals;

16              “(F) child development professionals;

17              “(G) mental health professionals;

18              “(H) pediatric emergency medicine physi-  
19      cians;

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

23              “(J) forensic pathologists;

24              “(K) public health administrators;

25              “(L) public health researchers;

1 “(M) law enforcement;  
2 “(N) family court judges;  
3 “(O) prosecutors;  
4 “(P) medical examiners and coroners;  
5 “(Q) a representative from the National  
6 Center for Fatality Review and Prevention; and  
7 “(R) such other individuals and entities as  
8 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

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

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

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
14 follows:

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

1           “(A) disseminating evidence-based treat-  
2           ment directed to individuals and families experi-  
3           encing trauma due to child abuse and neglect,  
4           including efforts to improve the scalability of  
5           the treatments and programs being researched;

6           “(B) developing a set of evidence-based ap-  
7           proaches to support child and family well-being  
8           and developing ways to identify, relieve, and  
9           mitigate stressors affecting families in rural,  
10          urban, and suburban communities;

11          “(C) establishing methods to promote ra-  
12          cial equity in the child welfare system, including  
13          a focus on how neglect is defined, how services  
14          are provided, and the unique impact on Native  
15          American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian  
16          communities;

17          “(D) improving service delivery or out-  
18          comes for child welfare service agencies engaged  
19          with families experiencing domestic violence,  
20          substance use disorder, or other complex needs;

21          “(E) the extent to which the number of  
22          unsubstantiated, unfounded, and false reported  
23          cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed  
24          to the inability of a State to respond effectively  
25          to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

1           “(F) the extent to which the lack of ade-  
2           quate resources and the lack of adequate pro-  
3           fessional development of individuals required by  
4           law to report suspected cases of child abuse and  
5           neglect have contributed to the inability of a  
6           State to respond effectively to serious cases of  
7           child abuse and neglect;

8           “(G) the extent to which unsubstantiated  
9           reports return as more serious cases of child  
10          abuse or neglect;

11          “(H) the incidence and outcomes of child  
12          abuse and neglect allegations reported within  
13          the context of divorce, custody, or other family  
14          court proceedings, and the interaction between  
15          family courts and the child protective services  
16          system;

17          “(I) the information on the national inci-  
18          dence of child abuse and neglect specified in  
19          clauses (i) through (xi) of subparagraph (J);  
20          and

21          “(J) the national incidence of child abuse  
22          and neglect, including—

23                 “(i) the extent to which incidents of  
24                 child abuse and neglect are increasing or  
25                 decreasing in number and severity;



1           “(ii) the incidence of substantiated  
2           and unsubstantiated reported child abuse  
3           and neglect cases;

4           “(iii) the number of substantiated  
5           cases that result in a judicial finding of  
6           child abuse or neglect or related criminal  
7           court convictions;

8           “(iv) the extent to which the number  
9           of unsubstantiated, unfounded and false  
10          reported cases of child abuse or neglect  
11          have contributed to the inability of a State  
12          to respond effectively to serious cases of  
13          child abuse or neglect;

14          “(v) the extent to which the lack of  
15          adequate resources and the lack of ade-  
16          quate education of individuals required by  
17          law to report suspected cases of child  
18          abuse and neglect have contributed to the  
19          inability of a State to respond effectively to  
20          serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

21          “(vi) the number of unsubstantiated,  
22          false, or unfounded reports that have re-  
23          sulted in a child being placed in substitute  
24          care, and the duration of such placement;

1 “(vii) the extent to which unsubstan-  
2 tiated reports return as more serious cases  
3 of child abuse or neglect;

4 “(viii) the incidence and prevalence of  
5 physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and  
6 physical and emotional neglect in sub-  
7 stitute care;

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

18 “(x) the extent to which reports of  
19 suspected or known instances of child  
20 abuse or neglect involving a potential com-  
21 bination of jurisdictions, such as intra-  
22 state, interstate, Federal-State, and State-  
23 Tribal, are being screened out solely on the  
24 basis of the cross-jurisdictional complica-  
25 tions; and

1 “(xi) the incidence and outcomes of  
2 child abuse and neglect allegations re-  
3 ported within the context of divorce, cus-  
4 tody, or other family court proceedings,  
5 and the interaction between family courts  
6 and the child protective services system.”;

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

10 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
11 follows:

12 “(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years  
14 after the date of the enactment of the Stronger  
15 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the  
16 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Com-  
17 mittee on Education and Labor of the House of  
18 Representatives and the Committee on Health,  
19 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate  
20 a report that contains the results of the re-  
21 search conducted under paragraph (2).

22 “(B) NATIONAL INCIDENCE.—The Sec-  
23 retary shall ensure that research conducted,  
24 and data collected, under paragraph (1)(J) are  
25 reported in a way that will allow longitudinal

1 comparisons as well as comparisons to the na-  
2 tional incidence studies conducted under this  
3 title.”; and

4 (D) by striking the second paragraph (4);  
5 (2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph  
6 (2) to read as follows:

7 “(2) AREAS OF EMPHASIS.—Such technical as-  
8 sistance—

9 “(A) shall focus on—

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

16 “(ii) reducing racial bias in child wel-  
17 fare systems, including how such systems  
18 interact with health, law enforcement, and  
19 education systems;

20 “(iii) promoting best practices for  
21 families experiencing domestic violence,  
22 substance use disorder, or other complex  
23 needs; and

24 “(iv) providing professional develop-  
25 ment and other technical assistance to

1 child welfare agencies to improve the un-  
2 derstanding of and to help address the ef-  
3 fects of trauma and adverse childhood ex-  
4 periences in parents and children in con-  
5 tact with the child welfare system; and

6 “(B) may include the identification of—

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

11 “(ii) ways to mitigate psychological  
12 trauma to the child victim;

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

15 “(iv) effective approaches being uti-  
16 lized to link child protective service agen-  
17 cies with health care, mental health care,  
18 and developmental services and early inter-  
19 vention to improve forensic diagnosis and  
20 health evaluations, and barriers and short-  
21 ages to such linkages.”;

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

23 and

24 (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 (11);

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) PROMOTING A HIGH-QUALITY WORK-  
23 FORCE.—The Secretary may award grants under  
24 this subsection to entities to carry out programs or  
25 strategies that promote a high-quality workforce in  
26 the child welfare system through—

1           “(A) improvements to recruitment, sup-  
2           port, or retention efforts; or

3           “(B) education for professionals and para-  
4           professionals in the prevention, identification,  
5           and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

6           “(4) IMPROVING COORDINATION.—The Sec-  
7           retary may award grants under this subsection to  
8           entities to carry out activities to improve intrastate  
9           coordination within the child welfare system. Such  
10          activities may include—

11           “(A) aligning information technology sys-  
12           tems;

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

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

1           “(5) PRIMARY PREVENTION.—The Secretary  
2           may award grants under this subsection to entities  
3           to carry out or expand primary prevention programs  
4           or strategies that address family or community pro-  
5           tective factors.

