

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3005

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income families, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. CARSON of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income 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. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Fami-  
6 lies Act of 2015”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
 Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND  
 STRENGTHENING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

- Sec. 101. State assessments of barriers to employment and financial support of children.  
 Sec. 102. Grants to States to conduct demonstration projects to promote economic opportunity for low-income parents.  
 Sec. 103. Healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood programs.  
 Sec. 104. TANF work participation improvements.  
 Sec. 105. Ban on recovery of Medicaid costs for births.  
 Sec. 106. Improved collection and distribution of child support.  
 Sec. 107. Collection of child support under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.  
 Sec. 108. Grants supporting healthy family partnerships for domestic violence intervention and preventions.  
 Sec. 109. Procedures to address domestic violence.  
 Sec. 110. TANF Employment Fund.  
 Sec. 111. Sense of Congress.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISION

- Sec. 201. Increase in credit percentage under earned income tax credit for eligible individuals with no qualifying children.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

- 5 (1) Fathers play a significant and underappre-  
 6 ciated role in the development of their children, with  
 7 research demonstrating that a supportive and in-  
 8 volved father strengthens a child’s emotional, phys-  
 9 ical, intellectual, and behavioral development. Chil-  
 10 dren with positive relationships with fathers, even if  
 11 they do not live in the same household, have strong-  
 12 er mental health, economic success, and academic  
 13 achievement with lower rates of youth delinquency,  
 14 school dropout, and teen pregnancy.

1           (2) Economic stability also leads to positive out-  
2 comes for children, including stronger emotional  
3 well-being, physical health, and academic success.

4           (3) Family patterns in the United States have  
5 resulted in fewer children living with their fathers.  
6 The March 2015 Child Trends report on family  
7 structure shows the proportion of all children who  
8 have not attained the age of 18 living with both par-  
9 ents has decreased over the last 54 years, from 87.7  
10 percent in 1960 to 64.4 percent in 2014, with 24  
11 percent of children who have not attained the age of  
12 18 living with their mother only and 4 percent of  
13 children who have not attained the age of 18 living  
14 with their father only.

15           (4) A 2011 United States Census analysis of  
16 children's living arrangements and characteristics  
17 showed that a child in a father-absent home is al-  
18 most 4 times more likely to live in poverty than a  
19 child in a married-couple family.

20           (5) Father engagement does not depend on liv-  
21 ing in the same house as the child, with many non-  
22 residential fathers being actively involved with their  
23 children and supportive of their children's mothers.  
24 However, low-income fathers experience multiple  
25 challenges to contributing financially and emotion-

1 ally to their children due to limited education and  
2 job skills, unstable employment opportunities, child  
3 support enforcement policies, incarceration, and  
4 strained relationships with the children's mothers.  
5 Multiple approaches are needed to address these  
6 barriers to create opportunities for fathers to sustain  
7 their engagement and closeness with their children  
8 and families.

9 (6) Federal programs should encourage respon-  
10 sible fatherhood and healthy families by increasing  
11 the upward economic mobility of custodial and non-  
12 custodial parents so that they can actively partici-  
13 pate in financial support and child-rearing as well as  
14 maintain positive, healthy, and nonviolent relation-  
15 ships with their children and co-parents, including  
16 improving compliance with child support obligations  
17 and cooperative parenting.

1 **TITLE I—PROMOTING RESPON-**  
2 **SIBLE FATHERHOOD AND**  
3 **STRENGTHENING LOW-IN-**  
4 **COME FAMILIES**

5 **SEC. 101. STATE ASSESSMENTS OF BARRIERS TO EMPLOY-**  
6 **MENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF CHIL-**  
7 **DREN.**

8 (a) STATE ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—As a con-  
9 dition of the continued approval of a State plan under part  
10 D of title IV of the Social Security Act, each State with  
11 such an approved plan, acting through the appropriate  
12 State agencies, shall assess the State policies with respect  
13 to the issues described in subsection (b) and submit a re-  
14 port to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on  
15 the results of the assessment not later than October 1,  
16 2016.

17 (b) ISSUES DESCRIBED.—The issues described in  
18 this subsection are the following:

19 (1) The process of setting and modifying child  
20 support obligations, particularly with respect to low-  
21 income parents, including—

22 (A) the role and criteria for using imputed  
23 income in determining child support obligations;

24 (B) the process of modifying obligations;

1 (C) the consideration of income and em-  
2 ployment status, including efforts to identify  
3 unreported income;

4 (D) the consideration of incarceration;

5 (E) the consideration of disability;

6 (F) the treatment of arrearages, including  
7 interest charged, and laws or procedures that  
8 interfere with forgiveness, adjustment, waiver,  
9 or compromise of arrears owed to the State by  
10 low-income noncustodial parents who lack suffi-  
11 cient assets or physical ability to pay such ar-  
12 rearages;

13 (G) the procedures related to retroactive  
14 support; and

15 (H) State pass-through and disregard poli-  
16 cies for recipients of means-tested public bene-  
17 fits.

