

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home with their families, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home with their families, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Family Stability and Kinship Care Act of 2015”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.

Sec. 4. Time-limited family services under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act.

Sec. 5. Assuring funding under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act for prevention and post-permanency support.

Sec. 6. Effective date.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Our Nation's child welfare financing system
4 gives States and Indian Tribes few resources to in-
5 vest in prevention and family services that help keep
6 children safely at home or in the care of other family
7 members.

8 (2) Title IV-E of the Social Security Act cur-
9 rently provides States and Indian Tribes with man-
10 datory Federal funding support for children only
11 after they are placed in foster care. Title IV-E pro-
12 vides few incentives for State and tribal efforts to
13 prevent the need for out-of-home placements of chil-
14 dren or to reduce the time children spend in foster
15 care.

16 (3) In contrast, State and tribal innovations im-
17 plemented through title IV-E waivers suggest that
18 permitting State and tribal spending under title IV-
19 E for front end prevention and family services may
20 help reduce the prevalence and length of foster care
21 placements while maintaining or improving safety
22 and permanency outcomes for children.

1 (4) Additionally, State experiences with sub-
2 sidized guardianship demonstrate that when children
3 cannot remain with their parents, children placed
4 with relatives or kin experience greater stability than
5 children placed with non-relative foster families.
6 Kinship or relative care reduces the emotional trauma
7 associated with separation from parents, helps
8 keep siblings together, and preserves cultural heritage
9 and community bonds. Providing supportive
10 services to relatives and kin can reduce the number
11 of children entering or re-entering foster care.

12 (5) At the same time, current Federal funding
13 for broad, community-based, primary prevention programs
14 through title IV-B is too limited to adequately
15 reach the number of families in need.

16 (6) Greater access to prevention and family
17 services will help keep children safe and supported
18 at home with their parents or other family members,
19 give States and Indian Tribes the flexibility to adapt
20 evidence-based support services to the specific needs
21 of each family, and ensure that States and Indian
22 Tribes are held accountable for allocating services in
23 ways that maximize safety and permanency for children,
24 while minimizing the prevalence of lengthy foster
25 care placements.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to enable States to provide
3 enhanced support to children and families and prevent fos-
4 ter care placements through the provision of time-limited
5 family services and expanded kinship supports.

6 **SEC. 4. TIME-LIMITED FAMILY SERVICES UNDER PART E OF**
7 **TITLE IV OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.**

8 (a) TIME-LIMITED FAMILY SERVICES DEFINED.—
9 Section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended by
10 adding at the end the following:

11 “(13)(A) The term ‘time-limited family services’
12 means supports and services that are among the
13 services and supports specified in subparagraph (B)
14 and that are provided to a child or to the parents
15 or potential or designated kin caregivers of a child
16 described in subparagraph (C) during a 12-month
17 period that begins on a date described in subpara-
18 graph (D). Such individuals shall remain eligible for
19 time-limited family services for a full 12-month pe-
20 riod without regard to whether any such individuals
21 cease to be described in subparagraph (C) after the
22 period begins.

23 “(B) The services and supports described in
24 this subparagraph are the following:

25 “(i) Parenting and family skills training
26 and parent education, including parent advo-

1 cates, peer-to-peer mentoring and support
2 groups for parents, primary caregivers, and po-
3 tential kinship caregivers.

4 “(ii) Individual, group, and family coun-
5 seling, mentoring, and therapy, including inten-
6 sive family preservation or reunification pro-
7 grams and trauma-informed care.

8 “(iii) Services or assistance to address bar-
9 riers to family preservation and reunification,
10 including mental health needs, domestic vio-
11 lence, substance abuse, and inadequate housing.

12 “(iv) Crisis assistance or services to sta-
13 bilize families in times of crisis or facilitate kin-
14 ship placement, such as transportation, cloth-
15 ing, household goods, assistance with housing
16 and utility payments, child care, respite care,
17 and assistance connecting families with other
18 community-based services.