6           “(6) NEGLECT DUE TO ECONOMIC INSECURITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this  
7           subsection to entities to carry out programs or strat-  
8           egies that reduce findings of child neglect due in full  
9           or in part to family economic insecurity.  
10          

11          “(7) EDUCATION OF MANDATORY REPORT-  
12          ERS.—The Secretary may award grants under this  
13          subsection to entities for projects that involve re-  
14          search-based strategies for innovative education of  
15          mandated child abuse and neglect reporters, and for  
16          victims to understand mandatory reporting.

17          “(8) SENTINEL INJURIES.—The Secretary may  
18          award grants under this subsection to entities to  
19          identify and test effective practices to improve early  
20          detection and management of injuries indicative of  
21          potential abuse in infants to prevent future cases of  
22          child abuse and related fatalities.

23          “(9) INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Sec-  
24          retary may award grants under this subsection to  
25          entities to carry out innovative programs or strate-



gies to coordinate the delivery of services to help reduce child abuse and neglect via partnerships among health, mental health, education (including early learning and care programs as appropriate), and child welfare agencies and providers.

“(10) REDUCING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DUE TO THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OF A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out activities to reduce child abuse and neglect due to the substance use disorder of a parent or caregiver.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a grant under this subsection to a non-profit entity to provide for the ongoing operation of a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents, caregivers, mandated reporters, and other concerned community members, including through alternative modalities for communications (such as texting or chat services) with such victims and other information seekers.

1           “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants de-  
2           scribed in this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
3           give priority to applicants with experience in  
4           operating a hotline that provides assistance to  
5           victims of child abuse, parents, caregivers, and  
6           mandated reporters.

7           “(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-  
8           ceive a grant described in this paragraph, a  
9           nonprofit entity shall submit an application to  
10          the Secretary that shall—

11               “(i) contain such assurances and in-  
12               formation, be in such form, and be sub-  
13               mitted in such manner, as the Secretary  
14               shall prescribe;

15               “(ii) include a complete description of  
16               the entity’s plan for the operation of a na-  
17               tional child abuse hotline, including de-  
18               scriptions of—

19                       “(I) the professional development  
20                       program for hotline personnel, includ-  
21                       ing technology professional develop-  
22                       ment to ensure that all persons affili-  
23                       ated with the hotline are able to effec-  
24                       tively operate any technological sys-  
25                       tems used by the hotline;

1 “(II) the qualifications for hot-  
2 line personnel;

3 “(III) the methods for the cre-  
4 ation, maintenance, and updating of a  
5 comprehensive list of prevention and  
6 treatment service providers;

7 “(IV) a plan for publicizing the  
8 availability of the hotline throughout  
9 the United States;

10 “(V) a plan for providing service  
11 to non-English speaking callers, in-  
12 cluding service through hotline per-  
13 sonnel who have non-English language  
14 capability;

15 “(VI) a plan for facilitating ac-  
16 cess to the hotline and alternative mo-  
17 dality services by persons with hearing  
18 impairments and disabilities;

19 “(VII) a plan for providing crisis  
20 counseling, general assistance, and re-  
21 ferrals to youth victims of child abuse;  
22 and

23 “(VIII) a plan to offer alternative  
24 services to calling, such as texting or  
25 live chat;

1 “(iii) demonstrate that the entity has  
2 the capacity and the expertise to maintain  
3 a child abuse hotline and a comprehensive  
4 list of service providers;

5 “(iv) demonstrate the ability to pro-  
6 vide information and referrals for contacts,  
7 directly connect contacts to service pro-  
8 viders, and employ crisis interventions;

9 “(v) demonstrate that the entity has a  
10 commitment to providing services to indi-  
11 viduals in need; and

12 “(vi) demonstrate that the entity com-  
13 plies with State privacy laws and has es-  
14 tablished quality assurance practices.”; and

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

17 “(b) GOALS AND PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary  
18 shall ensure that each entity receiving a grant under this  
19 section—

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

22 “(2) adequately measures the performance of  
23 the project relative to such goals.

24 “(c) PERFORMANCE REPORT REQUIRED.—

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

4                   “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
5           the project funded with the grant relative to the  
6           goals established for such project under sub-  
7           section (b)(1); and

8                   “(B) data supporting such evaluation.

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

13          “(d) CONTINUING GRANTS.—The Secretary may only  
14          award a continuing grant to an entity under this section  
15          if such entity submits a performance report required  
16          under subsection (c) that demonstrates effectiveness of the  
17          project funded.”.

18   **SEC. 106. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NE-**  
19                   **GLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PRO-**  
20                   **GRAMS.**

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

1       “(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—The  
2 Secretary shall make grants to the States, from allotments  
3 under subsection (f) for each State that applies for a grant  
4 under this section, for purposes of assisting the States in  
5 improving and implementing a child protective services  
6 system that is family-centered, integrates community serv-  
7 ices, and is capable of providing rapid response to high-  
8 risk cases, by carrying out the following:

9               “(1) Conducting the intake, assessment, screen-  
10       ing, and investigation of reports of child abuse or  
11       neglect.

12              “(2) Ensuring that reports concerning a child’s  
13       living arrangements or subsistence needs are ad-  
14       dressed through services or benefits and that no  
15       child is separated from such child’s parent for rea-  
16       sons of poverty.

17              “(3) Creating and improving the use of multi-  
18       disciplinary teams and interagency, intra-agency,  
19       interstate, and intrastate protocols to enhance fair  
20       investigations; and improving legal preparation and  
21       representation.

22              “(4) Complying with the assurances in section  
23       106(b)(2).

1           “(5) Establishing State and local networks of  
2           child and family service providers that support child  
3           and family well-being, which shall—

4                   “(A) include child protective services, as  
5                   well as agencies and service providers, that ad-  
6                   dress family-strengthening, parenting skills,  
7                   child development, early childhood care and  
8                   learning, child advocacy, public health, mental  
9                   health, substance use disorder treatment, do-  
10                  mestic violence, developmental disabilities, hous-  
11                  ing, juvenile justice, elementary and secondary  
12                  education, and child placement; and

13                  “(B) address instances of child abuse and  
14                  neglect by incorporating evaluations that assess  
15                  the development of a child, including language  
16                  and communication, cognitive, physical, and so-  
17                  cial and emotional development, the need for  
18                  mental health services, including trauma-related  
19                  services, trauma-informed care, and parental  
20                  needs.

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

24                   “(A) family-oriented efforts that emphasize  
25                   case assessment and follow up casework focused

on child safety and child and parent well-being,  
which may include—

“(i) ensuring parents and children undergo physical and mental health assessments, as appropriate, and ongoing developmental monitoring;

“(ii) multidisciplinary approaches to assessing family needs and connecting the family with services, including prevention services under section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671);

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

“(iv) case monitoring that supports child well-being; and

“(v) differential response efforts; and

“(B) establishing and maintaining a rapid response system that responds promptly to all reports of child abuse or neglect, with special attention to cases involving children under 3 years of age.

