

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2124

To require Federal agencies to assess the impact of policies and regulations on families, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. RILEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

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## A BILL

To require Federal agencies to assess the impact of policies and regulations on 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. PURPOSES.**

4       The purposes of this Act are to—

5               (1) require agencies to assess the impact of pro-  
6       posed agency actions on family well-being; and

1           (2) improve the management of executive  
2           branch agencies.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4           In this Act—

5           (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given  
6           the term “Executive agency” by section 105 of title  
7           5, United States Code, except such term does not in-  
8           clude the General Accounting Office; and

9           (2) the term “family” means—

10           (A) a group of individuals related by blood,  
11           marriage, or adoption who live together as a  
12           single household; and

13           (B) any individual who is not a member of  
14           such group, but who is related by blood, mar-  
15           riage, or adoption to a member of such group,  
16           and over half of whose support in a calendar  
17           year is received from such group.

18 **SEC. 3. FAMILY POLICYMAKING ASSESSMENT.**

19           Before implementing policies and regulations that  
20           may affect family well-being, each agency shall assess such  
21           actions with respect to whether—

22           (1) the action strengthens or erodes the stabil-  
23           ity of the family and, particularly, the marital com-  
24           mitment;

1           (2) the action strengthens or erodes the author-  
2           ity and rights of parents in the education, nurture,  
3           and supervision of their children;

4           (3) the action helps the family perform its func-  
5           tions, or substitutes governmental activity for the  
6           function;

7           (4) the action increases or decreases disposable  
8           family income;

9           (5) the proposed benefits of the action justify  
10          the financial impact on the family;

11          (6) the action may be carried out by State or  
12          local government or by the family; and

13          (7) the action establishes an implicit or explicit  
14          policy—

15                 (A) concerning the status of the family;

16                 and

17                 (B) concerning the relationship between  
18                 the behavior and personal responsibility of  
19                 youth, and the norms of society.

20 **SEC. 4. GOVERNMENTWIDE FAMILY POLICY COORDINA-**  
21 **TION AND REVIEW.**

22          (a) CERTIFICATION AND RATIONALE.—With respect  
23          to each proposed policy or regulation that may affect fam-  
24          ily well-being, the head of each agency shall—

1           (1) submit a written certification to the Direc-  
2           tor of the Office of Management and Budget and to  
3           Congress that such policy or regulation has been as-  
4           sessed in accordance with this Act; and

5           (2) provide an adequate rationale for implemen-  
6           tation of each policy or regulation that may nega-  
7           tively affect family well-being.

8           (b) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—The  
9           Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

10           (1) ensure that policies and regulations pro-  
11           posed by agencies are implemented consistent with  
12           this Act; and

13           (2) compile, index, and submit annually to the  
14           Congress the written certifications received pursuant  
15           to subsection (a)(1).

16           (c) OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—The Office  
17           of Policy Development shall—

18           (1) assess proposed policies and regulations in  
19           accordance with this Act;

20           (2) provide evaluations of policies and regula-  
21           tions that may affect family well-being to the Direc-  
22           tor of the Office of Management and Budget; and

23           (3) advise the President on policy and regu-  
24           latory actions that may be taken to strengthen the

1 institutions of marriage and family in the United  
2 States.

3 **SEC. 5. ASSESSMENTS UPON REQUEST BY MEMBERS OF**  
4 **CONGRESS.**

5 Upon request by a Member of Congress relating to  
6 a proposed policy or regulation, an agency shall conduct  
7 an assessment in accordance with section 3, and shall pro-  
8 vide a certification and rationale in accordance with sec-  
9 tion 4.

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