

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3599

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to improve access to dependable, affordable automobiles by low-income families.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to improve access to dependable, affordable automobiles by low-income families.

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 “Creating Access to  
5 Rides Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME CAR OWNERSHIP PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a) of the Social Secu-  
4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)) is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following:

6 “(6) GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME CAR OWNER-  
7 SHIP PROGRAMS.—

8 “(A) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this  
9 paragraph are to—

10 “(i) assist low-income families obtain  
11 dependable, affordable automobiles to im-  
12 prove their employment opportunities and  
13 access to training; and

14 “(ii) provide incentives to States, In-  
15 dian tribes or tribal organizations, local-  
16 ities, and nonprofit entities to develop and  
17 administer programs that provide assist-  
18 ance with automobile ownership for low-in-  
19 come families.

20 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

21 “(i) LOCALITY.—The term ‘locality’  
22 means a municipality that does not admin-  
23 ister a State program funded under this  
24 part.

25 “(ii) LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.—The  
26 term ‘low-income families’ means families

1 with total income of not more than 200  
2 percent of the poverty line (as defined in  
3 section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget  
4 Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any  
5 revision required by such section applicable  
6 to a family of the size involved).

7 “(iii) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term  
8 ‘nonprofit entity’ means a school, local  
9 agency, organization, or institution owned  
10 and operated by 1 or more nonprofit cor-  
11 porations or associations, no part of the  
12 net earnings of which inures, or may law-  
13 fully inure, to the benefit of any private  
14 shareholder or individual.

15 “(C) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—  
16 The Secretary may award grants to States,  
17 counties, localities, Indian tribes or tribal orga-  
18 nizations, and nonprofit entities to promote im-  
19 proving access to dependable, affordable auto-  
20 mobiles by low-income families.

21 “(D) GRANT APPROVAL CRITERIA.—The  
22 Secretary shall establish criteria for approval of  
23 an application for a grant under this paragraph  
24 that include consideration of—

1           “(i) the extent to which the proposal,  
2 if funded, is likely to improve access to  
3 training and employment opportunities and  
4 child care services by low-income families  
5 by means of car ownership;

6           “(ii) the level of innovation in the ap-  
7 plicant’s grant proposal; and

8           “(iii) any partnerships between the  
9 public and private sector in the applicant’s  
10 grant proposal.

11           “(E) USE OF FUNDS.—

12           “(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded  
13 under this paragraph shall be used to ad-  
14 minister programs that assist low-income  
15 families with dependable automobile owner-  
16 ship, and maintenance of, or insurance for,  
17 the purchased automobile.

18           “(ii) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—  
19 Funds provided to a State, Indian tribe or  
20 tribal organization, county, or locality  
21 under a grant awarded under this para-  
22 graph shall be used to supplement and not  
23 supplant other State, county, or local pub-  
24 lic funds expended for car ownership pro-  
25 grams.

1                   “(iii) GENERAL RULES GOVERNING  
2                   USE OF FUNDS.—The rules of section 404,  
3                   other than subsection (b) of that section,  
4                   shall not apply to a grant made under this  
5                   paragraph.

6                   “(iv) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—  
7                   For purposes of any requirement, limita-  
8                   tion, or prohibition imposed on an indi-  
9                   vidual or family by or pursuant to this  
10                  part, assistance provided to a low-income  
11                  family pursuant to a program referred to  
12                  in clause (i) shall not be considered assist-  
13                  ance under a State program funded under  
14                  this part.

15                  “(F) APPLICATION.—Each applicant desir-  
16                  ing a grant under this paragraph shall submit  
17                  an application to the Secretary at such time, in  
18                  such manner, and accompanied by such infor-  
19                  mation as the Secretary may reasonably re-  
20                  quire.

21                  “(G) REVERSION OF FUNDS.—Any funds  
22                  paid from a grant made under this paragraph  
23                  that are not expended within 3 years after the  
24                  date the grant is awarded shall be available for  
25                  redistribution among other grantees in such

1 manner and amount as the Secretary may de-  
2 termine, unless the Secretary extends by regula-  
3 tion the time period to expend the funds.

4 “(H) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE  
5 COSTS OF THE SECRETARY.—Not more than an  
6 amount equal to 5 percent of the funds appro-  
7 priated to make grants under this paragraph  
8 for a fiscal year shall be expended for adminis-  
9 trative costs of the Secretary in carrying out  
10 this paragraph.

11 “(I) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall,  
12 by grant, contract, or interagency agreement,  
13 conduct an evaluation of the programs adminis-  
14 tered with grants awarded under this para-  
15 graph.

16 “(J) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF  
17 APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be  
18 appropriated to the Secretary for grants under  
19 this paragraph \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal  
20 years 2008 through 2012.”.

21 (b) AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS IN INDIVIDUAL DE-  
22 VELOPMENT ACCOUNTS FOR CAR OWNERSHIP, MAINTEN-  
23 NANCE, AND INSURANCE.—

24 (1) ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TANF  
25 PROGRAM.—

1 (A) ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED PURPOSE FOR  
2 USE OF FUNDS.—Section 404(h)(2)(B) of the  
3 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(h)(2)(B)) is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(iv) QUALIFIED AUTOMOTIVE EX-  
6 PENDITURES.—Qualified automotive ex-  
7 penditures paid from an individual develop-  
8 ment account directly to the persons to  
9 whom the amounts are due.”.

10 (B) DEFINITION.—Section 404(h)(5) of  
11 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(h)(5))  
12 is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(J) QUALIFIED AUTOMOTIVE EXPENDI-  
14 TURES.—The term ‘qualified automotive ex-  
15 penditures’ means expenditures for the pur-  
16 chase or maintenance of an automobile, or for  
17 insurance for an automobile.”.

18 (2) ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AS-  
19 SETS FOR INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.—Section  
20 404(8) of the Assets for Independence Act (42  
21 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended by adding at the end  
22 the following:

23 “(E) QUALIFIED AUTOMOTIVE EXPENDI-  
24 TURES.—

1                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Qualified auto-  
2                   motive expenditures paid from an indi-  
3                   vidual development account directly to the  
4                   persons to whom the amounts are due.

5                   “(ii) DEFINITION.—In clause (i), the  
6                   term ‘qualified automotive expenditures’  
7                   means expenditures for the purchase or  
8                   maintenance of an automobile, or for in-  
9                   surance for an automobile.”.

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