“(7) Educating caseworkers, community service providers, attorneys, health care professionals, par-



1       ents, and others engaged in the prevention, interven-  
2       tion, and treatment of child abuse and neglect,  
3       which shall include education on—

4               “(A) practices that help ensure child safety  
5               and well-being;

6               “(B) approaches to family-oriented preven-  
7               tion, intervention, and treatment of child abuse  
8               and neglect;

9               “(C) early childhood, child, and adolescent  
10              development, and the impact of adverse child-  
11              hood experiences on such development;

12              “(D) the relationship between child abuse  
13              and domestic violence, and support for non-  
14              abusing parents;

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

21              “(F) effective use of multiple services to  
22              address family and child needs, including needs  
23              resulting from trauma;

24              “(G) efforts to improve family and child  
25              well-being;

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

3           “(I) supporting families and caregivers to  
4           combat and prevent unsubstantiated, un-  
5           founded, or false reports, including through  
6           education on the rights of families and care-  
7           givers.

8           “(8) Creating or improving data systems that  
9           allow for—

10           “(A) the identification of cases requiring  
11           prompt responses;

12           “(B) real-time case monitoring that tracks  
13           assessments, service referrals, follow-up, case  
14           reviews, and progress toward parent and child  
15           goals; and

16           “(C) sharing basic identifying data with  
17           law enforcement, as necessary.

18           “(9) Improving the general child protective sys-  
19           tem by developing, improving, and implementing  
20           safety assessment tools, providing that such tools,  
21           protocols, and systems shall not authorize the sepa-  
22           ration of any child from the legal parent or guardian  
23           of such child solely on the basis of poverty, or with-  
24           out a judicial order, except in the case of imminent  
25           harm.”.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) STATE PLAN.—Paragraph (1) of section  
3 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-  
4 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 “(1) STATE PLAN.—

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

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

17 “(ii) meets the requirements of this  
18 subsection.

19 “(B) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-  
20 TION.—

21 “(i) COORDINATION.—Each State, to  
22 the maximum extent practicable, shall co-  
23 ordinate its State plan under this sub-  
24 section with its State plan under part B of  
25 title IV of the Social Security Act (42

1 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) relating to child and  
2 family services and, in States electing to  
3 provide services under part E of title IV of  
4 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et  
5 seq.) relating to foster care prevention  
6 services, its State plan under such part E.

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, family court  
13 judges, prosecutors who handle criminal  
14 child abuse cases, and medical profes-  
15 sionals engaged in the treatment of child  
16 abuse and neglect.

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

19 “(i) be submitted not less than every  
20 5 years; and

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

24 “(I) any changes to State law or  
25 regulations, relating to the prevention

1 of child abuse and neglect that may  
2 affect the eligibility of the State under  
3 this section; or

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

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

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

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

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

1 ing by individuals required to report such  
2 instances;

3 “(ii) procedures for the immediate  
4 screening, risk and safety assessment, and  
5 prompt investigation of such reports of al-  
6 leged abuse and neglect in order to ensure  
7 the well-being and safety of children;

8 “(iii) procedures for immediate steps  
9 to be taken to ensure and protect the safe-  
10 ty of a victim of child abuse or neglect and  
11 of any other child under the same care who  
12 may also be in danger of child abuse or ne-  
13 glect and ensuring their placement in a  
14 safe environment;

15 “(iv) methods to preserve the con-  
16 fidentiality of all records in order to pro-  
17 tect the rights of the child and of the  
18 child’s parents or guardians, including re-  
19 quirements ensuring that reports and  
20 records made and maintained pursuant to  
21 the purposes of this Act shall only be made  
22 available to—

23 “(I) individuals who are the sub-  
24 ject of the 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                  (34 U.S.C. 20913(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.); and

15          “(D) a description of—

16               “(i) policies and procedures (including  
17               appropriate referrals to child welfare serv-  
18               ice systems and for other appropriate serv-  
19               ices (including home visiting services and  
20               mutual support and parent partner pro-  
21               grams) determined by a family assessment)  
22               to address the needs of infants born with  
23               and identified as being affected by sub-  
24               stance use or withdrawal symptoms result-  
25               ing from prenatal drug exposure, or a

1 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, includ-  
2 ing a requirement that health care pro-  
3 viders involved in the delivery or care of  
4 such infants notify the child protective wel-  
5 fare service system of the occurrence of  
6 such condition in such infants, except  
7 that—

8 “(I) child protective services shall  
9 undertake an investigation only when  
10 the findings of a family assessment  
11 warrant such investigation; and

12 “(II) such notification shall not  
13 be construed to—

14 “(aa) establish a definition  
15 under Federal law of what con-  
16 stitutes child abuse or neglect; or

17 “(bb) require prosecution for  
18 any illegal action;

19 “(ii) the development of a multi-dis-  
20 ciplinary plan of safe care for the infant  
21 born and identified as being affected by  
22 substance use or withdrawal symptoms or  
23 a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to en-  
24 sure the safety and well-being of such in-



1           fant following release from the care of  
2           health care providers, including through—

3                   “(I) using a risk-based approach  
4                   to develop each plan of safe care;

5                   “(II) addressing, through coordi-  
6                   nated service delivery, the health and  
7                   substance use disorder treatment  
8                   needs of the infant and affected fam-  
9                   ily or caregiver as determined by a  
10                  family assessment; and

11                  “(III) the development and im-  
12                  plementation by the State of moni-  
13                  toring systems regarding the imple-  
14                  mentation of such plans of safe care  
15                  to determine whether and in what  
16                  manner local entities are providing, in  
17                  accordance with State requirements,  
18                  referrals to and delivery of appro-  
19                  priate services for the infant and af-  
20                  fected family or caregiver;

21                  “(iii) policies and procedures to make  
22                  available to the public on the State website  
23                  the data, findings, and information about  
24                  all cases of child abuse or neglect resulting

1 in a child fatality or near fatality, includ-  
2 ing a description of—

3 “(I) how the State will not create  
4 an exception to such public disclosure,  
5 except in a case in which—

6 “(aa) the State would like to  
7 delay public release of case-spe-  
8 cific findings or information (in-  
9 cluding any previous reports of  
10 domestic violence and subsequent  
11 actions taken to assess and ad-  
12 dress such reports) while a crimi-  
13 nal investigation or prosecution  
14 of such a fatality or near fatality  
15 is pending;

16 “(bb) the State is protecting  
17 the identity of a reporter of child  
18 abuse or neglect; or

19 “(cc) the State is with-  
20 holding identifying information of  
21 members of the victim’s family  
22 who are not perpetrators of the  
23 fatality or near fatality; and

24 “(II) how the State will ensure  
25 that in providing the public disclosure

1 required under this clause, the State  
2 will include—

3 “(aa) the cause and cir-  
4 cumstances of the fatality or near  
5 fatality;

6 “(bb) the age and gender of  
7 the child; and

8 “(cc) any previous reports of  
9 child abuse or neglect investiga-  
10 tions that are relevant to the  
11 child abuse or neglect that led to  
12 the fatality or near fatality;

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

16 “(v) how the State will implement ef-  
17 forts to prevent child fatalities and near  
18 fatalities;

19 “(vi) the cooperation of State law en-  
20 forcement officials, court of competent ju-  
21 risdiction, and appropriate State agencies  
22 providing human services in the investiga-  
23 tion, assessment, prosecution, and treat-  
24 ment of child abuse and neglect;

1 “(vii) the steps the State will take to  
2 improve the professional development, re-  
3 tention, and supervision of caseworkers  
4 and how the State will measure the effec-  
5 tiveness of such efforts;

