

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8555

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for better protections for children raised in kinship families outside of the foster care system.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2024

Ms. SCANLON (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for better protections for children raised in kinship families outside of the foster care system.

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 “Help Grandfamilies  
5 Prevent Child Abuse Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) More than 2,400,000 children are being  
9 raised in kinship families or “grandfamilies” by rel-

1       atives or close family friends without their parents  
2       in the home, and the vast majority of such children  
3       are raised outside of the foster care system.

4           (2) The majority of kinship caregivers are  
5       grandparents.

6           (3) For every child in foster care living with rel-  
7       atives, there are 18 being raised by relatives outside  
8       of the foster care system.

9           (4) More than one-third of all children placed  
10      in foster care because of parental drug or alcohol  
11      use are placed with relatives.

12          (5) Children who have been exposed to sub-  
13      stance misuse in the home may also experience  
14      abuse and neglect, and research indicates that chil-  
15      dren in family foster care because of substance use  
16      are more likely to be placed with relatives than with  
17      nonrelatives.

18 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO CAPTA.**

19       (a) ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE AND NE-  
20      GLECT.—Section 102(c) of the Child Abuse Prevention  
21      and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102(c)) is amended—

22           (1) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and” and  
23      inserting a semicolon;

24           (2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period  
25      and inserting a semicolon; and

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

2 “(15) organizations providing services to kin-  
3 ship families; and

4 “(16) birth parents, kinship caregivers, and fos-  
5 ter care alumni.”.

6 (b) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION  
7 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.—Section 103(b) of the  
8 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 5104(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (8)(B), by striking “; and”  
11 and inserting a semicolon;

12 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and  
13 inserting “; and”; and

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

15 “(10) coordinate with the Grandfamilies & Kin-  
16 ship Support Network: A National Technical Assist-  
17 ance Center to disseminate information about evi-  
18 dence-based, evidence-informed and exemplary prac-  
19 tices used to support children being raised in kinship  
20 families within, or outside of, the child welfare sys-  
21 tem.”.

22 (c) GRANTS TO STATES, INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL  
23 ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AGENCIES  
24 AND ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 105(a)(4) of the Child  
25 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.

1 5106(a)(4) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing: “Such procedures used by recipients of a grant  
3 pursuant to this paragraph shall reflect equity for children  
4 placed with kin, recognize their unique circumstance, and  
5 include plans for prioritizing placement with kin as the  
6 first placement, identifying and engaging kin as supports  
7 for children throughout the child’s involvement with the  
8 child welfare system, making it a priority to license kin  
9 as foster parents, supporting permanent families for chil-  
10 dren placed with kin, and creating a strong community  
11 network to support kin families.”.

12 (d) GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NE-  
13 GLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.—Sec-  
14 tion 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by inserting  
18 “, and for how kinship placements will be  
19 prioritized” before the semicolon; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (D)(v), by inserting  
21 “kinship navigators,” after “substance abuse  
22 treatment agencies,”; and

23 (2) in subsection (d)(3)—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
2 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-  
3 tively;

4 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
5 the following:

6 “(B) the number that did not receive serv-  
7 ices during the year under the State program  
8 funded under this section or an equivalent State  
9 program because the child was diverted from  
10 the child welfare system to live with kin outside  
11 of the foster care system;”; and

12 (C) in subparagraph (D), as so redesign-  
13 ated, by striking “families” and inserting  
14 “parents”.

15 (e) COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVEN-  
16 TION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—

17 (1) PURPOSE.—Section 201(b)(1) of the Child  
18 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 5116(b)(1)) is amended—

20 (A) in subparagraph (G), by striking “;  
21 and” and inserting a semicolon;

22 (B) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”  
23 after the semicolon; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(I) support the unique needs of kinship  
2 families raising children inside or outside the  
3 foster care system;”.

4           (2) LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Section  
5 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-  
6 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e(a)) is amended—

7           (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and to  
8 parents who are adult former victims of domes-  
9 tic violence or child abuse or neglect” and in-  
10 sserting “to parents who are adult former vic-  
11 tims of domestic violence or child abuse or ne-  
12 glect, and to families where children are being  
13 raised by kin because their parents cannot raise  
14 them”;

15           (B) in paragraph (3)(B)—

16           (i) in clause (viii), by striking “and”;

17           (ii) in clause (ix), by striking the pe-  
18 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

19           (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
20 lowing:

21           “(x) training to meet the specific  
22 needs of kinship caregivers, including  
23 training on caring for children with behav-  
24 ioral or mental health challenges and how

1 to access services for which such caregivers  
2 may be eligible; and

3 “(xi) training on understanding sub-  
4 stance use disorders and the impact of  
5 trauma on children;”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, kin-  
7 ship caregivers, and foster care alumni” after  
8 “parents”.

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