

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4283

To establish grants to provide education on guardianship alternatives for older adults and people with disabilities to health care workers, educators, family members, and court workers and court-related personnel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2024

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish grants to provide education on guardianship alternatives for older adults and people with disabilities to health care workers, educators, family members, and court workers and court-related personnel.

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 “Alternatives to Guard-
5 ianship Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Guardianship, although at times necessary,
2 can negatively affect the person under guardianship
3 by reducing or eliminating their self-determination
4 and autonomy.

5 (2) Although State courts and State laws at-
6 tempt to provide some procedures to appoint trust-
7 worthy guardians, incidents of physical, financial,
8 emotional, psychological, and other types of abuse
9 have occurred to people under guardianship arrange-
10 ments.

11 (3) Once guardianship arrangements are in
12 place, restoration of rights rarely occurs.

13 (4) Less restrictive options to guardianship,
14 such as supported decisionmaking and advance di-
15 rectives, offer ways to help people make decisions
16 without losing their independence.

17 (5) Awareness of guardianship alternatives by
18 personnel that interact with individuals facing
19 guardianship determinations, including health care
20 workers, educators, family members, and court
21 workers and court-related personnel, may help re-
22 duce unnecessary guardianship arrangements and
23 preserve decisionmaking rights.

1 (6) Families and disability support personnel
2 have reported that they have limited awareness of
3 guardianship alternatives.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to improve
5 the awareness of guardianship alternatives, for health care
6 workers, educators, family members, and court workers
7 and court-related personnel, through education programs.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) AGING AGENCY.—The term “aging agency”
11 means an organization that represents older adults,
12 and that may have experience in serving family
13 members of such adults.

14 (2) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the
15 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-
16 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
17 12102).

18 (3) DISABILITY AGENCY.—The term “disability
19 agency” means an organization serving people with
20 disabilities that—

21 (A) is operated by a board, on which—

22 (i) a majority of the members are peo-
23 ple with disabilities or their family mem-
24 bers; and

1 (ii) the number of members on the
2 board who are people with disabilities is
3 greater than the number of members on
4 the board who are family members;

5 (B) has an advisory panel or council, on
6 which—

7 (i) a majority of the members are peo-
8 ple with disabilities or their family mem-
9 bers; and

10 (ii) the number of members on the
11 board who are people with disabilities is
12 greater than the number of members on
13 the board who are family members; or

14 (C) has employees, a majority of whom are
15 people with disabilities.

16 (4) GUARDIANSHIP.—The term “guardianship”
17 means—

18 (A) a protective arrangement resulting
19 from the process by which a State court deter-
20 mines that an adult individual lacks capacity to
21 make decisions about self-care, finances, prop-
22 erty, or personal affairs, and appoints another
23 individual or entity known as a guardian, as a
24 conservator, or by a similar term, as a surro-
25 gate decisionmaker;

1 (B) a protective arrangement in which the
2 court-appointed surrogate decisionmaker carries
3 out duties to the individual and the court; or

4 (C) a protective arrangement in which the
5 court exercises oversight of the surrogate deci-
6 sionmaker.

7 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
9 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

11 (6) LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY.—The term
12 “legal services agency” means a public or nonprofit
13 organization that has experience providing legal
14 services to low-income older adults or adults with
15 disabilities.

16 (7) OLDER ADULT.—The term “older adult”
17 has the meaning given the term “older individual”
18 as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans
19 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

20 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
22 through the Administrator of the Administration for
23 Community Living.

24 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
25 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-

1 monwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa,
 2 the United States Virgin Islands, and the Common-
 3 wealth of the Northern Marianas.