6 “(viii) the State’s plan to ensure each  
7 child under the age of 3 who is involved in  
8 a substantiated case of child abuse or ne-  
9 glect will be referred to the State’s child  
10 find system under section 635(a)(5) of the  
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
12 (20 U.S.C. 1435(a)(5)) in order to deter-  
13 mine if the child is an infant or toddler  
14 with a disability (as defined in section  
15 632(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1432(5)));

16 “(ix) the State’s plan to improve, as  
17 part of a comprehensive State strategy led  
18 by law enforcement, professional develop-  
19 ment for child protective services workers  
20 and their appropriate role in identifying,  
21 assessing, and providing comprehensive  
22 services for children who are sex traf-  
23 ficking victims, in coordination with law  
24 enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, run-  
25 away and homeless youth shelters, and

1 health, mental health, and other social  
2 service agencies and providers;

3 “(x) the services to be provided under  
4 the grant to individuals, families, or com-  
5 munities, either directly or through refer-  
6 rals, aimed at preventing the occurrence of  
7 child abuse and neglect;

8 “(xi) the State’s efforts to ensure pro-  
9 fessionals who are required to report sus-  
10 pected cases of child abuse and neglect are  
11 aware of their responsibilities under sub-  
12 paragraph (A)(i) and receive professional  
13 development relating to performing such  
14 responsibilities that is specific to their pro-  
15 fession and workplace;

16 “(xii) policies and procedures encour-  
17 aging the appropriate involvement of fami-  
18 lies in decisionmaking pertaining to chil-  
19 dren who experienced child abuse or ne-  
20 glect;

21 “(xiii) the State’s efforts to improve  
22 appropriate collaboration among child pro-  
23 tective services agencies, domestic violence  
24 services agencies, substance use disorder  
25 treatment agencies, and other agencies in

1 investigations, interventions, and the deliv-  
 2 ery of services and treatment provided to  
 3 children and families affected by child  
 4 abuse or neglect, including children ex-  
 5 posed to domestic violence, where appro-  
 6 priate;

7 “(xiv) policies and procedures regard-  
 8 ing the use of differential response, as ap-  
 9 plicable, to improve outcomes for children;  
 10 and

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

14 (3) LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section  
 15 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-  
 16 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

17 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
 18 “LIMITATION” and inserting “LIMITATIONS”;

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

22 “(A) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN IDENTI-  
 23 FYING INFORMATION.—With regard to subpara-  
 24 graphs (A)(iv) and (D)(iii) of paragraph (2),”;

1 (C) by striking the period at the end and  
2 inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PRO-  
5 CEEDINGS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be  
6 construed to limit the State’s flexibility to de-  
7 termine State policies relating to public access  
8 to court proceedings to determine child abuse  
9 and neglect, except that such policies shall, at  
10 a minimum, ensure the safety and well-being of  
11 the child, parents, and families.”.

12 (4) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section  
13 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-  
14 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

15 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
16 “DEFINITIONS” and inserting “DEFINITION”;

17 (B) by striking “this subsection” and all  
18 that follows through “means an act” and in-  
19 serting the following: “this subsection, the term  
20 ‘near fatality’ means an act”;

21 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-  
22 riod; and

23 (D) by striking subparagraph (B).

1       (c) CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS.—Section 106(c) of the  
2 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 5106a(c)) is amended—

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

7           (2) in paragraph (4)(A)—

8               (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
9 striking “and where appropriate, specific  
10 cases,”; and

11               (B) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “foster  
12 care and adoption programs” and inserting  
13 “foster care, prevention, and permanency pro-  
14 grams”; and

15           (3) by amending the first sentence of paragraph  
16 (6) to read as follows: “Each panel established  
17 under paragraph (1) shall prepare and make avail-  
18 able to the State and the public, on an annual basis,  
19 a report containing a summary of the activities of  
20 the panel, the criteria used for determining which  
21 activities the panel engaged in, and recommenda-  
22 tions or observations to improve the child protective  
23 services system at the State and local levels, and the  
24 data upon which these recommendations or observa-  
25 tions are based.”.



1 (d) ANNUAL STATE DATA REPORTS.—Section  
2 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act  
3 (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended—

4 (1) by amending paragraph (13) to read as fol-  
5 lows:

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

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

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

17 (4) in paragraph (17), by striking “subsection  
18 (b)(2)(B)(xxiv)” and inserting “subsection  
19 (b)(2)(A)(xv)”;

20 (5) in paragraph (18)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(6) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for  
16 which the amount allotted to a State or territory  
17 under this subsection exceeds the amount allotted to  
18 the State or territory under such subsection for fis-  
19 cal year 2021, the State or territory may use not  
20 more than 2 percent of such excess amount for ad-  
21 ministrative expenses.”.

22 **SEC. 107. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.**

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

1           (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “Indian  
2       tribes, and tribal organizations,” after “States,”;

3           (2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)  
4       as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

5           (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
6       lowing:

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

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

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

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

23           “(i) practices and policies for the edu-  
24       cation of parents, caregivers, and victims,  
25       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 youth-serving  
24 organizations, including youth athletics or-  
25 ganizations.

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           (a) SCALING EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF  
 9   CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—Section 110 of the Child  
 10   Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106f)  
 11   is amended to read as follows:

12   **“SEC. 110. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO SCALING EVI-**  
 13                   **DENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE**  
 14                   **AND NEGLECT; STUDY AND REPORT ON MAR-**  
 15                   **ITAL AGE OF CONSENT; STUDY AND REPORT**  
 16                   **ON STATE MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS.**

17           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
 18   study that examines challenges to, and best practices for,  
 19   the scalability of treatments that reduce the trauma re-  
 20   sulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk  
 21   of revictimization, such as those allowable under sections  
 22   105 and 106.

23           “(b) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study described in  
 24   subsection (a) shall be completed in a manner that con-  
 25   siders the variability among treatment programs and

1 among populations vulnerable to child abuse and neglect.

2 The study shall include, at minimum:

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

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

13 “(3) Consultation with experts in child welfare,  
14 healthcare, and education.

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

1       “(d) STUDY AND REPORT ON MARITAL AGE OF CON-  
2 SENT.—

3               “(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall study, with  
4 respect to each State—

5                       “(A) the State law regarding the minimum  
6 marriage age; and

7                       “(B) the prevalence of marriage involving  
8 a child who is under the age of such minimum  
9 marriage age.

10               “(2) FACTORS.—The study required under  
11 paragraph (1) shall include an examination of—

12                       “(A) the extent to which any statutory ex-  
13 ceptions to the minimum marriage age in such  
14 laws contribute to the prevalence of marriage  
15 involving a child described in paragraph (1)(B);

16                       “(B) whether such exceptions allow such a  
17 child to be married without the consent of such  
18 child; and

19                       “(C) the impact of such exceptions on the  
20 safety of such children.

21               “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
22 date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Pre-  
23 vention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
24 mit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
25 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on



1 Education and Labor of the House of Representa-  
2 tives a report containing the findings of the study  
3 required by this subsection, including any best prac-  
4 tices.