18 (2) The effect of State criminal laws and law  
19 enforcement practices on the employment acquisi-  
20 tion, retention, and advancement prospects of an in-  
21 dividual following arrest, conviction, or incarcer-  
22 ation, including—

23 (A) any efforts, including counseling or  
24 employment support, to assist ex-prisoners with

1 reentry to a community and successful reunifi-  
2 cation with their families; and

3 (B) an assessment of any efforts to seal or  
4 expunge arrest and conviction records and any  
5 efforts to grant certificates or other acknowl-  
6 edgments of rehabilitation to ex-prisoners, and  
7 to examine State occupational licensing and cer-  
8 tification procedures.

9 (3) An assessment of the effect of debt on em-  
10 ployment retention, including child support and non-  
11 child support debts imposed to recover costs related  
12 to welfare and criminal justice.

13 (4) An assessment of State practices related to  
14 providing prisoners and ex-prisoners with valid iden-  
15 tification documents upon release from prison.

16 (5) Identification of any other barriers to  
17 healthy family formation or sustainable economic op-  
18 portunity for custodial and noncustodial parents that  
19 are created or exacerbated by Federal or State laws,  
20 policies, or procedures, including an examination of  
21 the rules of Federal and State means-tested pro-  
22 grams, the operation of the State workforce system,  
23 the availability of financial education services, and  
24 the availability of domestic violence services and  
25 child support procedures to help victims of domestic

1 violence stay safe and obtain the child support they  
2 are owed.

3 (c) GRANTS TO STATES FOR COMMISSIONS ON STATE  
4 LAW IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CHIL-  
5 DREN AND FAMILIES.—The Secretary of Health and  
6 Human Services shall award grants to States to establish  
7 or support commissions to review the State assessment  
8 conducted in accordance with subsection (a) and to make  
9 recommendations on ways to improve State law in the best  
10 interest of children and families.

11 (d) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in the  
12 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,  
13 there are appropriated to the Secretary of Health and  
14 Human Services for each of fiscal years 2016 through  
15 2020, \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, for  
16 the purpose of making—

17 (1) payments to States to offset all or a portion  
18 of the costs of conducting the State assessments and  
19 reports required under subsection (a); and

20 (2) grants to States under subsection (c).

1 **SEC. 102. GRANTS TO STATES TO CONDUCT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS.**  
2  
3

4 (a) COURT-SUPERVISED OR IV-D AGENCY-SUPERVISED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—To assist States in implementing section 466(a)(15) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States to conduct demonstration projects to establish, in coordination with counties and other local or tribal governments, court-supervised or IV-D agency-supervised employment programs for noncustodial parents who have barriers to employment and a history of nonpayment of child support obligations, as determined by a court or the IV-D agency, and who are determined by the court or agency to be in need of employment services or placement in order to pay child support obligations. A noncustodial parent described in the preceding sentence who is an ex-offender shall be eligible to participate in a program established under this subsection.

24 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

25 (A) OPTION TO PARTICIPATE PRIOR TO CONTEMPT FINDING.—A State shall not be eli-

1 gible to receive a grant under this subsection  
2 unless any program established with funds  
3 made available under the grant provides a non-  
4 custodial parent described in paragraph (1)  
5 with an option to participate in the program  
6 prior to the court or agency entering a finding  
7 that the noncustodial parent is in contempt for  
8 failure to pay a child support obligation and,  
9 potentially subject to criminal penalties.

10 (B) PROGRAM GOALS.—An employment  
11 program established with funds made available  
12 under a grant awarded under this subsection  
13 shall be designed to do the following:

14 (i) To assist a noncustodial parent de-  
15 scribed in paragraph (1) obtain and main-  
16 tain unsubsidized employment.

17 (ii) To increase the amount of finan-  
18 cial support received by children.

19 (iii) To help a noncustodial parent de-  
20 scribed in paragraph (1) improve relation-  
21 ships with their children and their chil-  
22 dren's custodial parent.

23 (C) 6 MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS, TIMELY  
24 PAYMENTS.—An employment program estab-  
25 lished with funds made available under this

1 subsection shall not permit a noncustodial par-  
2 ent placed in the program to graduate from the  
3 program and avoid penalties for failure to pay  
4 a child support obligation until the noncustodial  
5 parent completes at least 6 months of contin-  
6 uous, timely payment of the parent's child sup-  
7 port obligations.

8 (D) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (i) Services provided under an employ-  
10 ment program established with funds made  
11 available under this subsection must in-  
12 clude the following:

13 (I) Job placement, including job  
14 development and supervised job search  
15 as necessary.

16 (II) Case management, including  
17 educational assessment and advising,  
18 vocational assessment and career ex-  
19 ploration services, and court liaison  
20 services.

21 (III) Counseling on responsible  
22 parenthood.

23 (IV) Referral for support and  
24 educational services.

1 (V) Employment retention serv-  
2 ices.