4 **TITLE I—GUARDIANSHIP ALTER-**
 5 **NATIVES EDUCATION FOR**
 6 **HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

7 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this title:

9 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
 10 ty” means a partnership (established by a disability
 11 agency, legal services agency, or aging agency)—

12 (A) that includes—

13 (i) that disability agency, legal serv-
 14 ices agency, or aging agency; and

15 (ii) at least one health care entity, de-
 16 partment of such an entity, or specialty of-
 17 fice of such an entity, that has frequent
 18 contact with people with disabilities or
 19 older adults, including—

20 (I) a primary care clinic, includ-
 21 ing a Federally qualified health center
 22 or rural health clinic (as such terms
 23 are defined in section 1861(aa) of the
 24 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 25 1395x(aa)));

- 1 (II) an emergency department;
2 (III) a long-term care provider;
3 (IV) a pediatric office;
4 (V) a rehabilitation center;
5 (VI) a geriatrician office;
6 (VII) a neurology office; or
7 (VIII) an entity providing a
8 training program for health care
9 workers in any specialty listed in this
10 subparagraph; and

11 (B) for which the establishing agency has
12 memorialized the establishment, membership,
13 and functions of the partnership in the form of
14 a letter of support, memorandum of under-
15 standing, or similar document.

16 (2) HEALTH CARE WORKERS.—The term
17 “health care workers” means staff with direct con-
18 tact with patients in health care settings, including
19 physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses,
20 medical assistants, social workers, health care ad-
21 ministrators, dentists, dental hygiene professionals,
22 receptionists, and mental health professionals.

23 **SEC. 102. GRANT PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants,
25 on a competitive basis, to eligible entities in States, and

1 to eligible entities that serve Indian Tribes, to enable the
2 recipients to carry out guardianship alternatives education
3 programs for health care workers.

4 (b) TERM.—The Secretary may make such a grant
5 for a first term of 3 years. An eligible entity may seek
6 renewal of, and the Secretary may make, such a grant for
7 a second term of 3 years, in order to expand service deliv-
8 ery of the education program to health care workers.

9 **SEC. 103. APPLICATIONS.**

10 To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, an
11 entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
12 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
13 the Secretary may require, including—

14 (1) information identifying the target popu-
15 lation to receive instruction, and a projected number
16 of participants in and graduates of the education
17 program to be carried out under the grant;

18 (2) a needs assessment, identifying the need for
19 guardianship alternatives education for the target
20 population proposed;

21 (3) information identifying who will facilitate
22 the related instruction;

23 (4) a description of how the entity will conduct
24 outreach to health care workers for the education
25 program;

1 (5) a description of learning objectives for the
2 education program;

3 (6) a description of activities to be carried out
4 under the grant;

5 (7) an evaluation plan for the education pro-
6 gram;

7 (8) a timeline for establishing and carrying out
8 the education program;

9 (9) information that demonstrates the instruc-
10 tors' knowledge of guardianship alternatives and ex-
11 perience in conducting education and training pro-
12 grams for the public;

13 (10) information describing the format for the
14 instruction, which may be in-person, online, or hy-
15 brid, and how the instruction and related materials
16 will be accessible by all participants; and

17 (11) a description of how the entity will, to the
18 best of its ability, ensure the education program
19 reaches populations from diverse backgrounds and
20 communities and underserved demographic popu-
21 lations (such as an underserved race, ethnicity, gen-
22 der, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or type
23 of disability).

1 **SEC. 104. USE OF FUNDS.**

2 (a) **REQUIRED USES.**—An eligible entity that receives
3 a grant under this title shall use the grant funds for—

4 (1) implementing an education program to en-
5 hance the awareness of alternatives to guardianship
6 for health care workers; and

7 (2) ensuring that the guardianship alternatives
8 education program—

9 (A) discusses the background of guardian-
10 ship, the possible consequences of unnecessary
11 guardianship, and the need for guardianship al-
12 ternatives;

13 (B) covers the various guardianship alter-
14 natives available in the State or States involved;

15 (C) includes a curriculum tailored to the
16 needs of the target population;

17 (D) includes, to the best of its ability, in-
18 structors with a diverse range of disabilities as
19 instructors or speakers;

20 (E) provides the instruction and related
21 materials for the education program in acces-
22 sible formats; and

23 (F) includes, to the best of its ability,
24 methods to reach populations from diverse
25 backgrounds and communities and underserved
26 demographic populations (such as an under-

1 served race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity,
2 sexual orientation, age, or type of disability).