5 “(e) STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY  
6 REPORTING LAWS.—

7 “(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall collect infor-  
8 mation on and otherwise study State laws for man-  
9 datory reporting of incidents of child abuse or ne-  
10 glect. Such study shall examine trends in referrals  
11 and investigations of child abuse and neglect due to  
12 differences in such State laws with respect to the in-  
13 clusion, as mandatory reporters, of the following in-  
14 dividuals:

15 “(A) Individuals licensed or certified to  
16 practice in any health-related field licensed by  
17 the State, employees of health care facilities or  
18 providers licensed by the State, who are en-  
19 gaged in the admission, examination, care or  
20 treatment of individuals, including mental  
21 health and emergency medical service providers.

22 “(B) Individuals employed by a school who  
23 have direct contact with children, including  
24 teachers, administrators, and independent con-  
25 tractors.

1           “(C) Peace officers and law enforcement  
2           personnel.

3           “(D) Clergy, including Christian Science  
4           practitioners, except where prohibited on ac-  
5           count of clergy-penitent privilege.

6           “(E) Day care and child care operators  
7           and employees.

8           “(F) Employees of social services agencies  
9           who have direct contact with children in the  
10          course of employment.

11          “(G) Foster parents.

12          “(H) Court appointed special advocates  
13          (employees and volunteers).

14          “(I) Camp and after-school employees.

15          “(J) An individual, paid or unpaid, who,  
16          on the basis of the individual’s role as an inte-  
17          gral part of a regularly scheduled program, ac-  
18          tivity, or service, accepts responsibility for a  
19          child.

20          “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the  
21          date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Pre-  
22          vention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
23          mit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
24          and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on  
25          Education and Labor of the House of Representa-

1       tives a report containing the findings of the study  
2       required by this subsection, including any best prac-  
3       tices related to the inclusion, as mandatory report-  
4       ers, of individuals described in paragraph (1).”.

5       (b) REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN IN-  
6       DIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.—

7               (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
8       the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
9       troller General, in consultation with the Indian  
10      tribes from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of  
11      Indian Affairs, shall study child abuse and neglect in  
12      Indian Tribal communities for the purpose of identi-  
13      fying vital information and making recommendations  
14      concerning issues relating to child abuse and neglect  
15      in such communities, and submit to the Committee  
16      on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the  
17      Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the  
18      Committee on Education and Labor and the Com-  
19      mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
20      resentatives a report on such study, which shall in-  
21      clude—

22               (A) the number of Indian tribes providing  
23               primary child abuse and neglect prevention ac-  
24               tivities;

1           (B) the number of Indian tribes providing  
2           secondary child abuse and neglect prevention  
3           activities;

4           (C) promising practices of Indian tribes  
5           with respect to child abuse and neglect preven-  
6           tion that are culturally-based or culturally-  
7           adapted;

8           (D) information and recommendations on  
9           how such culturally-based or culturally-adapted  
10          child abuse and neglect prevention activities  
11          could become evidence-based;

12          (E) the number of Indian tribes that have  
13          accessed Federal child abuse and neglect pre-  
14          vention programs;

15          (F) child abuse and neglect prevention ac-  
16          tivities that Indian tribes provide using State  
17          funds;

18          (G) child abuse and neglect prevention ac-  
19          tivities that Indian tribes provide using Tribal  
20          funds;

21          (H) Tribal access to State children's trust  
22          fund resources, as described in section 202 of  
23          the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act  
24          (42 U.S.C. 5116a);

1 (I) how a children’s trust fund model could  
2 be used to support prevention efforts regarding  
3 child abuse and neglect of American Indian and  
4 Alaska Native children;

5 (J) Federal agency technical assistance ef-  
6 forts to address child abuse and neglect preven-  
7 tion and treatment of American Indian and  
8 Alaska Native children;

9 (K) Federal agency cross-system collabora-  
10 tion to address child abuse and neglect preven-  
11 tion and treatment of American Indian and  
12 Alaska Native children;

13 (L) Tribal access to child abuse and ne-  
14 glect prevention research and demonstration  
15 grants under the Child Abuse Prevention and  
16 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.); and

17 (M) an examination of child abuse and ne-  
18 glect data systems to identify what Tribal data  
19 is being submitted, barriers to submitting data,  
20 and recommendations on improving the collec-  
21 tion of data from Indian Tribes.

22 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

23 (A) the term “Alaska Native” has the  
24 meaning given the term in section 111 of the

1 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42  
2 U.S.C. 5106g); and

3 (B) the terms “child abuse and neglect”  
4 and “Indian tribe” have the meaning given the  
5 terms in section 3 of the Child Abuse Preven-  
6 tion and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

7 **SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 Section 112(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
9 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106h(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

11 (A) by striking “to carry out” through  
12 “fiscal year 2010” and inserting “to carry out  
13 this title \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2022”;  
14 and

15 (B) by striking “2011 through 2015” and  
16 inserting “2023 through 2027”; and

17 (2) by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting  
18 the following:

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

1 **SEC. 110. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.**

2 Section 114(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5108(1)) is amended—

4 (1) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by  
5 striking “and” at the end; and

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

7 “(C) include written guidance and tech-  
8 nical assistance to support States, which shall  
9 include guidance on the requirements of this  
10 Act with respect to infants born with and iden-  
11 tified as being affected by substance use or  
12 withdrawal symptoms, Neonatal Abstinence  
13 Syndrome, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder,  
14 as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of section  
15 106(b)(2)(D), including by—

16 “(i) enhancing States’ understanding  
17 of requirements and flexibilities under the  
18 law, including by clarifying key terms;

19 “(ii) addressing State-identified chal-  
20 lenges with developing, implementing, and  
21 monitoring plans of safe care; and

22 “(iii) disseminating best practices on  
23 implementation of plans of safe care, on  
24 such topics as differential response, col-  
25 laboration and coordination, and identifica-  
26 tion and delivery of services for different

populations, while recognizing needs of different populations and varying community approaches across States; and

“(D) include the submission of a report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains a description of the activities taken by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (C); and”.

**SEC. 111. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.**

Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 115. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.**

**“(a) INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—**

**“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consider the recommendations included in the reports required under paragraph (8)(A) and subsection (b)(2) in developing an electronic interstate data exchange system that al-



1        lows State entities responsible under State law for  
2        maintaining child abuse and neglect registries to  
3        communicate information across State lines.

4            “(2) STANDARDS.—In developing the electronic  
5        interstate data exchange system under paragraph  
6        (1), the Secretary shall—

7            “(A) use interoperable standards developed  
8        and maintained by intergovernmental partner-  
9        ships, such as the National Information Ex-  
10       change Model;

11          “(B) develop policies and governance  
12       standards that—

13            “(i) ensure consistency in types of in-  
14       formation shared and not shared; and

15            “(ii) specify circumstances under  
16       which data should be shared through the  
17       interstate data exchange system; and

18          “(C) ensure that all standards and policies  
19       adhere to the privacy, security, and civil rights  
20       laws of each State and Federal law.

21          “(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF ELECTRONIC  
22       INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—The elec-  
23       tronic interstate data exchange system may only be  
24       used for purposes relating to child safety.