3 (ii) Services provided under an em-  
4 ployment program established with funds  
5 made available under this subsection may  
6 include the following:

7 (I) Remedial education services  
8 or educational referral.

9 (II) Support funds for services  
10 such as transportation, child care, or  
11 short-term training.

12 (III) Transitional jobs programs.

13 (IV) Public-private career path-  
14 way partnerships established in ac-  
15 cordance with subsection (b)(2).

16 (V) Occupational skill training,  
17 including college credit programs.

18 (VI) Curricula development.

19 (E) ADMINISTRATION.—A State that re-  
20 ceives a grant under this subsection may con-  
21 tract with a public or private nonprofit organi-  
22 zation, including a faith-based or community-  
23 based organization, to administer (in conjunc-  
24 tion with the court of jurisdiction or the IV–D

1           agency) the court-supervised or IV–D agency-  
2           supervised employment program.

3           (b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
5           Human Services may not award a grant to a State  
6           under this section unless the State agrees that, with  
7           respect to the costs to be incurred by the State in  
8           conducting a demonstration project with funds pro-  
9           vided under the grant, the State will provide to carry  
10          out the project non-Federal contributions valued at  
11          10 percent of the amount of Federal funds paid to  
12          the State under such grant.

13          (2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—In this  
14          subsection, the term “non-Federal contributions” in-  
15          cludes contributions by the State and by public and  
16          private entities that may be in cash or in kind, but  
17          does not include any amounts provided by the Fed-  
18          eral Government, or services assisted or subsidized  
19          to any significant extent by the Federal Government,  
20          or any amount expended by a State before October  
21          1, 2015.

22          (c) WORKER PROTECTIONS AND LABOR STAND-  
23          ARDS.—

24          (1) RATE OF PAY; BENEFITS AND WORKING  
25          CONDITIONS.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—An employer of a par-  
2           ticipant in a program or activity funded under  
3           this section shall pay the participant at the rate  
4           paid to an employee of the employer who is not  
5           a participant in the program or activity and  
6           who performs comparable work at the worksite,  
7           including periodic increases where appropriate.  
8           If no other employee of the employer performs  
9           comparable work at the worksite, the employer  
10          shall pay the participant not less than the ap-  
11          plicable Federal or State minimum wage,  
12          whichever is higher.

13          (B) BENEFITS AND CONDITIONS.—A State  
14          receiving a grant under this section shall ensure  
15          that an individual employed through participa-  
16          tion in a program or activity funded by the  
17          grant is provided with benefits and working  
18          conditions at the same level and to the same ex-  
19          tent as the benefits and conditions are provided  
20          to other employees of the employer of the indi-  
21          vidual who have worked a similar length of time  
22          and perform the same work.

23          (2) NONDUPLICATION.—

24                 (A) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a  
25                 grant under this section shall ensure that the

1 grant funds are used only for a program or ac-  
2 tivity that does not duplicate, and is in addition  
3 to, a program or activity otherwise available in  
4 the locality of the program or activity.

5 (B) PRIVATE, NONPROFIT ENTITY.—A  
6 State receiving a grant under this section shall  
7 ensure that the grant funds are not provided to  
8 a private nonprofit entity to conduct a program  
9 or activity that is the same as or substantially  
10 equivalent to a program or activity provided by  
11 a State or local government agency in the area  
12 in which the entity is located, unless the re-  
13 quirements of paragraph (3) are met.

14 (3) NONDISPLACEMENT.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—An employer shall not  
16 displace an employee or position (including par-  
17 tial displacement such as reduction in hours,  
18 wages, or employment benefits) or impair con-  
19 tracts for services or collective bargaining  
20 agreements, as a result of the use by the em-  
21 ployer of a participant in a program or activity  
22 funded under this section, and no participant in  
23 the program or activity shall be assigned to fill  
24 any established unfilled position vacancy.

1           (B) JOB OPPORTUNITIES.—A job oppor-  
2           tunity shall not be created under this paragraph  
3           that will infringe on the promotional oppor-  
4           tunity of an employed individual.

5           (C) LIMITATION ON SERVICES.—

6           (i) SUPPLANTATION OF HIRING.—A  
7           participant in a program or activity funded  
8           under this section shall not perform any  
9           service or duty, or engage in any activity,  
10          that will supplant the hiring of an em-  
11          ployee that is not a participant in the pro-  
12          gram or activity.

13          (ii) DUTIES FORMERLY PERFORMED  
14          BY ANOTHER EMPLOYEE.—A participant  
15          in a program or activity funded under this  
16          section shall not perform any service or  
17          duty, or engage in any activity, that is a  
18          service, duty, or activity that had been per-  
19          formed by or was assigned to any employee  
20          who—

21                   (I) resigned or was discharged  
22                   less than 3 months before the date on  
23                   which the participant performs the  
24                   service or duty or engages in the ac-  
25                   tivity;

1 (II) is subject to a reduction in  
2 force;

3 (III) has recall rights pursuant  
4 to a collective bargaining agreement  
5 or applicable personnel procedures;

6 (IV) is on leave (such as ter-  
7 minal, temporary, vacation, emer-  
8 gency, or sick leave);

9 (V) is on strike; or

10 (VI) is being locked out.

