

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 625

To expand the purposes of the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to include poverty reduction, and to make grants available under the program for that purpose.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. STARK (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FORD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. WAXMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To expand the purposes of the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to include poverty reduction, and to make grants available under the program for that purpose.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Child Poverty Reduc-
3 tion Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL PURPOSE OF PROGRAM OF BLOCK**
5 **GRANTS TO STATES FOR TEMPORARY ASSIST-**
6 **ANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.**

7 Section 401(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 601(a)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
10 (3);

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
12 graph (4) and inserting “; and”; and

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

14 “(5) reduce the extent and severity of poverty
15 and promote self-sufficiency among families with
16 children.”.

17 **SEC. 3. ADDITION OF CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION BONUS**
18 **GRANTS TO TANF PROGRAM.**

19 Section 403(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
20 603(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(6) BONUS TO REWARD STATES THAT REDUCE
22 CHILD POVERTY.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with fiscal
24 year 2003, the Secretary shall make a grant
25 pursuant to this paragraph to each State for

1 each fiscal year for which the State is a quali-
2 fied child poverty reduction State.

3 “(B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this
5 subparagraph, the amount of the grant to
6 be made to a qualified child poverty reduc-
7 tion State for a fiscal year shall be an
8 amount equal to—

9 “(I) the number of children who
10 had not attained 18 years of age by
11 the end of the then most recently
12 completed calendar year and who re-
13 sided in the State as of the end of
14 such calendar year, divided by the
15 number of such children who resided
16 in the United States as of the end of
17 such calendar year; multiplied by

18 “(II) the amount appropriated
19 pursuant to subparagraph (F) for the
20 fiscal year.

21 “(ii) LIMITATIONS.—

22 “(I) MINIMUM GRANT.—The
23 amount of the grant to be made to a
24 qualified child poverty reduction State

1 for a fiscal year shall be not less than
2 \$1,000,000.

3 “(II) MAXIMUM GRANT.—The
4 amount of the grant to be made to a
5 qualified child poverty reduction State
6 for a fiscal year shall not exceed an
7 amount equal to 5 percent of the
8 State family assistance grant for the
9 fiscal year.

10 “(iii) PRO RATA INCREASE.—If the
11 amount available for grants under this
12 paragraph for a fiscal year is greater than
13 the total amount of payments otherwise re-
14 quired to be made under this paragraph
15 for the fiscal year, then the amount other-
16 wise payable to any State for the fiscal
17 year under this paragraph shall, subject to
18 clause (ii)(II), be increased by such equal
19 percentage as may be necessary to ensure
20 that the total of the amounts payable for
21 the fiscal year under this paragraph equals
22 the amount available for the grants.

23 “(iv) PRO RATA REDUCTION.—If the
24 amount available for grants under this
25 paragraph for a fiscal year is less than the

1 total amount of payments otherwise re-
2 quired to be made under this paragraph
3 for the fiscal year, then the amount other-
4 wise payable to any State for the fiscal
5 year under this paragraph shall, subject to
6 clause (ii)(I), be reduced by such equal
7 percentage as may be necessary to ensure
8 that the total of the amounts payable for
9 the fiscal year under this paragraph equals
10 the amount available for the grants.

11 “(C) USE OF GRANT.—A State to which a
12 grant is made under this paragraph shall use
13 the grant for any purpose for which a grant
14 made under this part may be used.

15 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

16 “(i) QUALIFIED CHILD POVERTY RE-
17 Duction STATE.—The term ‘qualified
18 child poverty reduction State’ means, with
19 respect to a fiscal year, a State if—

20 “(I) the child poverty rate
21 achieved by the State for the then
22 most recently completed calendar year
23 for which such information is avail-
24 able is less than the lowest child pov-

erty rate achieved by the State during
the applicable period; and

“(II) the average depth of child
poverty in the State for the then most
recently completed calendar year for
which such information is available is
not greater than the average depth of
child poverty in the State for the cal-
endar year that precedes such then
most recently completed calendar
year.

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—In clause
(i), the term ‘applicable period’ means,
with respect to a State and the calendar
year referred to in clause (i)(I), the period
that—

“(I) begins with the calendar
year that, as of October 1, 2002, pre-
cedes the then most recently com-
pleted calendar year for which such
information is available; and

“(II) ends with the calendar year
that precedes the calendar year re-
ferred to clause (i)(I).

1 “(iii) CHILD POVERTY RATE.—The
2 term ‘child poverty rate’ means, with re-
3 spect to a State and a calendar year, the
4 percentage of children residing in the State
5 during the calendar year whose family in-
6 come for the calendar year is less than the
7 poverty line then applicable to the family.

8 “(iv) AVERAGE DEPTH OF CHILD POV-
9 ERTY.—The term ‘average depth of child
10 poverty’ means with respect to a State and
11 a calendar year, the average dollar amount
12 by which family income is exceeded by the
13 poverty line, among children in the State
14 whose family income for the calendar year
15 is less than the applicable poverty line.

16 “(v) POVERTY LINE.—The term ‘pov-
17 erty line’ has the meaning given the term
18 in section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget
19 Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any
20 revision required by such section applicable
21 to a family of the size involved.

22 “(E) FAMILY INCOME DETERMINATIONS.—
23 For purposes of this paragraph, family income
24 includes cash income, child support payments,
25 child care payments, government cash pay-

1 ments, and benefits under the Food Stamp Act
2 of 1977 that are received by any family mem-
3 ber, and family income shall be determined
4 after payment of all taxes and receipt of any
5 tax refund or rebate by any family member.

6 “(F) APPROPRIATIONS.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money
8 in the Treasury of the United States not
9 otherwise appropriated, there are appro-
10 priated for fiscal year 2003 and each fiscal
11 year thereafter \$150,000,000 for grants
12 under this paragraph.

13 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made
14 available under clause (i) shall remain
15 available until expended.”.

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