3 (b) ALLOWABLE USES.—The eligible entity may use
4 the grant funds for—

5 (1) recruiting individuals to receive guardian-
6 ship alternatives education;

7 (2) modifying a curriculum for the education
8 program;

9 (3) creating accessible materials for the edu-
10 cation program, such as materials with Communica-
11 tion Access Realtime Translation, with American
12 Sign Language, in Braille, in plain language, and in
13 other appropriate formats;

14 (4) transporting individuals enrolled in the edu-
15 cation program to and from the instructional ses-
16 sions;

17 (5) providing child care during the instructional
18 sessions for people in attendance;

19 (6) conducting website management for the
20 education program;

21 (7) translating recruitment and instructional
22 materials for the education program;

23 (8) providing payment for venue for in-person
24 instruction;

1 (9) providing payment for costs of arranging
2 for professional continuing education credits;

3 (10) providing reasonable food and beverages
4 for in-person instruction;

5 (11) expanding or adapting an existing (as of
6 the date of submission of the application for the
7 grant) guardianship alternatives education program;
8 or

9 (12) providing payment for instructors (includ-
10 ing guest instructors) and speakers.

11 **TITLE II—GUARDIANSHIP AL-**
12 **TERNATIVES EDUCATION FOR**
13 **EDUCATORS**

14 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this title:

16 (1) EDUCATORS.—The term “educators” means
17 teachers and other staff (as defined in section 8101
18 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
19 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), in a public or private ele-
20 mentary school or secondary school, that have con-
21 tact with students with disabilities and their care-
22 givers, including—

23 (A) teachers;

24 (B) special education teachers;

25 (C) special education directors;

1 (D) transition coordinators;

2 (E) State qualified vocational rehabilita-
3 tion counselors, as defined in section
4 100(a)(3)(E) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
5 (29 U.S.C. 720(a)(3)(E));

6 (F) any person providing pre-employment
7 transition services, as defined in section 7 of
8 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705);

9 (G) paraprofessionals;

10 (H) school social workers;

11 (I) school psychologists;

12 (J) school counselors;

13 (K) educational diagnosticians;

14 (L) specialized instructional support per-
15 sonnel, as defined in that section 8101; and

16 (M) staff of a training program for an oc-
17 cupation described in any of subparagraphs (A)
18 through (L).

19 (2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY
20 SCHOOL.—The terms “elementary school” and “sec-
21 ondary school” have the meanings given the terms
22 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means a partnership (established by a disability
3 agency or legal services agency)—

4 (A) that includes—

5 (i) that disability agency or legal serv-
6 ices agency; and

7 (ii) a local educational agency, or a
8 public or private elementary school or sec-
9 ondary school, that employs educators; and

10 (B) for which the establishing agency has
11 memorialized the establishment, membership,
12 and functions of the partnership in the form of
13 a letter of support, memorandum of under-
14 standing, or similar document.

15 **SEC. 202. GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants,
17 on a competitive basis, to eligible entities in States, and
18 to eligible entities that serve Indian Tribes, to enable the
19 recipients to carry out guardianship alternatives education
20 programs for educators.

21 (b) TERM.—The Secretary may make such a grant
22 for a first term of 3 years. An eligible entity may seek
23 renewal of, and the Secretary may make, such a grant for
24 a second term of 3 years, in order to expand service deliv-
25 ery of the education program to educators.

1 **SEC. 203. APPLICATIONS.**

2 To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, an
3 entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
4 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
5 the Secretary may require, including—

6 (1) information identifying the target popu-
7 lation to receive instruction, and a projected number
8 of participants in and graduates of the education
9 program to be carried out under the grant;

10 (2) a needs assessment, identifying the need for
11 guardianship alternatives education for the target
12 population;

13 (3) information identifying who will facilitate
14 the related instruction;

15 (4) a description of how the entity will conduct
16 outreach to educators for the education program;

17 (5) a description of learning objectives for the
18 education program;

19 (6) a description of activities to be carried out
20 under the grant;

21 (7) an evaluation plan for the education pro-
22 gram;

23 (8) a timeline for establishing and carrying out
24 the education program;

25 (9) information that demonstrates the instruc-
26 tors' knowledge of guardianship alternatives and ex-

1 perience in conducting education and training pro-
2 grams for the public; and

3 (10) information describing the format for the
4 instruction, which may be in-person, online, or hy-
5 brid, and how the instruction and related materials
6 will be accessible by all participants.