11 (D) CONCURRENCE OF LOCAL LABOR OR-  
12 GANIZATION.—A State conducting a demonstra-  
13 tion project funded under this section shall en-  
14 sure that no participant in a program or activ-  
15 ity of the project is placed with an employer  
16 until the entity conducting the program or ac-  
17 tivity has obtained the written concurrence of  
18 any local labor organization representing em-  
19 ployees who are engaged in the same or sub-  
20 stantially similar work as that proposed to be  
21 carried out for the employer with whom a par-  
22 ticipant is to be placed under the program or  
23 activity.

24 (4) NO EFFECT ON UNION ORGANIZING.—A  
25 State conducting a demonstration project funded

1 under this section shall provide the Secretary of  
2 Health and Human Services with assurance certified  
3 by both the State and the entity conducting a pro-  
4 gram or activity funded under this section that none  
5 of the funds shall be used to assist or deter union  
6 organizing.

7 (5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a  
9 grant under this section shall not use the grant  
10 funds to subsidize training or employment with  
11 an employer that has a demonstrable record of  
12 noncompliance with Federal labor, civil rights,  
13 workplace safety, or related laws.

14 (B) CERTIFIED SATISFACTORY RECORD.—

15 Employers who receive training or wage sub-  
16 sidies under programs or activities funded  
17 under this section shall have a satisfactory  
18 record in labor relations and employment prac-  
19 tices, as certified by the Secretary of Labor.

20 (C) APPLICATION OF WORKER PROTEC-

21 TION LAWS.—A participant in a program or ac-  
22 tivity funded under this section shall be consid-  
23 ered to be an employee of any employer that  
24 the participant is placed with for all purposes  
25 under Federal and State law, including laws re-

1           lating to health and safety, civil rights, and  
2           worker's compensation.

3           (D) OTHER JOB QUALITY STANDARDS.—

4           Employers who receive training or wage sub-  
5           sidies under programs or activities funded  
6           under this section shall meet all applicable  
7           State or local job or employer quality standards  
8           regarding such issues as wages, benefits, ad-  
9           vancement opportunities, and turnover rates es-  
10          tablished for programs funded under the Work-  
11          force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801  
12          et seq.).

13          (6) GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.—An entity con-  
14          ducting a program or activity funded under this sec-  
15          tion shall establish and maintain a procedure for the  
16          filing and adjudication of grievances by employees of  
17          worksite employers who are not participants in the  
18          program, or such employees' representatives, or by  
19          participants in such a program or activity alleging a  
20          violation of a provision of this subsection, that is  
21          similar to the grievance procedure established by a  
22          State for purposes of section 407(f)(3) of the Social  
23          Security Act.

24          (7) NONPREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.—The  
25          provisions of this subsection shall not be construed

1 to preempt any provision of State law that affords  
2 greater protections to employees or participants than  
3 are afforded by this subsection.

4 (8) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID TO PAR-  
5 TICIPANTS.—Amounts paid to a participant in a  
6 program or activity funded under this section shall  
7 be—

8 (A) considered earned income for purpose  
9 of determining the participant's eligibility for  
10 the child tax credit established under section 24  
11 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the  
12 earned income tax credit established under sec-  
13 tion 32 of such Code, and any other tax benefit  
14 under such Code the eligibility for which is  
15 based on earned income; and

16 (B) disregarded for purposes of deter-  
17 mining the participant's, the participant's fam-  
18 ily's, or the participant's household's eligibility  
19 for, or amount of, assistance or benefits pro-  
20 vided under any means-tested program funded  
21 in whole or in part with Federal funds.

22 (d) APPLICATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State desiring to receive a  
24 grant to conduct a demonstration project under this  
25 section shall submit an application to the Secretary

1 of Health and Human Services, at such time and in  
2 such manner as the Secretary may require, which  
3 shall include—

4 (A) evidence of an agreement between the  
5 State and 1 or more counties to establish an  
6 employment program that meets the require-  
7 ments of subsection (a);

8 (B) the number of potential noncustodial  
9 parents to be served by the program;

10 (C) the purposes specific to that State's  
11 program;

12 (D) the median income of potential individ-  
13 uals to be served by the program; and

14 (E) such additional information or assur-  
15 ances as the Secretary may require.

16 (2) COMPLIANCE WITH WORKER PROTECTIONS  
17 AND LABOR STANDARDS.—The application shall in-  
18 clude an assurance that the State and any entity, in  
19 conducting a program or activity under the project,  
20 shall comply with the worker protections and labor  
21 standards established in accordance with such pro-  
22 tections under subsection (c).