25          “(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—

1           “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 6  
2           months after the date of the enactment of this  
3           section, the Secretary of Health and Human  
4           Services shall begin implementation of a pilot  
5           program to generate recommendations for the  
6           full integration of the electronic interstate data  
7           exchange system. Such pilot program shall in-  
8           clude not less than 10 States and not more  
9           than 15 States.

10           “(B) COMPLETION.—Not later than 30  
11           months after the date of the enactment of this  
12           section, the Secretary of Health and Human  
13           Services shall complete the pilot program de-  
14           scribed in subparagraph (A).

15           “(5) INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of Health  
16           and Human Services may assist States in the inte-  
17           gration of this system into the infrastructure of each  
18           State using funds appropriated under this sub-  
19           section.

20           “(6) PARTICIPATION.—As a condition on eligi-  
21           bility for receipt of funds under section 106, each  
22           State shall—

23           “(A) participate in the electronic interstate  
24           data exchange system to the fullest extent pos-  
25           sible in accordance with State law (as deter-

1           mined by the Secretary of Health and Human  
2           Services) not later than December 31, 2027;  
3           and

4           “(B) prior to the participation described in  
5           subparagraph (A), provide to the Secretary of  
6           Health and Human Services an assurance that  
7           the child abuse and neglect registry of such  
8           State provides procedural due process protec-  
9           tions with respect to including individuals on  
10          such registry.

11          “(7) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Health  
12          and Human Services may not access or store data  
13          from the electronic interstate data exchange system,  
14          unless the State to which such data pertains volun-  
15          tarily shares such data with the Secretary of Health  
16          and Human Services.

17          “(8) REPORTS.—The Secretary of Health and  
18          Human Services shall prepare and submit to Con-  
19          gress—

20                 “(A) not later than 3 years after the date  
21                 of the enactment of this section, a report on the  
22                 recommendations from the pilot program de-  
23                 scribed in paragraph (4); and

1           “(B) not later than January 31, 2026, a  
2           report on the progress made in implementing  
3           this subsection.

4           “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of  
5           the funds appropriated under section 112 for a fiscal  
6           year—

7           “(A) for each of fiscal years 2022 and  
8           2023, \$2,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out  
9           this section; and

10          “(B) for each of fiscal years 2024 through  
11          2027, \$1,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out  
12          this section.

13          “(b) WORKING GROUP.—

14          “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
15          after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
16          Secretary of Health and Human Services shall con-  
17          vene a working group to study and make rec-  
18          ommendations on the following:

19                 “(A) The feasibility of making publicly  
20                 available on the website of each State defini-  
21                 tions and standards of substantiated child  
22                 abuse and neglect for the State.

23                 “(B) Whether background check require-  
24                 ments under this Act, the Child Care and De-  
25                 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.

1           9858 et seq.), and part E of title IV of the So-  
2           cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) are  
3           complementary or if there are discrepancies  
4           that need to be addressed.

5           “(C) How to improve communication be-  
6           tween and across States, including through the  
7           use of technology and the use of the electronic  
8           interstate data exchange system established  
9           under subsection (a), to allow for more accurate  
10          and efficient exchange of child abuse and ne-  
11          glect records.

12          “(D) How to reduce barriers and establish  
13          best practices for the State to provide timely re-  
14          sponses to requests from other States for infor-  
15          mation contained in the State’s child abuse and  
16          neglect registry through the electronic inter-  
17          state data exchange system established under  
18          subsection (a).

19          “(E) How to ensure due process for any  
20          individual included in a State’s child abuse and  
21          neglect registry, including the following:

22                  “(i) The level of evidence necessary  
23                  for inclusion in the State’s child abuse and  
24                  neglect registry.

1           “(ii) The process for notifying such  
2 individual of inclusion in the State’s child  
3 abuse and neglect registry and the implica-  
4 tions of such inclusion.

5           “(iii) The process for providing such  
6 individual the opportunity to challenge  
7 such inclusion, and the procedures for re-  
8 solving such challenge.

9           “(iv) The length of time an individ-  
10 ual’s record is to remain in the State’s  
11 child abuse and neglect registry, and the  
12 process for removing such individual’s  
13 record.

14           “(v) The criteria for when such indi-  
15 vidual’s child abuse and neglect registry  
16 record may be—

17               “(I) made accessible to the gen-  
18 eral public;

19               “(II) made available for purposes  
20 of an employment check; and

21               “(III) be shared for the purposes  
22 of participation in the electronic inter-  
23 state data exchange system described  
24 in subsection (a).

1           “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after  
2           the date of the enactment of this section, the work-  
3           ing group convened under paragraph (1) shall sub-  
4           mit a report containing its recommendations to the  
5           Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Com-  
6           mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
7           of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and  
8           Labor of the House of Representatives.

9           “(3) CONSTRUCTION.—There shall be no re-  
10          quirement for any State to adopt the recommenda-  
11          tions of the working group, nor shall the Secretary  
12          of Health and Human Services incentivize or coerce  
13          any State to adopt any such recommendation.”.

14   **SEC. 112. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

15          (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Child Abuse  
16          Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.),  
17          as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is fur-  
18          ther amended—

19                (1) by striking “Committee on Education and  
20                the Workforce” each place it appears and inserting  
21                “Committee on Education and Labor”;

22                (2) in section 103(c)(1)(F), by striking “abused  
23                and neglected children” and inserting “victims of  
24                child abuse or neglect”; and

1           (3) in section 107(f), by striking “(42 U.S.C.  
2       10603a)” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20104)”.

3       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4           (1) SECTION 103.—Section 103(b)(5) (42  
5       U.S.C. 5104(b)(5)) is amended by striking “section  
6       106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section  
7       106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”.

8           (2) SECTION 105.—Section 105(a)(11) (42  
9       U.S.C. 5106(a)(11) (as redesignated by section  
10      105(1)(A) of this Act) is amended—

11           (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sec-  
12      tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section  
13      106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

14           (B) in subparagraph (C)—

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

18           (ii) in clause (i)(IV), by striking “sec-  
19      tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(II)” and inserting  
20      “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(II)”;

21           (iii) in clause (ii), by striking “clauses  
22      (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and  
23      inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section  
24      106(b)(2)(D)”;

25           (C) in subparagraph (D)—



1 (i) in clause (i)(I), by striking “sec-  
 2 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(I)” and inserting  
 3 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;

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

7 (iii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “sec-  
 8 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “sec-  
 9 tion 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;

10 (iv) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “sec-  
 11 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(i)” and inserting “sec-  
 12 tion 106(b)(2)(A)(i)”;

13 (v) in clause (iii)(IV), by striking  
 14 “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting  
 15 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

16 (vi) in clause (v), by striking “section  
 17 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section  
 18 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

19 (D) in subparagraph (E), by striking “sec-  
 20 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section  
 21 106(b)(2)(D)(i)”;

22 (E) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking  
 23 “clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)”  
 24 and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section  
 25 106(b)(2)(D)”.

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

5           (4) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-  
 6       tents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention  
 7       and Treatment Act is amended—

8           (A) by striking the items relating to sec-  
 9       tions 2 and 102;

10          (B) by inserting after the item relating to  
 11       section 114 the following:

“Sec. 115. Electronic interstate data exchange system.”;

12          and

13          (C) by striking the item relating to section  
 14       110, and inserting the following:

“Sec. 110. Study and report relating to scaling evidence-based treatment of  
 child abuse and neglect; study and report on marital age of  
 consent; study and report on State mandatory reporting laws.”.