7 **SEC. 204. USE OF FUNDS.**

8 (a) **REQUIRED USES.**—An eligible entity that receives
9 a grant under this title shall use the grant funds for imple-
10 menting an education program to enhance the awareness
11 of alternatives to guardianship for educators and ensuring
12 that the education program meets the requirements of sec-
13 tion 104(a)(2).

14 (b) **ALLOWABLE USES.**—The eligible entity may use
15 the grant funds to carry out the activities described in sec-
16 tion 104(b), for the education program.

17 **TITLE III—GUARDIANSHIP AL-**
18 **TERNATIVES EDUCATION FOR**
19 **FAMILIES**

20 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this title:

22 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
23 ty” means a disability agency, legal services agency,
24 or aging agency with a goal to inform and support

1 older adults, or people with disabilities, and their
2 family members.

3 (2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family mem-
4 ber” means a member of the family of—

5 (A) an older adult; or

6 (B) a person with a disability.

7 **SEC. 302. GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants,
9 on a competitive basis, to eligible entities in States, and
10 to eligible entities that serve Indian Tribes, to enable the
11 recipients to carry out guardianship alternatives education
12 programs for family members of older adults and family
13 members of people with disabilities.

14 (b) TERM.—The Secretary may make such a grant
15 for a first term of 3 years. An eligible entity may seek
16 renewal of, and the Secretary may make, such a grant for
17 a second term of 3 years, in order to expand service deliv-
18 ery of the education program to such family members.

19 **SEC. 303. APPLICATIONS.**

20 To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, an
21 entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
22 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
23 the Secretary may require, including—

24 (1) information identifying the target popu-
25 lation to receive instruction, and a projected number

1 of participants in and graduates of the education
2 program to be carried out under the grant;

3 (2) information identifying who will facilitate
4 the related instruction for the education program;

5 (3) a description of how the entity will conduct
6 outreach to educators for the education program;

7 (4) a description of learning objectives for the
8 education program;

9 (5) a description of activities to be carried out
10 under the grant;

11 (6) an evaluation plan for the education pro-
12 gram;

13 (7) a timeline for establishing and carrying out
14 the education program;

15 (8) information that demonstrates the instruc-
16 tors' knowledge of guardianship alternatives and ex-
17 perience in conducting education and training pro-
18 grams for the public; and

19 (9) information describing the format for the
20 instruction, which may be in-person, online, or hy-
21 brid, and how the instruction and related materials
22 will be accessible by all participants.

23 **SEC. 304. USE OF FUNDS.**

24 (a) **REQUIRED USES.**—An eligible entity that receives
25 a grant under this title shall use the grant funds for imple-

1 menting an education program to enhance the awareness
 2 of alternatives to guardianship for family members and
 3 ensuring that the education program meets the require-
 4 ments of section 104(a)(2).

5 (b) ALLOWABLE USES.—The eligible entity may use
 6 the grant funds to carry out the activities described in sec-
 7 tion 104(b), for the education program.

8 **TITLE IV—GUARDIANSHIP AL-**
 9 **TERNATIVES EDUCATION FOR**
 10 **COURT WORKERS AND**
 11 **COURT-RELATED PERSONNEL**

12 **SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this title:

14 (1) COURT-RELATED PERSONNEL.—The term
 15 “court-related personnel” means persons working in,
 16 or members of organizations supporting, court sys-
 17 tems or court workers, including—

18 (A) staff and members of local chapters of
 19 the American Bar Association;

20 (B) staff and members of local chapters of
 21 the American Civil Liberties Union;

22 (C) staff and members of local associations
 23 of court workers;

24 (D) staff and members of elder rights law
 25 organizations;

1 (E) staff and members of disability rights
2 law organizations;

3 (F) staff of an agency implementing a
4 State protection and advocacy system, as de-
5 fined in section 102 of the Developmental Dis-
6 abilities Act and Bill of Rights of 2000 (42
7 U.S.C. 15002);

8 (G) district attorneys and their staff;

9 (H) court clerks and clerk staff not di-
10 rectly employed by the court; or

11 (I) an entity providing a training program
12 for any specialty relevant to an organization or
13 occupation listed in this paragraph.

14 (2) COURT WORKERS.—The term “court work-
15 ers” means persons working in local court systems,
16 including—

17 (A) court staff;

18 (B) law or court clerks and paralegals;

19 (C) attorneys; and

20 (D) judges.

