

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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 “Childhood Outcomes
5 Need New Efficient Community Teams” or the “CON-
6 NECT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO AWARD COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO**
2 **ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATE**
3 **CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**
4 **SYSTEMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 436 of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 629f) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new subsection:

8 “(c) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS TO STATES TO
9 ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATE CHILD
10 WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS.—

11 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
12 is to authorize the Secretary to make grants to State
13 child welfare and juvenile justice agencies to collabor-
14 ate in the collection of data relating to dual status
15 youth and to develop practices, policies, and proto-
16 cols to confront the challenges presented and experi-
17 enced by dual status youth.

18 “(2) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
20 award competitive grants jointly to a State
21 child welfare agency and a State juvenile justice
22 agency to facilitate or enhance collaboration be-
23 tween the child welfare and juvenile justice sys-
24 tems of the State in order to carry out pro-
25 grams to address the needs of dual status
26 youth.

1 “(B) FUNDING.—Any grants awarded
2 under this subsection shall be awarded from the
3 amounts made available subsection (a) of this
4 section, after the application of subsection (b)
5 of this section and before the determination of
6 allotments under section 433.

7 “(C) LENGTH OF GRANTS.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant shall be
9 awarded under this subsection for a period
10 of not less than 2, and not more than 5,
11 fiscal years, subject to clause (ii).

12 “(ii) EXTENSION OF GRANT.—On ap-
13 plication of the grantee, the Secretary may
14 extend for not more than 2 fiscal years the
15 period for which a grant is awarded under
16 this subsection.

17 “(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

18 “(A) APPLICATION.—In order for a State
19 to be eligible for a grant under this subsection,
20 it shall submit an application, to be approved
21 by the Secretary, that includes—

22 “(i) a description of the proposed
23 leadership collaboration group (including
24 the membership of such group), and how
25 such group will manage and oversee a re-

1 view and analysis of current practices while
2 working to jointly address enhanced prac-
3 tices to improve outcomes for dual status
4 youth;

5 “(ii) a description of how the State
6 proposes to—

7 “(I) identify dual status youths;

8 “(II) identify individuals who are
9 at risk of becoming dual status
10 youths;

11 “(III) identify common charac-
12 teristics shared by dual status youths
13 in the State;

14 “(IV) determine the prevalence of
15 dual status youth in the State;

16 “(iii) a description of current and pro-
17 posed practices and procedures that the
18 State intends to use to—

19 “(I) screen and assess dual sta-
20 tus youths for risks and treatment
21 needs;

22 “(II) provide targeted and evi-
23 dence-based services, including edu-
24 cational, behavioral health, and pro-

1 social treatment interventions for dual
2 status youths; and

“(iv) a certification that the State has involved local governments, as appropriate, in the development, expansion, modification, operation, or improvement of proposed policy and practice reforms to address the needs of dual status youths.

16 “(B) No SUPPLANTATION OF OTHER
17 FUNDs.—Any amounts paid to a State under a
18 grant under this subsection shall be used to
19 supplement and not supplant other State ex-
20 penditures on dual status youths or children in-
21 volved with either the child welfare or juvenile
22 justice systems.

23 “(C) REPORT.—A State child welfare
24 agency and a State juvenile justice agency re-
25 ceiving a grant under this subsection shall

1 jointly submit to the Secretary and to the Ad-
2 ministrator of Office of Juvenile Justice and
3 Delinquency Prevention of the Department of
4 Justice a report on the activities carried out
5 under the grant at the end of each fiscal year
6 during the period of the grant. Such report
7 shall include—

8 “(i) a description of the scope and na-
9 ture of the dual status youth population in
10 the State, including the number of dual
11 status youth;

12 “(ii) a description of the evidence-
13 based practices and procedures used by the
14 agencies to carry out the activities de-
15 scribed in subclauses (I) through (III) of
16 subparagraph (A)(iii); and

17 “(iii) an analysis of the effects of such
18 practices and procedures, including infor-
19 mation regarding—

20 “(I) the collection of data related
21 to individual dual status youths;

22 “(II) aggregate data related to
23 the dual status youth population, in-
24 cluding—

1 “(aa) characteristics of dual
2 status youths in the State;
3 “(bb) case processing time
4 lines; and
5 “(cc) information related to
6 case management, the provision
7 of targeted services, and place-
8 ments within the foster care or
9 juvenile justice system; and
10 “(III) the extent to which such
11 practices and procedures have contrib-
12 uted to—
13 “(aa) higher educational at-
14 tainment for dual status youths;
15 “(bb) fewer delinquency re-
16 ferrals for dual status youths;
17 “(cc) shorter stays in inten-
18 sive restrictive placements for
19 dual status youths; or
20 “(dd) such other outcomes
21 for dual status youths as the
22 State child welfare agency and
23 State juvenile justice agency may
24 identify.

1 “(4) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

2 The Secretary may support State child welfare agen-
3 cies and State juvenile justice agencies by offering a
4 program, developed in consultation with organiza-
5 tions and agencies with subject matter expertise, of
6 training and technical assistance to assist the agen-
7 cies in developing programs and protocols—

8 “(A) to facilitate or enhance collaboration
9 between State child welfare agencies and State
10 juvenile justice agencies; and

11 “(B) for effectively working with Federal
12 agencies and child welfare and juvenile justice
13 agencies from other States.

14 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
15 date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3
16 years thereafter, the Secretary and the Attorney
17 General of the Department of Justice shall jointly
18 submit to the Committee on Finance and the Com-
19 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Com-
20 mittee on Ways and Means and the Committee on
21 Education and the Workforce of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives, a report on the grants provided under
23 this subsection.

24 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) DUAL STATUS YOUTH.—The term
2 ‘dual status youth’ means a child who has come
3 into contact with both the child welfare and ju-
4 venile justice systems and occupies various
5 statuses in terms of the individual’s relationship
6 to such systems.

7 “(B) LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION
8 GROUP.—The term ‘leadership collaboration
9 group’ means a group composed of senior offi-
10 cials from the State child welfare agency, the
11 State juvenile justice agency, and other relevant
12 youth and family-serving public agencies and
13 private organizations, including, to the extent
14 practicable, representatives from the State judi-
15 ciary branch.

16 “(C) STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE AGENCY.—
17 The term ‘State juvenile justice agency’ means
18 the agency of the State or Indian tribe respon-
19 sible for administering grant funds awarded
20 under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
21 Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et
22 seq.).

23 “(D) STATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY.—
24 The term ‘State child welfare agency’ means
25 the State agency responsible for administering

1 the program under subpart 1, or, in the case of
2 a tribal organization that is receiving payments
3 under section 428, the tribal agency responsible
4 for administering such program.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsections (b)
6 and (c) of section 433 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 633) are
7 each amended by striking “section 436(b)” and inserting
8 “subsections (b) and (c) of section 436”.