15 **TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED**  
 16 **GRANTS FOR THE PREVEN-**  
 17 **TION OF CHILD ABUSE AND**  
 18 **NEGLECT**

19 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.**

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

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

1           “(1) to establish and maintain support for com-  
2           munity-based family strengthening services and  
3           statewide systems-building approaches to the extent  
4           practicable, to ensure the development, operation,  
5           expansion, coordination, and evaluation of quality  
6           services, initiatives, programs, and activities to pre-  
7           vent child abuse and neglect; and

8           “(2) to promote improved access for diverse  
9           populations with demonstrated need, including low-  
10          income families, racial and ethnic minorities, fami-  
11          lies with children or caregivers with disabilities, un-  
12          derserved communities, and rural communities, to  
13          family strengthening services in order to more effec-  
14          tively prevent child abuse and neglect.

15          “(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make grants  
16          under this title on a formula basis to the entity designated  
17          by the State as the lead entity (referred to in this title  
18          as the ‘lead entity’) under section 202(1) for the following  
19          purposes:

20               “(1) Providing programs, activities, and initia-  
21               tives to help families build protective factors linked  
22               to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, such as  
23               knowledge of parenting and child development, pa-  
24               rental resilience, social connections, time-limited and

1       need-based concrete support, and social and emo-  
2       tional development of children, that—

3               “(A) are accessible to diverse populations,  
4       effective, and culturally appropriate;

5               “(B) build upon existing strengths;

6               “(C) offer assistance to families;

7               “(D) provide early, comprehensive support  
8       for parents;

9               “(E) promote the development of healthy  
10       familial relationships and parenting skills, espe-  
11       cially in young parents and parents with very  
12       young children;

13               “(F) increase family stability;

14               “(G) improve family access to formal and  
15       informal community-based resources, including  
16       health and mental health services, time-limited  
17       and need-based concrete supports, and services  
18       and supports to meet the needs of families with  
19       children or caregivers with disabilities; and

20               “(H) support the additional needs of fami-  
21       lies with children with disabilities, including  
22       through respite care.

23               “(2) Fostering the development of a continuum  
24       of preventive services to strengthen families through

1 State- and community-based collaborations and both  
2 public and private partnerships.

3 “(3) Financing the start-up, maintenance, ex-  
4 pansion, or redesign of core services described in  
5 section 205, where communities have identified gaps  
6 and decided to prioritize the establishment of such  
7 services, to the extent practicable given funding lev-  
8 els and community priorities.

9 “(4) Maximizing funding through leveraging  
10 Federal, State, local, public, and private funds to  
11 carry out the purposes of this title.

12 “(5) Developing or enhancing statewide and  
13 local networks to operate, expand, or enhance com-  
14 munity-based family strengthening services, initia-  
15 tives, and activities that promote child, parent, fam-  
16 ily, and community health and well-being and pre-  
17 vent child abuse and neglect.

18 “(6) Promoting the development of, and coordi-  
19 nation with, existing community coalitions of net-  
20 works of family strengthening services that utilize  
21 culturally responsive providers in order to enhance  
22 child, family, and community well-being and prevent  
23 child abuse and neglect in all families.

1           “(7) Financing public information activities  
2           that focus on parent and child development and  
3           child abuse and neglect prevention.

4           “(8) To the extent practicable—

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

19                   “(B) developing comprehensive outreach  
20                   strategies to engage families with various risk  
21                   factors, including families who have experienced  
22                   trauma or domestic violence, parents with sub-  
23                   stance use disorder, and families with children  
24                   or caregivers with disabilities; and

1 “(C) providing capacity-building supports  
2 to local programs to improve desired outcomes  
3 for children and families, such as—

4 “(i) technical assistance, including  
5 support for local programs to collect out-  
6 come data that helps improve service deliv-  
7 ery;

8 “(ii) professional development; and

9 “(iii) peer support networks, including  
10 through developing a problem-solving  
11 forum.”.

12 **SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY.**

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

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-  
17 serting the following:

18 “(A) the Governor of the State has designated  
19 a lead entity to administer funds under this title for  
20 the purposes identified under the authority of this  
21 title, including to develop, implement, operate, en-  
22 hance, or expand community-based family strength-  
23 ening services designed to prevent child abuse and  
24 neglect;”; and

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

3 “(D) the Governor of the State has given con-  
4 sideration to the capacity and expertise of all entities  
5 requesting to be designated under subparagraph  
6 (A);” and

7 (2) in paragraph (3)—

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

10 “(A) has demonstrated ongoing meaningful  
11 partnerships with parents in the development,  
12 operation, and oversight of State- and commu-  
13 nity-based family strengthening services de-  
14 signed to prevent child abuse and neglect;”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
16 “community-based and prevention-focused pro-  
17 grams and activities designed to strengthen and  
18 support families” and inserting “community-  
19 based family strengthening services designed”;

20 (C) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-  
21 serting the following:

22 “(C) has the capacity to provide oper-  
23 ational support (both financial and pro-  
24 grammatic), professional development, technical



1 assistance, and evaluation assistance, to com-  
2 munity-based organizations;” and

3 (D) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-  
4 serting the following:

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

14 “(E) will take into consideration access for  
15 diverse populations and unmet need when dis-  
16 tributing funds to local programs under section  
17 205.”.

18 **SEC. 203. AMOUNT OF GRANT.**

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

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

23 “(a) RESERVATION.—For the purpose of making al-  
24 lotments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations and mi-  
25 grant programs, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of

1 the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for each  
 2 fiscal year, except that, if making such reservation would  
 3 cause the total amount allotted to States under this sec-  
 4 tion for a fiscal year to be less than such total for fiscal  
 5 year 2021, the Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of the  
 6 amount appropriated under section 210(a) for the year for  
 7 such purpose.”; and

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

9 “(d) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the  
 10 amount allotted to a State under subsection (b) exceeds  
 11 the amount allotted to the State under such subsection  
 12 for fiscal year 2021, the State’s lead entity may use not  
 13 more than 10 percent of such excess amount for adminis-  
 14 trative expenses.”.