21 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
22 ty” means a partnership (established by a disability
23 agency, legal services agency, or aging agency)—

24 (A) that includes—

1 (i) that disability agency, legal serv-
2 ices agency, or aging agency; and

3 (ii) a court whose employees, or other
4 court-related organization whose members,
5 have contact with plaintiffs who are under
6 or facing a guardianship or other protec-
7 tive arrangement or address cases related
8 to guardianship and other protective ar-
9 rangements; and

10 (B) for which the establishing agency has
11 memorialized the establishment, membership,
12 and functions of the partnership in the form of
13 a letter of support, memorandum of under-
14 standing, or similar document.

15 **SEC. 402. GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants,
17 on a competitive basis, to eligible entities in States, and
18 to eligible entities that serve Indian Tribes, to enable the
19 recipients to carry out guardianship alternatives education
20 programs for court workers and other court-related per-
21 sonnel.

22 (b) TERM.—The Secretary may make such a grant
23 for a first term of 3 years. An eligible entity may seek
24 renewal of, and the Secretary may make, such a grant for
25 a second term of 3 years, in order to expand service deliv-

1 ery of the education program to court workers and other
2 court-related personnel.

3 **SEC. 403. APPLICATIONS.**

4 To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, an
5 entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
6 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
7 the Secretary may require, including—

8 (1) information identifying the target popu-
9 lation to receive instruction, including a projected
10 number of participants in and graduates of the edu-
11 cation program to be carried out under the grant;

12 (2) a needs assessment, identifying the need for
13 guardianship alternatives education for the target
14 population proposed;

15 (3) information identifying who will facilitate
16 the related instruction;

17 (4) a description of how the entity will conduct
18 outreach to the court workers or other court-related
19 personnel proposed for the education program;

20 (5) a description of learning objectives for the
21 education program;

22 (6) a description of activities to be carried out
23 under the grant;

24 (7) an evaluation plan for the education pro-
25 gram;

1 (8) a timeline for establishing and carrying out
2 the education program;

3 (9) information that demonstrates the instruc-
4 tors' knowledge of guardianship alternatives and ex-
5 perience in conducting education and training pro-
6 grams for the public; and

7 (10) information describing the format for the
8 instruction, which may be in-person, online, or hy-
9 brid, and how the instruction and related materials
10 will be accessible by all participants.

11 **SEC. 404. USE OF FUNDS.**

12 (a) **REQUIRED USES.**—An eligible entity that receives
13 a grant under this title shall use the grant funds for imple-
14 menting an education program to enhance the awareness
15 of alternatives to guardianship for court workers or other
16 court-related personnel and ensuring that the education
17 program meets the requirements of section 104(a)(2).

18 (b) **ALLOWABLE USES.**—The eligible entity may use
19 the grant funds to carry out the activities described in sec-
20 tion 104(b), for the education program.

21 **TITLE V—ADMINISTRATION**

22 **SEC. 501. GRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish an
24 advisory council, to be known as the “Grant Advisory

1 Council”, to advise eligible entities that receive grants
2 under this Act on activities carried out under the grants.

3 (b) COMPOSITION.—The advisory council shall be
4 composed of 13 members, consisting of—

5 (1) 3 experts who have experience in counseling
6 individuals and guiding individuals to guardianship
7 alternatives, or who have data-driven expertise in
8 ways to guide individuals to guardianship alter-
9 natives, which may include—

10 (A) a social services program adminis-
11 trator;

12 (B) a guardianship researcher; or

13 (C) an advocate for people with disabilities;
14 and

15 (2) 1 health care administrator or manager
16 with experience with guardianship alternatives;

17 (3) 1 administrator from a school served by a
18 local educational agency, and 1 administrator from
19 an institution of higher education, with experience
20 with guardianship alternatives;

21 (4) 1 family member, as defined in section 301,
22 with experience with guardianship alternatives;

23 (5) 1 court worker, as defined in section 401,
24 with experience with guardianship alternatives;

1 (6) 3 people with disabilities, or older adults,
2 who have successfully transitioned to a guardianship
3 alternative, of which at least 1 shall be a person
4 with a disability and at least 1 shall be an older
5 adult; and

6 (7) 3 people with disabilities, or older adults,
7 who are in a guardianship alternative, of which at
8 least 1 shall be a person with a disability and at
9 least 1 shall be an older adult.