19 “(C) Individuals described in this subparagraph
20 are the following:

21 “(i) A child who is a candidate for foster
22 care (as defined in paragraph 14) but can re-
23 main safely at home or in a kinship placement
24 with receipt of specified time-limited family
25 services.

1 “(ii) A child in foster care (without regard
2 to whether the child is or would be eligible for
3 payments under section 472 or 473).

4 “(iii) A child in foster care who is a preg-
5 nant or parenting foster youth.

6 “(iv) Parents or potential or designated
7 kin caregivers of a child described in clause (i),
8 (ii), or (iii) when their service needs are directly
9 related to the safety, permanence, or well-being
10 of the child or to the child’s ability not to enter
11 or re-enter foster care.

12 “(D) The dates described in this subparagraph
13 are the following:

14 “(i) The date on which a child is identified
15 in a case plan as a child who is a candidate for
16 foster care (as defined in paragraph (14)).

17 “(ii) The date on which a child is consid-
18 ered to have entered foster care pursuant to
19 paragraph (5)(F).

20 “(iii) The date on which a child is identi-
21 fied in a case plan as a pregnant or parenting
22 foster youth in need of time-limited family serv-
23 ices.

24 “(14) The term ‘child who is a candidate for foster
25 care’ means, a child who is identified in a case plan as

1 being at imminent risk of entering or re-entering foster
2 care (without regard to whether the child is or would be
3 eligible for payments under section 472 or 473) but who
4 can remain safely in the child’s current home or in a kin-
5 ship placement as long as the time-limited family services
6 that are necessary to prevent the child’s entry or reentry
7 into foster care or to enable the child’s exit from foster
8 care to be reunified with their family or placed with kin
9 that are specified in the child’s case plan, as required
10 under section 471(e)(2)(A)(i), are provided. Such term in-
11 cludes a child whose adoption or guardianship arrange-
12 ment is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would
13 result in a foster care placement or prevent the child from
14 exiting foster care.”.

15 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 471 of such Act (42
16 U.S.C. 671) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and” and
18 all that follows through the semicolon and inserting
19 “, adoption assistance in accordance with section
20 473, and, at the option of the State, time-limited
21 family services in accordance with subsection (e);”;
22 and

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

24 “(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR TIME-LIMITED FAMILY
25 SERVICES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may provide time-
2 limited family services (as defined in section
3 475(13)) to individuals described in subparagraph
4 (C) of section 475(13) only if the State—

5 “(A) submits as part of the State plan re-
6 quired under subsection (a) a time-limited fam-
7 ily services plan component that meets the re-
8 quirements of paragraph (2); and

9 “(B) satisfies the general requirements
10 specified in paragraph (3) and the maintenance
11 of effort requirements specified in (5).

12 “(2) TIME-LIMITED FAMILY SERVICES PLAN
13 COMPONENT.—In order to meet the requirements of
14 this paragraph, a time-limited family services plan
15 component shall include, with respect to each 5-year
16 period for which the plan component is in operation
17 in the State, the following:

18 “(A) How the State intends to utilize the
19 Federal funding available for providing time-
20 limited family services, including a description
21 of how Federal funds provided for such services
22 will be used to supplement, and not supplant,
23 the level of State and local funds expended for
24 child welfare.

1 “(ii) how the State plans to imple-
2 ment each such program or model;

3 “(iii) how the State selected such pro-
4 grams or models; and

5 “(iv) the target population for each
6 model.

7 “(E) A description of the collaboration be-
8 tween the State agencies responsible for admin-
9 istering the State plans under this part and
10 part B and the State agency responsible for ad-
11 ministering the State plan under title XIX, as
12 well as with other public and private agencies
13 with experience in administering child and fam-
14 ily services, including community-based organi-
15 zations, in order to foster a continuum of care
16 and services available for the children and fami-
17 lies.

18 “(F) A description of how the State shall
19 assess children and families to determine eligi-
20 bility for time-limited family services.

21 “(G) A description of training and support
22 for caseworkers handling prevention cases, in-
23 cluding how caseload size and type will be de-
24 termined, managed, and overseen.

