

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8866

To amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States, as a condition of Federal support for child welfare services programs, to facilitate access to advocates and advocacy resources for parents in any child welfare case or interaction involving a child of the parent, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2024

Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself and Ms. WILD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States, as a condition of Federal support for child welfare services programs, to facilitate access to advocates and advocacy resources for parents in any child welfare case or interaction involving a child of the parent, 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 “Advocates for Families
5 Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. FAMILY ADVOCATES IN CHILD WELFARE CASES.**

2 (a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 422(b)
3 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraph (18), by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (2) in paragraph (19), by striking the period at
8 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

10 “(20) provide—

11 “(A) that the laws and procedures of the
12 State shall permit any parent, foster parent, or
13 legal guardian of a child to seek and receive the
14 services of a family advocate, who shall have the
15 authority to represent the interests and act on
16 behalf of the parent, foster parent, or legal
17 guardian, throughout any child welfare case or
18 interaction involving the child, without obli-
19 gating the State to pay or provide for the serv-
20 ices;

21 “(B) that the State shall implement appro-
22 priate standards and rules governing the profes-
23 sional conduct of a family advocate;

24 “(C) how the State shall inform a parent,
25 foster parent, or legal guardian of a child, from
26 the commencement of any child welfare case or

1 interaction involving the child, of the right to be
 2 represented by a family advocate and of any
 3 local resources available to obtain the represen-
 4 tation; and

5 “(D) how the State shall inform the Sec-
 6 retary of—

7 “(i) the effect that honoring the right
 8 of every parent, foster parent, or legal
 9 guardian of a child to be represented by a
 10 family advocate has on the provision of
 11 child welfare services; and

12 “(ii) any recommendation of the State
 13 for ensuring that a parent, foster parent,
 14 or legal guardian of a child may exercise
 15 the right to be represented by a family ad-
 16 vocate.”.

17 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FAMILY ADVO-
 18 CATES.—Subpart 1 of part B of title IV of such Act (42
 19 U.S.C. 621–628c) is amended by adding at the end the
 20 following:

21 **“SEC. 429B. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FAMILY ADVO-**
 22 **CATES.**

23 “Within 2 years after the date of enactment of this
 24 section, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall sub-
 25 mit a written report with respect to the right of a parent,

1 foster parent, or legal guardian of a child to be rep-
2 resented by a family advocate, based on the submissions
3 of the States pursuant to section 422(b)(23), to—

4 “(1) the Committees on the Judiciary, on Edu-
5 cation and the Workforce, and on Ways and Means
6 of the House of Representatives; and

7 “(2) the Committees on the Judiciary, on
8 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and on Fi-
9 nance of the Senate.”.

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