10 (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
11 bers shall be appointed for the life of the advisory council.
12 Any vacancy in the council shall not affect the powers of
13 the advisory council, but shall be filled in the same manner
14 as the original appointment was made.

15 (d) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The advisory
16 council shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
17 from among its members.

18 (e) DUTIES.—The advisory council shall—

19 (1) advise the Secretary on, and provide general
20 oversight for, the grant programs carried out under
21 titles I through IV concerning the activities carried
22 out under the grants, including development of the
23 curricula for guardianship alternatives education;

24 (2) consult with the Secretary on the awarding
25 of the grants;

1 (3) provide recommendations for sustainability
2 and expansion of the guardianship alternatives edu-
3 cation programs carried out under the grants, such
4 as development of a train-the-trainer model for such
5 an education program; and

6 (4) provide input for the evaluation methods
7 and implementation of the evaluation described in
8 section 502, including advising the Secretary on ad-
9 ditional criteria for the evaluator to evaluate under
10 section 502, to measure effectiveness of guardian-
11 ship alternatives education programs described in
12 section 502.

13 (f) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027,
14 and not later than September 30, 2030, the advisory coun-
15 cil shall prepare a report containing recommendations on
16 the programs, activities, and curricula described in sub-
17 section (e)(1) and the sustainability and expansion de-
18 scribed in subsection (e)(3). The advisory council shall
19 submit the report to the covered committees defined in
20 section 504(f).

21 (g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Subject to the limit de-
22 scribed in section 505(b), the members of the advisory
23 council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
24 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
25 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title

1 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
2 regular places of business in the performance of services
3 for the advisory council.

4 (h) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Any
5 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the advi-
6 sory council without reimbursement to serve as a staff
7 member for the advisory council, and such detail shall be
8 without interruption or loss of civil service status or privi-
9 lege.

10 (i) **TERMINATION.**—The advisory council shall termi-
11 nate on October 1, 2030.

12 **SEC. 502. EVALUATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

13 (a) **INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR.**—The Secretary
14 shall enter into a contract with an independent entity, who
15 is not a grant recipient under this Act and who has exper-
16 tise in evaluating programs for people with disabilities or
17 programs for older adults, to carry out an evaluation of
18 the education programs carried out under this Act.

19 (b) **POPULATION COVERED BY EVALUATION.**—In
20 conducting the evaluation, the evaluator shall consider the
21 impact of the education programs carried out under this
22 Act on all participants served by the education programs
23 and on each underserved demographic population (such as
24 an underserved race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity,

1 sexual orientation, age, or type of disability) served by the
2 education programs.

3 (c) PERFORMANCE.—

4 (1) PERFORMANCE IN CHANGING AWARENESS
5 OF GUARDIANSHIP ALTERNATIVES.—

6 (A) AWARENESS OF PROGRAM PARTICI-
7 PANTS.—The evaluator shall measure program
8 participants' awareness of guardianship alter-
9 natives as a result of the education programs.

10 (B) AWARENESS DUE TO DISSEMINA-
11 TION.—The evaluator shall measure the dis-
12 semination of information on guardianship al-
13 ternatives in the workplaces and communities of
14 participants in the education programs, as a re-
15 sult of the education programs, to evaluate how
16 far awareness of guardianship alternatives has
17 expanded beyond the participants.

18 (2) EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATION PRO-
19 GRAMS.—The evaluator shall measure the effective-
20 ness of the education programs on any additional
21 criterion that the advisory committee advised the
22 Secretary to adopt, and the Secretary adopted, in
23 accordance with section 501(e)(4).

24 (d) POLICY CHANGES AT THE STATE LEVEL.—In
25 conducting the evaluation, the evaluator shall identify any

1 guardianship policy changes at the State level, including
 2 the creation of, removal of, or changes to guardianship
 3 policies.