1 “(H) A description of training and support
2 for parents or potential or designated kin care-
3 givers of a child eligible for time-limited family
4 services.

5 “(3) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—The general
6 requirements for providing time-limited family serv-
7 ices specified in this paragraph are the following:

8 “(A) SPECIFIED SERVICES IN ADVANCE OF
9 PROVISION.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
11 vided in clause (ii), the specific services
12 necessary to prevent the child’s entry or
13 reentry into foster care or enable the
14 child’s exit from foster care to be reunified
15 with their family or placed with kin are
16 specified in the child’s case plan in advance
17 of the provision of such services.

18 “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR EMERGENCY OR
19 OTHER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—Clause
20 (i) shall not apply to the provision of time-
21 limited family services in emergency or exi-
22 gent circumstances but the provision of
23 such services shall be included in the
24 child’s case plan as soon as practicable
25 after the provision of the services.

1 “(B) PROMISING AND EVIDENCE-BASED
2 PROGRAMS, ASSISTANCE, OR SERVICES.—

3 “(i) EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS, AS-
4 SISTANCE, OR SERVICES.—Not later than
5 October 1, 2018, at least 25 percent of the
6 State expenditures for time-limited family
7 services are for evidence-based programs,
8 assistance, or services that have dem-
9 onstrated any of the following outcomes, as
10 determined by the Secretary and based on
11 rigorous evaluation:

12 “(I) Reducing the likelihood or
13 duration of foster care placement.

14 “(II) Decreasing use of con-
15 gregate care settings.

16 “(III) Increasing use of kinship
17 care arrangements.

18 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The State only
19 provides time-limited family services that
20 are promising programs, services, or assist-
21 ance and through evidence-informed or cul-
22 turally specific or other adaptations of pro-
23 grams.

1 “(iii) GUIDANCE ON CRITERIA AND
2 PRE-APPROVED PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND
3 ASSISTANCE.—

4 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later
5 than October 1, 2017, the Secretary
6 shall issue guidance to States that
7 specifies the level of evidence required
8 for a program, service, or form of as-
9 sistance to satisfy the requirements of
10 this subparagraph, and contains a
11 pre-approved list of programs, services
12 and forms of assistance that meet
13 such criteria or satisfy such require-
14 ments.

15 “(II) UPDATES.—The Secretary
16 shall issue updates to the guidance re-
17 quired under this clause as often as
18 the Secretary determines necessary.

19 “(C) PAYMENT ONLY IF NO OTHER FED-
20 ERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE.—Payment under
21 section 474(a)(6) for expenditures for time-lim-
22 ited family services shall not duplicate other
23 Federal funding sources for services and sup-
24 ports that are provided as time-limited family
25 services and shall only be made to the extent

1 that payment for services and supports provided
2 as time-limited family services cannot reason-
3 ably be expected to be available under another
4 federally funded program within a reasonable
5 time given the needs of the child and the child's
6 family during the child's 12-month eligibility
7 period.

8 “(D) OUTCOME ASSESSMENT AND REPORT-
9 ING.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall
11 collect and report to the Secretary the fol-
12 lowing with respect to each child for whom,
13 or on whose behalf, time-limited family
14 services are provided during a 12-month
15 period:

16 “(I) With respect to each cat-
17 egory of services and supports de-
18 scribed in section 475(13)(B), the
19 specific services provided and the total
20 expenditures for each such service.

21 “(II) The child's placement sta-
22 tus at the beginning, and at the end,
23 of the period, respectively.

24 “(III) The child's placement sta-
25 tus 1 year after the end of the period.

1 “(ii) SIBLINGS.—If time-limited fam-
2 ily services are provided over a 12-month
3 period to or on behalf of 2 or more sib-
4 lings, the aggregate amount of expendi-
5 tures for such services to be reported
6 under clause (i)(I) may be allocated to 1
7 sibling or divided among such siblings so
8 long as such siblings are all included in
9 calculation of the per-child spending meas-
10 ure under paragraph (4)(A)(i)(III).