15 **SEC. 204. APPLICATION.**

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

18 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
 19 striking “specified by the Secretary as essential to  
 20 carrying out the provisions of section 202, includ-  
 21 ing” and inserting “and assurances required in  
 22 paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202 and types of  
 23 information specified by the Secretary as essential in  
 24 carrying out the provisions of section 201(b), includ-  
 25 ing”;

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

6           (3) in paragraph (3) by striking “community-  
7       based and prevention-focused programs and activi-  
8       ties” and inserting “community-based family  
9       strengthening services designed”;

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

18          (5) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the  
19       following:

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

1 ities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of  
2 other underrepresented or underserved groups, fam-  
3 ily advocates, and adult victims of child abuse or ne-  
4 glect who can provide leadership in the planning, im-  
5 plementation, and evaluation of the programs and  
6 policy decisions of the applicant agency in accom-  
7 plishing the desired outcomes for such efforts;”;

8 (6) by redesignating paragraph (12) as para-  
9 graph (15);

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

12 (8) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
13 lowing:

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

22 (9) by striking paragraph (9), as so redesign-  
23 ated, and inserting the following:

24 “(9) a description of outreach activities that the  
25 lead entity and local grantees will undertake to

1 maximize the participation of low-income families,  
2 racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or  
3 caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minor-  
4 ity youth, victims of domestic violence, homeless  
5 families and those at risk of homelessness, and  
6 members of other underserved or underrepresented  
7 groups;”;

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

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

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

20 (12) by striking paragraph (12), as so redesign-  
21 nated, and inserting the following:

22 “(12) a description of the actions that the ap-  
23 plicant entity will take to inform systemic changes in  
24 State policies, practices, procedures, and regulations  
25 to improve the delivery of community-based family

1 strengthening services designed to promote child,  
2 family, and community well-being, and to prevent  
3 child abuse and neglect;

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

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

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

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

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

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

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

20 “(3) help families build protective factors that  
21 support child and family well-being and help prevent  
22 child abuse and neglect, including knowledge of par-  
23 enting and child development, parental resilience, so-  
24 cial connections, time-limited and need-based con-  
25 crete support, and social and emotional development  
26 of children.

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

4               “(1) demonstrates the ability to form collabora-  
5 tions across a range of services or initiatives and the  
6 commitment to engage in long-term planning and  
7 strategic development for community-based family  
8 strengthening services as well as provide on-going  
9 problem solving support;

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

15              “(3) addresses the need for place-based services  
16 and the need to reach families in hard-to-reach areas  
17 through approaches that provide core family  
18 strengthening services;

19              “(4) promotes improved access to family  
20 strengthening services for diverse populations and  
21 ensures that the services address identified needs of  
22 all families; and

23              “(5) demonstrates an understanding of the  
24 sources of child and family trauma and the strate-



1       gies that mitigate the impact of and prevent adverse  
2       childhood experiences.

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

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

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

18              “(3) Performing an assessment of community  
19      needs, including by partnering, at the option of the  
20      grantee, with an organization that already has per-  
21      formed a needs assessment (such as a Maternal, In-  
22      fant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program  
23      under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42  
24      U.S.C. 711) or a Head Start program under the  
25      Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.)).

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

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

8                   “(A) parenting support and parent edu-  
9                   cation programs, including services that help  
10                  parents and other caregivers support children’s  
11                  development;

12                  “(B) parent leadership skills development  
13                  programs that support parents’ personal growth  
14                  as leaders in their families and communities;

15                  “(C) mutual support groups for parents,  
16                  children, and parent partners;

17                  “(D) respite and crisis care; and

18                  “(E) referrals to optional community and  
19                  social services, including—

20                          “(i) domestic violence services;

21                          “(ii) screening and referrals to early  
22                          intervention;

23                          “(iii) voluntary home visiting pro-  
24                          grams;

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

6 “(v) early care and learning programs  
7 including child care and Head Start pro-  
8 grams and Early Head Start programs  
9 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831  
10 et seq.);

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

19 “(vii) education and workforce devel-  
20 opment programs, including adult literacy,  
21 child development, wellness, and family so-  
22 cioeconomic mobility programs; and

23 “(viii) services and supports to meet  
24 the needs of families with children or care-  
25 givers with disabilities, such as early inter-

1           vention services for infants and toddlers  
2           with disabilities and their families, as early  
3           intervention services are defined in section  
4           632 of the Individuals with Disabilities  
5           Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

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

10          “(7) Developing and maintaining meaningful  
11          partnerships with parents relating to the develop-  
12          ment, operation, evaluation, and oversight of the  
13          programs and services.

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

18          “(d) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants, a lead enti-  
19          ty shall give priority to effective community-based efforts  
20          that serve low-income communities and are focused on  
21          comprehensive approaches to serving young parents or  
22          parents with young children.”.

23   **SEC. 206. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

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

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

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

8           (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “including  
9       core and optional services as described in section  
10      202”;

11          (4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the  
12      following:

13           “(3) shall demonstrate how they have addressed  
14      unmet needs identified by the inventory required  
15      under section 204;”;

16          (5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the  
17      following:

18           “(4) shall describe the number of families  
19      served, including families with children or caregivers  
20      with disabilities, and the involvement of a diverse  
21      representation of families in the design, operation,  
22      and evaluation of both community-based family  
23      strengthening services and networks of such serv-  
24      ices;”;

1 (6) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the  
2 following:

3 “(7) shall describe—

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

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

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

14 (7) in paragraph (8)—

15 (A) by striking “leadership of” and insert  
16 “partnership with”; and

17 (B) by striking the period at the end and  
18 inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(9) shall describe the extent to which there is  
21 evidence to support the effectiveness of activities  
22 conducted under this title for the program’s in-  
23 tended purpose, or, in instances where such evidence  
24 is not available, shall describe barriers and chal-  
25 lenges to developing evidence of effectiveness.”.

1 **SEC. 207. NATIONAL NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY-BASED**  
 2 **FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 207 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
 4 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116g) is amended—

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

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

13 **SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.**

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

16 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as  
 17 paragraphs (2) and (1), respectively, and transfer-  
 18 ring paragraph (1) as redesignated to appear before  
 19 paragraph (2) as redesignated; and

20 (2) by striking paragraph (1) (as so redesign-  
 21 ated) 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  
 26 programs, voluntary home visiting programs, respite

1 care services, parenting education, mutual support  
2 groups for parents, children, parent partner pro-  
3 grams, and other community programs or networks  
4 of such programs that provide activities that are de-  
5 signed to prevent child abuse and neglect.”.

6 **SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Child Abuse Pre-  
8 vention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.) is  
9 amended—

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

11 and

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

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

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

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
20 tents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
21 Treatment Act is amended by striking the item relating  
22 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 2022”;

11 (3) by striking “2011 through 2015” and in-  
12 serting “2023 through 2027”; 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 2021, 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 2021.

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).

## **TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SEC. 301. PURPOSE.**

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

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**” and inserting “**PURPOSE**”;

(2) by striking subsection (a); and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) PURPOSE.—”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “sexual and gender minority youth” after “particularly older children, minority children,”; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “services and,” after “post-legal adoption”.

### **SEC. 302. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFERS.**

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.) 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, the  
7       Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Com-  
8       mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
9       of the Senate a report on unregulated custody trans-  
10      fers of children, including of adopted children.

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

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

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

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

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

1           tody 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 (including parental substance  
14 use disorder) affecting those outcomes.

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

20 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 Section 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
22 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.  
23 5115(a)) is amended—

24 (1) by striking “fiscal year 2010” and inserting  
25 “fiscal year 2022”; and

4       **TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO**  
5       **OTHER LAWS**

6 SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO  
7 OTHER LAWS.

(a) HEAD START ACT.—Section 658E(c)(2)(L) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)(L)) is amended by striking “will comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of section 106(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(i))” and inserting “will comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of section 106(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(A)(i))”.

(b) VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1984.—Section 1404A of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20104) is amended by striking “section 109” and inserting “section 107”.

Passed the House of Representatives March 16,  
2021.

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**  
*Clerk.*