

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9707

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a block grant program to provide incentives to underage mothers to stay in school and remain off of welfare, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2023

Mr. GOHMERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a block grant program to provide incentives to underage mothers to stay in school and remain off of welfare, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Making Opportunities
5 for Mothers Act” or the “MOM Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services shall establish a grant program under

1 which the Secretary makes block grants to States to be
2 administered in accordance with this section.

3 (b) USE OF GRANT.—A State that receives a grant
4 under subsection (a) shall use such grant to pay the cost
5 of—

6 (1) child care services for an eligible mother
7 who is a student enrolled in elementary school or
8 secondary school or enrolled on not less than a half-
9 time basis in an institution of higher education,
10 which enable such mother to attend the courses in
11 which she is enrolled; and

12 (2) child care services for an eligible mother de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) who has employment after
14 attending the courses in which she is enrolled, which
15 enable such mother to be so employed.

16 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elemen-
18 tary school” has the meaning given such term in
19 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (2) ELIGIBLE MOTHER.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible
23 mother” means an individual who—

24 (i) has not attained the age of 18;

25 (ii) has given birth to a child; and

1 (iii) has not been permanently sepa-
2 rated from such child.

3 (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 this Act shall be construed to make a mother
5 ineligible for payments or services under this
6 Act by virtue of being married.

7 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

11 (4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
12 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in
13 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15 (5) STATE.—In this section, the term “State”
16 means the several States and the District of Colum-
17 bia.

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