11 “(4) AUTHORIZATION FOR OUTCOMES-RE-
12 WARDED INCREASED MATCH.—

13 “(A) NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEAS-
14 URES.—

15 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT; ANNUAL UP-
16 DATES.—Beginning with fiscal year 2021,
17 and annually thereafter, the Secretary
18 shall establish the following national per-
19 formance measures:

20 “(I) PERCENTAGES OF CAN-
21 DIDATES WHO DO NOT SUBSE-
22 QUENTLY ENTER FOSTER CARE.—

23 With respect to all children for whom,
24 or on whose behalf, time-limited fam-
25 ily services are provided during any

1 12-month period, the percentages of
2 such children initially determined to
3 be candidates for foster care who do
4 not enter a foster care placement
5 (other than a kinship placement) dur-
6 ing such period and through the end
7 of the succeeding 12-month-period.

8 “(II) PERCENTAGES OF CHIL-
9 DREN WHO LEAVE FOSTER CARE FOR
10 REUNIFICATION, KINSHIP PLACE-
11 MENT, GUARDIANSHIP, OR ADOP-
12 TION.—With respect to all children
13 for whom, or on whose behalf, time-
14 limited family services are provided
15 during any 12-month period, the per-
16 centages of such children who are ini-
17 tially in a foster care placement who
18 are returned to, or are placed with a
19 biological or adoptive parent or in a
20 kinship placement or guardianship at
21 the end of such period and who re-
22 main in each such placement through
23 the end of the succeeding 12-month-
24 period.

1 merce or such other data as the Sec-
2 retary determines appropriate.

3 “(iii) PUBLICATION OF STATE PER-
4 FORMANCE.—The Secretary shall annually
5 make available to the public each State’s
6 performance with respect to the national
7 performance measures.

8 “(B) APPLICATION TO MATCHING RATE.—

9 “(i) CRITERIA FOR INCREASE.—Be-
10 ginning with fiscal year 2022, the Federal
11 percentage applicable to payments to a
12 State for a fiscal year under section
13 474(a)(6) for expenditures attributable to
14 time-limited family services shall be in-
15 creased by such number of percentage
16 points (not to exceed 10 percentage points)
17 as the Secretary shall determine, for any
18 State for which—

19 “(I) the State-specific percent-
20 ages described in subclauses (I) and
21 (II) of subparagraph (A)(i) are both
22 greater than the national average per-
23 centages determined under such sub-
24 clauses for the preceding fiscal year;
25 and

1 “(II) the State-specific per child
2 spending amount described in sub-
3 clause (III) of subparagraph (A)(i) is
4 less than the national average amount
5 determined under that subclause for
6 the preceding fiscal year.

7 “(ii) CRITERIA FOR REDUCTION.—Be-
8 ginning with fiscal year 2022, the Federal
9 percentage applicable to payments to a
10 State for a fiscal year under section
11 474(a)(6) for expenditures attributable to
12 time-limited family services shall be re-
13 duced by such number of percentage points
14 (not to exceed 10 percentage points) as the
15 Secretary shall determine, for any State
16 for which—

17 “(I) the State-specific percent-
18 ages described in subclauses (I) and
19 (II) of subparagraph (A)(i) are both
20 less than the national average per-
21 centages determined under such sub-
22 clauses for the preceding fiscal year;
23 and

24 “(II) the State-specific per child
25 spending amount described in sub-

1 clause (III) of subparagraph (A)(i) is
2 more than the national average
3 amount determined under that sub-
4 clause for the preceding fiscal year.

5 “(iii) NO CHANGE UNLESS ALL CRI-
6 TERIA MET.—A State shall not be eligible
7 for an increase in its applicable Federal
8 matching rate under section 474(a)(6) for
9 a fiscal year, or shall not be subject to a
10 reduction in that rate for a fiscal year, un-
11 less the State satisfies both of the condi-
12 tions specified in clause (i) or (ii) (as ap-
13 plicable).

14 “(5) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

15 “(A) CERTIFICATION.—The Governor of a
16 State shall certify that payments under this
17 part for time-limited family services are used to
18 supplement, and not supplant, the level of State
19 and local funds expended for child welfare for
20 fiscal year 2015.