23 (3) NONDISCRIMINATION.—The application  
24 shall include an assurance that the State and any  
25 entity, in conducting a program or activity under the

1 demonstration project, shall comply with section  
2 188(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
3 (29 U.S.C. 2938(a)(2)) to the same extent that such  
4 section would apply to the entity if the program or  
5 activity was considered to be funded or otherwise fi-  
6 nancially assisted under that Act.

7 (4) ASSURANCE GRANT WILL SUPPLEMENT,  
8 NOT SUPPLANT, OTHER STATE FUNDING.—The ap-  
9 plication shall include an assurance from the chief  
10 executive officer of the State that funds made avail-  
11 able under the grant will supplement, and not sup-  
12 plant, other funds used by the State to establish or  
13 support employment placements for low-income par-  
14 ents.

15 (5) APPLICATIONS BY INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIB-  
16 AL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary of Health and  
17 Human Services may exempt an Indian tribe or trib-  
18 al organization from any requirement of this section  
19 that the Secretary determines would be inappro-  
20 priate to apply to the Indian tribe or tribal organiza-  
21 tion, taking into account the resources, needs, and  
22 other circumstances of the Indian tribe or tribal or-  
23 ganization.

24 (e) PRIORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDING  
25 GRANTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
2           and (3), the State shall give priority to making a  
3           grant under this section to an entity that—

4                   (A) demonstrates success with respect to  
5                   meeting the goals of quality job placement,  
6                   long-term unsubsidized job retention, and,  
7                   where applicable, increasing child support pay-  
8                   ments, decreasing unpaid child support arrear-  
9                   ages, and increasing the involvement of low-in-  
10                  come noncustodial parents with their children  
11                  through their participation in responsible fa-  
12                  therhood activities, including participation in  
13                  programs that provide culturally relevant cur-  
14                  ricula in core subjects including—

- 15                           (i) conducting activities with children;  
16                           (ii) improving communication skills;  
17                           (iii) child support management;  
18                           (iv) providing financially for the fam-  
19                           ily's security and well-being;  
20                           (v) managing stress and anger;  
21                           (vi) maintaining physical and mental  
22                           health;  
23                           (vii) parenting and relationship skills;  
24                           (viii) child development; and

1 (ix) barriers to responsible parent-  
2 hood, including substance abuse, unem-  
3 ployment, criminal justice system involve-  
4 ment, and inadequate housing; and

5 (B) coordinates with, and links individuals  
6 as applicable to, other public and private bene-  
7 fits and employment services for low-income  
8 adults, including the criminal justice system,  
9 programs funded under title IV of the Social  
10 Security Act, educational assistance and stu-  
11 dent aid programs, and job training or employ-  
12 ment services, including State employment  
13 agencies.

14 (2) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—In making a  
15 grant under this section, the Secretary of Health  
16 and Human Services shall ensure that a grantee  
17 demonstrates a plan for implementing measures to  
18 track their performance with respect to meeting the  
19 goals of quality job placement, long-term unsub-  
20 sidized job retention, and, where applicable, increas-  
21 ing child support payments, decreasing child support  
22 arrearages, and increasing the involvement of low-in-  
23 come noncustodial parents with their children.

24 (3) REFLECTIVE OF TARGET POPULATIONS.—  
25 In making a grant under this section, the Secretary

1 of Health and Human Services shall give priority to  
2 a State with a proposed demonstration project that  
3 is designed to target low-income adults, including  
4 custodial and noncustodial parents, and low-income  
5 married couples.

6 (f) REGULATORY AND POLICY FLEXIBILITY.—The  
7 Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination  
8 with the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General,  
9 shall work with grantees under this section to resolve pol-  
10 icy barriers that may impede blending of Federal re-  
11 sources to support these demonstration projects.

12 (g) EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Health and  
13 Human Services shall provide for an independent and rig-  
14 orous evaluation of the demonstration projects conducted  
15 under this section that includes, to the maximum extent  
16 feasible, random assignment or other appropriate statis-  
17 tical techniques, in order to assess the effectiveness of the  
18 projects.

19 (h) GENERAL DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
21 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
22 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
23 Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, and includes  
24 an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

1           (2) IV–D AGENCY.—The term “IV–D agency”  
2 means the State or local agency responsible for ad-  
3 ministering the State program established pursuant  
4 to part D of title IV of the Social Security Act.

