

Wyden Amendment #1 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013

Short Title: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Federal Programs

Description of Amendment: This amendment, which mirrors language that passed as part of the House Child Support Enforcement bill (HR 1896), would allow specified federal agencies access to Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) data, including the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH), for research projects in order to assess the effectiveness of federal policies and programs in achieving positive labor market outcomes.

The FPLS includes both the NDNH and the Federal Case Registry (FCR) databases. The proposal would expand research access to the FPLS, including the NDNH, which captures employment outcome information for individuals working in most jobs in the United States. The earnings data in NDNH could be used to determine whether Federal education, training, and social service programs help people get jobs and earn family-sustaining wages. The data would also enhance statistics designed to improve our understanding of labor markets and the economy.

Wyden Amendment #2 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act

Short Title: Emphasizing Evidence-Based Post-Permanency Services

Description of Amendment: The Chairman's mark amends the adoption assistance component of the Title IV-E program (under the Social Security Act), adding new reporting requirements related to states' use of any savings they incur as a result of the expansion of federal eligibility for that assistance provided for under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. It would also require that states spend no less than 40 percent of any such savings for post-adoption and post-guardianship services and for services to support and sustain positive permanent outcomes for children who might otherwise enter foster care.

Currently, there is a shortage of rigorous evaluations of the array of post-adoption and post-guardianship services to determine which are most effective for children and families. This amendment would allow the 40 percent spending requirement to be used for evaluations of these services and help ensure that interventions aimed to improve permanency are evidence-informed.

Menendez-Grassley Amendment #1 to the Supporting At-Risk Youth Act

Short Title

Strengthen and Vitalize Enforcement of Child Support (SAVE Child Support) Act (S. 508)

Description of Amendment

The SAVE Child Support Act ensures that each state will have access to a child support lien registry so that liens placed against property because of overdue child support can be easily identified.

Additionally, the bill makes it easier for states to intercept payments made to individuals in order to satisfy child support orders by requiring automated data matches with state child support agencies. The bill also strengthens the procedures by which non-custodial parents can have certain licenses, permits, and passports revoked when they don't fully abide by their child-support orders by requiring greater coordination between child support agencies and license-issuing agencies, as well as requiring a passport to be restored only after complete repayment of back child support payments. The bill also encourages state child support agencies to coordinate with state correction agencies to assist individuals with a support order to manage and fulfill their support obligations.

According to the Health and Human Services Office of Child Support Enforcement FY 2011 Preliminary Report, nearly 11.5 million cases had child support arrears due in FY 2011. The total amount of child support due for FY 2009 was over \$33 billion and 62 percent of that amount was collected and distributed. The total amount of child support due for all previous fiscal years was over \$111 billion and less than \$8 billion of these arrearages were collected and distributed in FY 2011.

The SAVE Child Support Act will give states the tools they need to effectively collect child support.

AMENDMENT

Hatch Amendment #1 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013

Short Title: To establish a “Timely Adoption Award Pool”

Description of Amendment:

Would provide that any incentive funding appropriated in the fiscal year that is above the amount HHS needs to make incentive payments to states for increases in their rates of foster child adoptions and/or foster child guardianships (in each of four award categories), must be used to establish a “timely adoption award pool.” Any state that HHS determines has finalized 50 percent or more of its foster child adoptions within 12 months from the date on which the children were legally free for adoption (i.e., all parental rights had been terminated) would be eligible for a portion of the “timely adoption award pool.” Each state eligible for this award would receive an equal share of the timely adoption award pool.

Grassley Amendment #1 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013.

Short Title: Promoting Sibling Connections

Description of Amendment: To amend Section 471(a)(29) of the Social Security Act to recognize parents of siblings as relatives for the purpose of foster care placement. The amendment would require a State, in order to be eligible for payments under Title IV-E, to have plans that provide for identifying and providing notice to all adult parents of the child's siblings, where such parent has legal custody of such sibling, in addition to other adult grandparents and other adult relatives, within 30 days after the removal of a child from the custody of the parent(s).

Grassley Amendment #2 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013.

Short Title: Increasing Post Adoption and Post Guardianship Services for Families and Encouraging Targeted Recruitment and Training of Foster Parents and Permanent Families for Older Youth

Description of Amendment: Section 115 of the Chairman's Mark provides that states must spend not less than 40% of any state savings identified (due to expanded eligibility for federal Title IV-E assistance) to provide post-adoption or post-guardianship services and services to support and sustain positive permanent outcomes for children who otherwise might enter state foster care. This amendment would increase that spending from 40% to 50%.

The amendment would also amend Section 115 of the Chairman's Mark to ensure that states spend at least 25% of any state savings identified (due to expanded eligibility for federal Title IV-E assistance) for targeted recruitment and training of foster parents and permanent families for older youth and youth in sibling groups.

Grassley Amendment #3 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013.

Short Title: Federal Technical Assistance to States for Targeted Recruitment of Foster Parents and Permanent Families for Older Youth

Description of Amendment: The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide guidance and technical assistance to State child welfare agencies on evidence informed and best practices for the implementation of intensive recruitment and child-focused strategies that have been shown to increase permanent placements for youth in foster care and evidence informed and best practices for services provided to families post placement.

Grassley Amendment #4 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013.

Short Title: Allowing Parents With Child Support Enforcement Arrearages to Petition the Department of State for a Waiver of Passport Sanctions

Description of Amendment: The amendment would retain Section 312, Relief from Passport Sanctions for Certain Individuals, but include language requiring the debtor parent to petition the Department of State for a waiver of the law (P.L.104-193). An individual seeking a passport would directly apply to the Department of State, certifying that the individual has met the conditions required under the bill, including providing evidence of work outside the United States. The amendment would transfer the burden from the states to the individuals who seek a passport, and require the Department of State to make the decision and report the issuance of passports to the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services would be required to report the issuance of passports of debtor parents to state child support collection agencies.

AMENDMENT

Portman Amendment #1 to The Supporting At-Risk Children Act of 2013

Short Title: To clarify that post-adoption services are extended to internationally adopted children and their families.

Description of Amendment: Amends Section 115 to clarify that the 40% of any state savings identified due to expanded eligibility for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance may provide post adoption services to children adopted from other countries.