21 “(B) STATE REPORTS.—A State shall fur-
22 nish reports to the Secretary, at such times, in
23 such format, and containing such information
24 as the Secretary may require, that demonstrate
25 the State’s compliance with subparagraph (A).

1 “(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
2 this subsection shall be construed to reduce or limit
3 the responsibility of the State agency responsible for
4 administering the State plan approved under title
5 XIX to administer and provide care and services for
6 children with respect to whom services are provided
7 under the State plan developed pursuant to this sub-
8 part.”.

9 (c) PAYMENTS UNDER TITLE IV-E.—Section 474(a)
10 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
13 the end and inserting “; plus”; and

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

15 “(6) subject to section 471(e), for each quarter
16 beginning after September 30, 2015, an amount
17 equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage
18 (which shall be as defined in section 1905(b), in the
19 case of a State other than the District of Columbia,
20 or 70 percent, in the case of the District of Colum-
21 bia) of the total amount expended during such quar-
22 ter for the provision of time-limited family services
23 (as defined in section 475(13) (or, with respect to
24 such payments made during such quarter under a
25 cooperative agreement or contract entered into by

1 the State and an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or
2 tribal consortium for the administration or payment
3 of funds under this part, an amount equal to the
4 Federal medical assistance percentage that would
5 apply under section 479B(d) (in this paragraph re-
6 ferred to as the ‘tribal FMAP’) if such Indian tribe,
7 tribal organization, or tribal consortium made such
8 payments under a program operated under that sec-
9 tion, unless the tribal FMAP is less than the Fed-
10 eral medical assistance percentage that applies to
11 the State); plus

12 “(7) notwithstanding section 472(i), for each
13 quarter beginning after September 30, 2015, an
14 amount equal to the sum of the following propor-
15 tions of the total amount expended during such
16 quarter—

17 “(A) 50 percent of so much of such ex-
18 penditures as found necessary by the Secretary
19 for the provision of time-limited family services
20 (as so defined) and for the proper and efficient
21 administration of the State plan for the provi-
22 sion of such services, including expenditures for
23 activities approved by the Secretary that pro-
24 mote the development of necessary infrastruc-
25 ture to establish and implement the provision of

1 time-limited family services for individuals who
2 are eligible for such services; and

3 “(B) 50 percent of so much of such ex-
4 penditures as are for training of personnel em-
5 ployed or preparing for employment by the
6 State agency or by the local agency admin-
7 istering the plan in the political subdivision,
8 with respect to the provision of time-limited
9 family services, including on how to determine
10 who are individuals eligible for such services,
11 how to identify and provide appropriate time-
12 limited family services, and how to oversee and
13 evaluate the ongoing appropriateness of such
14 services.”.

15 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DATA COLLECTION,
16 AND EVALUATION.—Section 476 of the Social Security
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 676) is amended by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DATA COLLECTION,
20 AND EVALUATIONS RELATING TO TIME-LIMITED FAMILY
21 SERVICES.—

22 “(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; BEST PRAC-
23 TICES.—The Secretary shall provide to States and,
24 as applicable, to Indian tribes, tribal organizations,
25 and tribal consortia, technical assistance regarding

1 the provision of time-limited family services under
2 this part and shall disseminate best practices with
3 respect to the provision of such services.

4 “(2) DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATIONS.—
5 The Secretary, directly or through grants, contracts,
6 or interagency agreements, shall collect data and
7 conduct research and evaluations with respect to the
8 provision of time-limited family services under this
9 part for purposes of assessing the extent to which
10 the provision of such services reduces the prevalence
11 and length of foster care placements and improves
12 safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for
13 children on whose behalf services or assistance are
14 provided under this part.

15 “(3) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
17 submit to the Committee on Ways and Means
18 of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Finance of the Senate periodic re-
20 ports based on the provision of time-limited
21 family services under this part and the activi-
22 ties carried out under this subsection.