5           (3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—  
6 The terms “Indian tribe” and “tribal organization”  
7 have the meaning given the terms in section 4 of the  
8 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
9 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

10          (i) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the  
11 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,  
12 there are appropriated to carry out this section  
13 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

14 **SEC. 103. HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROMOTION AND RESPON-**  
15 **SIBLE FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS.**

16          (a) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—

17           (1) ASSURANCE.—Section 403(a)(2)(A)(ii)(II)  
18 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 603(a)(2)(A)(ii)(II)) is amended—

20           (A) in item (aa), by striking “and”;

21           (B) in item (bb), by striking the period  
22 and inserting a semicolon; and

23           (C) by adding at the end the following:

24   “(cc) if the entity is a State  
25 or an Indian tribe or tribal orga-

1 nization, to not condition the re-  
2 ceipt of assistance under the pro-  
3 gram funded under this part,  
4 under a program funded with  
5 qualified State expenditures (as  
6 defined in section  
7 409(a)(7)(B)(i)), or under any  
8 other program funded under this  
9 title, on enrollment in any such  
10 programs or activities; and

11 “(dd) to permit any partici-  
12 pant in a program or activity  
13 funded under this paragraph, in-  
14 cluding an individual whose par-  
15 ticipation is specified in the indi-  
16 vidual responsibility plan devel-  
17 oped for the individual in accord-  
18 ance with section 408(b), to  
19 transfer to another such program  
20 or activity upon notification to  
21 the entity and the State agency  
22 responsible for administering the  
23 State program funded under this  
24 part.”.

1           (2) PROHIBITION.—Section 408(a) of such Act  
2           (42 U.S.C. 608(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
3           the following:

4           “(13) BAN ON CONDITIONING RECEIPT OF  
5           TANF OR CERTAIN OTHER BENEFITS ON PARTICIPA-  
6           TION IN A HEALTHY MARRIAGE OR RESPONSIBLE  
7           FATHERHOOD PROGRAM.—A State to which a grant  
8           is made under section 403 shall not condition the re-  
9           ceipt of assistance under the State program funded  
10          under this part, under a program funded with quali-  
11          fied State expenditures (as defined in section  
12          409(a)(7)(B)(i)), or under any other program fund-  
13          ed under this title, on participation in a healthy  
14          marriage promotion activity (as defined in section  
15          403(a)(2)(A)(iii)) or in an activity promoting re-  
16          sponsible fatherhood (as defined in section  
17          403(a)(2)(C)(ii)).”.

18          (3) PENALTY.—Section 409(a) of such Act (42  
19          U.S.C. 609(a)) is amended by adding at the end the  
20          following:

21          “(17) PENALTY FOR CONDITIONING RECEIPT  
22          OF TANF OR CERTAIN OTHER BENEFITS ON PARTICI-  
23          PATION IN A HEALTHY MARRIAGE OR RESPONSIBLE  
24          FATHERHOOD PROGRAM.—If the Secretary deter-  
25          mines that a State has violated section 408(a)(13)

1 during a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reduce the  
2 grant payable to the State under section 403(a)(1)  
3 for the immediately succeeding fiscal year by an  
4 amount equal to 5 percent of the State family assist-  
5 ance grant.”.

6 (b) ACTIVITIES PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FATHER-  
7 HOOD.—Section 403(a)(2)(C)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 603(a)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended—

9 (1) in subclause (I), by striking “marriage or  
10 sustain marriage” and insert “healthy relationships  
11 and marriages or to sustain healthy relationships or  
12 marriages”;

13 (2) in subclause (II), by inserting “educating  
14 youth who are not yet parents about the economic,  
15 social, and family consequences of early parenting,  
16 helping participants in fatherhood programs work  
17 with their own children to break the cycle of early  
18 parenthood,” after “child support payments,”; and

19 (3) in subclause (III), by striking “fathers” and  
20 inserting “low-income fathers and other low-income  
21 noncustodial parents who are not eligible for assist-  
22 ance under the State program funded under this  
23 part”.

24 (c) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 403(a)(2)(D) of  
25 such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)(D)) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “fiscal year 2012” the 1st place  
2           it appears and inserting “each of fiscal years 2016  
3           through 2020”; and

4           (2) by striking “fiscal year 2012” the 2nd place  
5           it appears and inserting “a fiscal year”.

6           (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7           this section shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

8           **SEC. 104. TANF WORK PARTICIPATION IMPROVEMENTS.**

9           (a) ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE WORK REQUIRE-  
10          MENTS FOR 2-PARENT FAMILIES.—

11          (1) WORK PARTICIPATION RATE.—Section 407  
12          of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607) is amend-  
13          ed—

14                 (A) in subsection (a)—

15                         (i) beginning in the heading, by strik-  
16                         ing “PARTICIPATION RATE REQUIRE-  
17                         MENTS” and all that follows through “A  
18                         State” in paragraph (1) and inserting  
19                         “PARTICIPATION RATE REQUIREMENTS.—  
20                         A State”; and

21                 (B) in subsection (b)—

22                         (i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking  
23                         “subsection (a)(1)” and inserting “sub-  
24                         section (a)”; and

1 (ii) by striking paragraph (2) and re-  
2 designating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as  
3 paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively;

4 (iii) in paragraph (3) (as so redesign-  
5 dated), by striking “paragraphs (1)(B) and  
6 (2)(B)” and inserting “determining month-  
7 ly participation rates under paragraph  
8 (1)(B)”; and

9 (iv) in paragraph (4) (as so redesign-  
10 dated), by striking “rates” and inserting  
11 “rate”.

