

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2293

To establish a national, toll-free telephone parent helpline to provide information and assistance to parents and caregivers of children to prevent child abuse and strengthen families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2012

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a national, toll-free telephone parent helpline to provide information and assistance to parents and caregivers of children to prevent child abuse and strengthen 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 “National Parent
5 Helpline Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) There are approximately 149,000,000 par-
2 ents and caregivers in the United States.

3 (2) Many parents and caregivers do not always
4 have immediate access to a caring and supportive
5 person to help them address various challenges with
6 their children.

7 (3) Parents and caregivers could benefit from
8 an effective helpline that fosters the strengths par-
9 ents have, which would improve family and peer re-
10 lationships, as well as community life and society
11 overall.

12 (4) Congress recognizes that helpline prevention
13 services will empower parents and caregivers to posi-
14 tively address child care issues and help address
15 child maltreatment, drug and alcohol problems, men-
16 tal health, and personal growth and development.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARENT**
18 **HELPLINE.**

19 Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
20 Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
21 section 103 the following:

22 **“SEC. 103A. GRANT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARENT**
23 **HELPLINE.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a
25 grant to one or more nonprofit entities to—

1 “(1) provide for the establishment and ongoing
2 operation of a national, toll-free telephone parent
3 helpline to provide information and assistance to
4 parents and caregivers to prevent child abuse and
5 strengthen families; and

6 “(2) create and maintain an Internet website
7 with vital information and resources for parents and
8 caregivers to address a broad spectrum of family
9 issues related to emotional, social, behavioral, and
10 educational well-being of parents and children.

11 “(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding the grant under this
12 section, the Secretary shall give priority to entities with
13 experience in operating a national parent helpline that
14 provides assistance to parents and caregivers and that op-
15 erates shared leadership groups for parents and children
16 nationwide.

17 “(c) TERM.—A grant awarded under this section may
18 be for a period of not more than 5 years.

19 “(d) HELPLINE ACTIVITIES.—An entity that receives
20 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to
21 establish and operate a 24-hour, national, toll-free tele-
22 phone helpline to provide—

23 “(1) information and assistance to parents and
24 caregivers who are facing parenting challenges; and

1 “(2) a link to needed resources, with a focus on
2 weekly shared leadership groups available nation-
3 wide.

4 “(e) REPORTS AND EVALUATION.—The entity receiv-
5 ing a grant under this section shall submit a performance
6 report to the Secretary at such time as shall be reasonably
7 required by the Secretary. Such performance report shall
8 describe the activities that have been carried out with the
9 grant funds, contain an evaluation of the effectiveness of
10 such activities, and provide such additional information as
11 the Secretary may reasonably require. In the case that
12 more than 1 entities are awarded a grant under this sec-
13 tion, such entities shall collaborate to prepare and submit
14 a joint report as described in this subsection.”.

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