23 “(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
24 retary shall make the reports to Congress sub-
25 mitted under this paragraph publicly available.

1 “(4) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated
2 to the Secretary, out of any money in the Treasury
3 of the United States not otherwise appropriated,
4 \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year
5 thereafter to carry out this subsection.”.

6 (e) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY IN-
7 DIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 479B of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 679c) is amended—

10 (A) in subsection (c)(1)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

12 (I) in subclause (II), by striking
13 “and” after the semicolon;

14 (II) in subclause (III), by strik-
15 ing the period at the end and insert-
16 ing “; and”; and

17 (III) by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(IV) at the option of the tribe,
20 organization, or consortium, time-lim-
21 ited family services (as defined in sec-
22 tion 475(13)) to individuals described
23 in subparagraph (C) of section
24 475(13), in accordance with section
25 471(e) and subparagraph (E).”; and

1 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(E) TIME-LIMITED FAMILY SERVICES.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
5 tribe, organization, or consortium that
6 elects to provide time-limited family serv-
7 ices (as defined in section 475(13)) to indi-
8 viduals described in subparagraph (C) of
9 section 475(13) under the plan, the Sec-
10 retary shall specify the requirements appli-
11 cable to the provision of such services.
12 Such requirements shall, to the greatest
13 extent practicable, be consistent with the
14 requirements applicable to States under
15 section 471(e) and shall permit the provi-
16 sion of such services in the form of pro-
17 grams, assistance, or services that are
18 adapted to the culture and context of the
19 tribal communities served.

20 “(ii) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The
21 Secretary shall establish specific perform-
22 ance measures for each tribe, organization,
23 or consortium that elects to provide time-
24 limited family services. The performance
25 measures shall, to the greatest extent prac-

1 ticable, be consistent with the national per-
2 formance measures required for States
3 under paragraph (4)(A) of section 471(e)
4 but shall allow for consideration of factors
5 unique to the provision of such services by
6 tribes, organizations, or consortia.”; and
7 (B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “and
8 (5)” and inserting “(5), (6), and (7)”.

9 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading
10 for subsection (d) of section 479B of such Act (42
11 U.S.C. 679c) is amended by striking “FOR FOSTER
12 CARE MAINTENANCE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
13 PAYMENTS”.

14 (f) MODERNIZING THE TITLE AND PURPOSE OF
15 TITLE IV-E.—

16 (1) PART HEADING.—The heading for part E of
17 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670
18 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

19 **“PART E—FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER**
20 **CARE AND PERMANENCY”.**

21 (2) PURPOSE.—The first sentence of section
22 470 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670) is
23 amended—

24 (A) by striking “and” before “adoption as-
25 sistance” and inserting a comma;

1 (B) by inserting “kinship guardianship as-
2 sistance, and time-limited family services,” after
3 “needs,”; and

4 (C) by striking “(commencing with the fis-
5 cal year which begins October 1, 1980)”.

6 **SEC. 5. ASSURING FUNDING UNDER PART B OF TITLE IV OF**
7 **THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT FOR PREVEN-**
8 **TION AND POST-PERMANENCY SUPPORT.**

9 (a) **ELIMINATION OF TIME-LIMIT FOR FAMILY RE-**
10 **UNIFICATION SERVICES.—**

11 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 431(a)(7) of the So-
12 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(7)) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
15 “TIME-LIMITED FAMILY” and inserting “FAM-
16 ILY”; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) by striking “time-limited family”
19 and inserting “family”; and

20 (ii) by striking “, but only during the
21 15-month period that begins on the date
22 that the child, pursuant to section
23 475(5)(F), is considered to have entered
24 foster care”.

25 (2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

1 (A) Section 430 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
2 629) is amended in the matter preceding para-
3 graph (1), by striking “time-limited”.

4 (B) Subsections (a)(4), (a)(5)(A), and
5 (b)(1) of section 432 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
6 629b) are amended by striking “time-limited”
7 each place it appears.