12 (2) MINIMUM WEEKLY HOURS REQUIRE-  
13 MENT.—Section 407(e)(1) of the Social Security Act  
14 (42 U.S.C. 607(e)(1)) is amended—

15 (A) by striking “GENERAL RULES” and all  
16 that follows through “For purposes of” in sub-  
17 paragraph (A) and inserting “GENERAL  
18 RULES—For purposes of”; and

19 (B) by striking subparagraph (B).

20 (3) LIMITATION ON PENALTY IMPOSITION.—In  
21 applying section 409(a)(3) of the Social Security Act  
22 for any of fiscal years 2007 through 2015, the Sec-  
23 retary of Health and Human Services shall dis-  
24 regard the requirement imposed by section 407(a)(2)  
25 of such Act.

1 (b) ELIMINATION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN CORE  
2 AND OTHER WORK ACTIVITIES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(c)(1) of such  
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(1)), as amended by sub-  
5 section (a)(2) of this section, is further amended by  
6 striking “not fewer than” and all that follows  
7 through “subsection (d),”.

8 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
9 407(c)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)) is  
10 amended by striking subparagraph (C).

11 (c) ELIMINATION OF CAP ON TREATING VOCATIONAL  
12 EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AS WORK PARTICIPATION.—  
13 Section 407(c)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)) is  
14 amended by striking subparagraph (D).

15 (d) INCREASE IN MONTHS OF EDUCATIONAL VOCA-  
16 TIONAL TRAINING THAT MAY BE COUNTED AS WORK  
17 PARTICIPATION.—Section 407(d)(8) of such Act (42  
18 U.S.C. 607(d)(8)) is amended by striking “12 months”  
19 and inserting “24 months”.

20 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
21 this section shall take effect on October 1 of the first fiscal  
22 year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act  
23 and shall apply to the determination of minimum partici-  
24 pation rates for months beginning on or after that date.

1 **SEC. 105. BAN ON RECOVERY OF MEDICAID COSTS FOR**  
2 **BIRTHS.**

3 (a) BAN ON RECOVERY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 454 of the Social  
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 654), is amended—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-  
7 graph (33);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
9 paragraph (34) and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (C) by inserting after paragraph (34) the  
11 following:

12 “(35) provide that, except as provided in sec-  
13 tion 1902(a)(25)(F)(ii), the State shall not use the  
14 State program operated under this part to collect  
15 any amount owed to the State by reason of costs in-  
16 curred under the State plan approved under title  
17 XIX for the birth of a child for whom support rights  
18 have been assigned pursuant to section 471(a)(17)  
19 or 1912; and”.

20 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sec-  
21 tion 454(35) of such Act, as added by paragraph  
22 (1), shall be construed as affecting the application of  
23 section 1902(a)(25) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
24 1396a(a)(25)) with respect to a State (relating to  
25 the State Medicaid plan requirement for the State to  
26 take all reasonable measures to ascertain the legal li-

1 ability of third parties to pay for care and services  
2 available under the plan).

3 (b) CLARIFICATION THAT BAN ON RECOVERY DOES  
4 NOT APPLY WITH RESPECT TO INSURANCE OF A PARENT  
5 WITH AN OBLIGATION TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT.—Clause  
6 (ii) of section 1902(a)(25)(F) of the Social Security Act  
7 (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(25)(F)) is amended by inserting  
8 “only if such third-party liability is derived through insur-  
9 ance,” before “seek”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
12 graph (2), the amendments made by this section  
13 take effect on October 1, 2015.

14 (2) EXTENSION OF EFFECTIVE DATE FOR  
15 STATE LAW AMENDMENT.—In the case of a State  
16 plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act  
17 which the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
18 determines requires State legislation in order for the  
19 plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by  
20 the amendments made by this section, the State  
21 plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with  
22 the requirements of such title solely on the basis of  
23 its failure to meet these additional requirements be-  
24 fore the first day of the first calendar quarter begin-  
25 ning after the close of the first regular session of the

1 State legislature that begins after the date of enact-  
 2 ment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sen-  
 3 tence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legis-  
 4 lative session, each year of the session is considered  
 5 to be a separate regular session of the State legisla-  
 6 ture.

7 **SEC. 106. IMPROVED COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF**  
 8 **CHILD SUPPORT.**

9 (a) DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT.—

10 (1) FULL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT  
 11 COLLECTED; REFORM OF RULES FOR DISTRIBUTION  
 12 OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED ON BEHALF OF  
 13 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 457 of the So-  
 15 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 657) is amended—

16 (i) by striking subsection (a) and in-  
 17 serting the following:

18 “(a) FULL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS COLLECTED  
 19 ON BEHALF OF ANY FAMILY.—Subject to subsection (c),  
 20 the entire amount collected on behalf of any family as sup-  
 21 port by a State pursuant to a plan approved under this  
 22 part shall be paid by the State to the family.”; and

23 (ii) by striking subsections (c)  
 24 through (e) and inserting the following:

1           “(c) AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR CHILD FOR WHOM  
2 FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS ARE MADE.—  
3 Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section,  
4 amounts collected by a State as child support for months  
5 in any period on behalf of a child for whom a public agen-  
6 cy is making foster care maintenance payments under part  
7 E shall be paid to the public agency responsible for super-  
8 vising the placement of the child, which may use the pay-  
9 ments in the manner it determines will serve the best in-  
10 terests of the child, including setting such payments aside  
11 for the child’s future needs or use.”.