4 **SEC. 503. STATE DATA COLLECTION ON PROTECTIVE AR-**
 5 **RANGEMENTS.**

6 (a) REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.—The Rehabilita-
 7 tion Act of 1973 is amended—

8 (1) in section 101(a)(10) (29 U.S.C.
 9 721(a)(10))—

10 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
 11 through (H) as subparagraphs (G) through (I),
 12 respectively; and

13 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
 14 the following:

15 “(F) The Commissioner shall require that
 16 each designated State unit include in the re-
 17 ports additional information described in sec-
 18 tion 503(b) of the Alternatives to Guardianship
 19 Education Act.”; and

20 (2) in section 607 (29 U.S.C. 795l), by insert-
 21 ing “(except with respect to information under sub-
 22 paragraph (F) of section 101(a)(10))” after “section
 23 101(a)(10)”.

24 (b) DATA TO BE COLLECTED AND SUBMITTED BY
 25 STATES.—In order to provide objective, measurable data

1 on guardianships and guardianship alternatives in the
2 States, States receiving funds under title I of the Rehabili-
3 tation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) shall collect
4 and report to the Secretary, in accordance with subsection
5 (a), information about each of the following:

6 (1) The number and type of guardianships and
7 protective arrangements established and dissolved
8 each calendar year in the State.

9 (2) Demographic information of guardians and
10 people under guardianship arrangements, including
11 type of guardian (such as family member, friend,
12 professional private guardian, or public agency).

13 (3) The average length of a guardianship ar-
14 rangement in the State, as of the time such data is
15 reported.

16 (4) Information about the reasons for guardian-
17 ship arrangements in the State.

18 (5) Information about the reasons that guard-
19 ianship arrangements were terminated in the State
20 since the last report, including receipt of guardian-
21 ship alternatives education.

22 **SEC. 504. REPORTING.**

23 (a) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY REPORTS.**—Each eligible enti-
24 ty that receives a grant under this Act for an education
25 program shall annually prepare and submit to the Sec-

1 retary a progress report, that measures the change in indi-
2 cators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section
3 502(c), as a result of the education program, and the
4 change in policies described in section 502(d).

5 (b) SUMMARY EFFECTIVENESS REPORT.—The Sec-
6 retary shall annually—

7 (1) prepare a summary report on the change, in
8 the aggregate, in indicators described in paragraphs
9 (1) and (2) of section 502(c), as a result of the edu-
10 cation programs carried out under this Act, and the
11 change in policies described in section 502(d), which
12 report shall include—

13 (A) information on methods of outreach to
14 recruit participants for the education programs
15 from diverse backgrounds and communities, in-
16 cluding the number of the participants recruited
17 through each method;

18 (B) the total number of participants in the
19 education programs, and the percentage of such
20 participants who completed the education pro-
21 grams; and

22 (C) data on demographic characteristics,
23 including the race, ethnicity, gender, gender
24 identity, age, and type of disability, of the par-
25 ticipants, and data on the geographic location

1 of the participants, in the education programs;
2 and

3 (2) submit the report to the Committee on
4 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the
5 Special Committee on Aging of the Senate, and the
6 Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
7 House of Representatives.

8 (c) RENEWAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
10 pare and submit to the covered committees a formative
11 report on the instruction provided through the guardian-
12 ship alternatives education program during the 2-year pe-
13 riod after eligible entities first receive grants under this
14 Act. The Secretary shall use the information in the report
15 in determining whether to renew grants for eligible entities
16 for a second grant term. The Secretary shall submit the
17 report to the grant recipients whose grants are renewed,
18 to inform the work of the recipients during the second
19 grant term.

20 (d) STATE DATA REPORT.—The Secretary shall pre-
21 pare a report containing the data collected under section
22 503, and make the report publicly available.

23 (e) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 end of the last second grant term to be completed under
25 this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the

1 covered committees a final report summarizing all actions
2 taken under grants made available under this Act.

3 (f) COVERED COMMITTEES.—In this section, the
4 term “covered committees” means the Committee on
5 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee
6 on Finance, and the Special Committee on Aging of the
7 Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Work-
8 force and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
9 House of Representatives.

10 **SEC. 505. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated to carry out this Act, \$10,000,000 for each of fis-
13 cal years 2025 through 2030.

14 (b) ADMINISTRATION AND EVALUATION.—From the
15 amount made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal
16 year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 5 percent
17 for administration of this Act, including carrying out the
18 activities required in sections 501 through 504.

○