8 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING FOR THE PROMOTING
9 SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES (PSSF) PROGRAM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—

11 (A) APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR
12 2016.—Section 436(a) of the Social Security Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 629f(a)) is amended by striking
14 “2016” and inserting “2015, and there is ap-
15 propriated \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year
16 2016.”.

17 (B) INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR EVALUA-
18 TION, RESEARCH, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
19 ASSISTANCE AND STATE COURT IMPROVE-
20 MENTS.—Section 436(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
21 629f(b)) is amended—

22 (i) in paragraph (1), in the matter
23 preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting
24 “(\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2016)” after
25 “\$6,000,000”; and

1 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting
2 “(\$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2016)” after
3 “\$30,000,000”.

4 (C) INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR STATE
5 COURT ASSESSMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.—
6 Section 438(c)(3)(A)(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
7 629h(c)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
8 “(\$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2016)” after
9 “\$9,000,000”.

10 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
11 437(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(a)) is amended
12 by striking “2016” and inserting “2015”.

13 (c) SPENDING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 432(a)(4)
14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(a)(4)) is
15 amended by striking “, with significant portions of such
16 expenditures for each such program” and inserting “with
17 at least 25 percent of the expenditures made for adoption
18 promotion and support services”.

19 (d) RESEARCH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND GUID-
20 ANCE ON PROMISING PROGRAM MODELS AND EVIDENCE-
21 BASED PROGRAMS.—Section 435(c) of such Act (42
22 U.S.C. 629e(c)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
24 (1);

1 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
2 graph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(3) beginning with fiscal year 2016,
5 \$4,000,000 for research on promising programs, in-
6 cluding culturally-specific adaptations, to identify
7 additional evidence-based prevention and interven-
8 tion programs that prevent child abuse and neglect,
9 reduce the likelihood of foster care placement by
10 supporting birth families and kinship families, in-
11 crease family reunification with parents or other kin,
12 improve targeted supports for pregnant and par-
13 enting teens and their children, and promote post-
14 permanency placement stability for children living
15 with relatives or non-related caregivers, and for pro-
16 viding technical assistance and guidance to States
17 with respect to such programs.”.

18 (e) FAMILY CONNECTION GRANTS.—

19 (1) REAUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR FIS-
20 CAL YEAR 2016.—Section 427(h) of the Social Secu-
21 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 627(h)) is amended by inserting
22 “, and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2016” after
23 “2014”.

1 (2) INCLUSION OF OTHER FAMILY STABILITY
2 PROGRAMS.—Section 427(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
3 627(a)) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “or”
5 after the semicolon;

6 (B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking the
7 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

8 (C) by inserting after paragraph (4)(B)
9 the following:

10 “(5) other programs with evidence to support
11 their effectiveness at preventing foster care place-
12 ment or supporting family stability post-permanency
13 (or both).”.

14 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
16 amendments made by this Act take effect on October 1,
17 2015.

18 (b) TRANSITION RULE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State plan
20 under part B or E of title IV of the Social Security
21 Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
22 ices determines requires State legislation (other than
23 legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan
24 to meet the additional requirements imposed by the
25 amendments made by this Act, the State plan shall

1 not be regarded as failing to comply with the re-
2 quirements of such part solely on the basis of the
3 failure of the plan to meet such additional require-
4 ments before the first day of the first calendar quar-
5 ter beginning after the close of the first regular ses-
6 sion of the State legislature that begins after the
7 date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the
8 previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a
9 2-year legislative session, each year of such session
10 shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of
11 the State legislature.

12 (2) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY
13 INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of an
14 Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium
15 which the Secretary of Health and Human Services
16 determines requires time to take action necessary to
17 comply with the additional requirements imposed by
18 the amendments made by this Act (whether the
19 tribe, organization, or tribal consortium has a plan
20 under section 479B of the Social Security Act or a
21 cooperative agreement or contract entered into with
22 a State), the Secretary shall provide the tribe, orga-
23 nization, or tribal consortium with such additional
24 time as the Secretary determines is necessary for the
25 tribe, organization, or tribal consortium to take such

- 1 action before being regarded as failing to comply
- 2 with such requirements.