12                       (B) FOSTER CARE STATE PLAN AMEND-  
13                       MENT.—Section 471(a)(17) of such Act (42  
14                       U.S.C. 671(a)(17) is amended—

15                               (i) by inserting “and consistent with  
16                               the child’s case plan” after “where appro-  
17                               priate”; and

18                               (ii) by striking “secure an assignment  
19                               to the State of any rights to support” and  
20                               inserting “establish paternity and estab-  
21                               lish, modify, and enforce child support ob-  
22                               ligations”.

23                       (C) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AMEND-  
24                       MENTS.—

1 (i) CHILD SUPPORT STATE PLAN  
2 AMENDMENT.—Section 454 of such Act  
3 (42 U.S.C. 654), as amended by section  
4 105(a)(1) of this Act, is amended by in-  
5 serting after paragraph (35) the following:

6 “(36) provide that a State shall pay all col-  
7 lected child support to the payee, except as provided  
8 in section 457(c).”.

9 (ii) DISBURSEMENT OF SUPPORT PAY-  
10 MENTS.—Section 454B(c) of such Act (42  
11 U.S.C. 654b(c)) is amended by adding at  
12 the end the following:

13 “(3) DISBURSEMENT TO FAMILIES.—The State  
14 disbursement unit shall pay all collected child sup-  
15 port to the payee, except as otherwise provided in  
16 section 457.”.

17 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (A) Section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)(I)(aa) of such  
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(7)(B)(i)(I)(aa)) is  
20 amended by striking “457(a)(1)(B)” and in-  
21 serting “457(a)”.

22 (B) Section 454(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
23 654(5)) is amended by striking “(A) in any  
24 case” and all that follows through “(B)”.

1 (C) Section 466(a)(3)(B) of such Act (42  
2 U.S.C. 666(a)(3)(B)) is amended—

3 (i) by striking “shall be distributed in  
4 accordance with section 457 in the case of  
5 overdue support assigned to a State pursu-  
6 ant to section 408(a)(3) or 471(a)(17), or,  
7 in any other case,”; and

8 (ii) by inserting “or to the public  
9 agency responsible for supervising the  
10 placement of the child, which may use the  
11 payments in the manner the public agency  
12 determines will serve the best interest of  
13 the child” before the semicolon.

14 (b) PROHIBITION ON CONDITIONING RECEIPT OF  
15 TANF ON ASSIGNMENT OF SUPPORT.—Section 408(a)(3)  
16 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(3)) is amend-  
17 ed—

18 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “NO  
19 ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES NOT” and inserting  
20 “PROHIBITION ON CONDITIONING ASSISTANCE FOR  
21 FAMILIES ON”;

22 (2) by inserting “not” after “shall”;

23 (3) by inserting “or under a program funded  
24 with qualified State expenditures (as defined in sec-  
25 tion 409(a)(7)(B)(i))” after “this part”; and

1           (4) by striking “, not exceeding the total  
2           amount of assistance so paid to the family,”.

3           (c) REQUIREMENT TO DISREGARD PERCENTAGE OF  
4 CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN DETERMINING AMOUNT  
5 AND TYPE OF TANF ASSISTANCE.—Section 408(a) of  
6 such Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)), as amended by section  
7 103(a)(2) of this Act and subsection (b) of this section,  
8 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
9 graph:

10           “(14) REQUIREMENT TO DISREGARD PERCENT-  
11           AGE OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN DETER-  
12           MINING AMOUNT AND TYPE OF TANF ASSISTANCE.—  
13           A State to which a grant is made under section 403  
14           shall disregard at least the same percentage of  
15           amounts collected as support on behalf of a family  
16           as the percentage of earned income that the State  
17           disregards, in determining the amount or type of as-  
18           sistance provided to the family under the State pro-  
19           gram funded under this part or under a program  
20           funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined  
21           in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)).”.

22           (d) RESTORATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING.—Effec-  
23 tive on the date of enactment of this Act, section 7309  
24 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–  
25 171; 120 Stat. 147) is repealed and part D of title IV

1 of the Social Security Act shall be applied as if the amend-  
2 ment made by subsection (a) of that section had not been  
3 enacted.

4 (e) REPEAL OF MANDATORY FEE FOR CHILD SUP-  
5 PORT COLLECTION.—Effective on the date of enactment  
6 of this Act, section 7310 of the Deficit Reduction Act of  
7 2005 (Public Law 109–171; 120 Stat. 147) is repealed  
8 and part D of title IV of the Social Security Act shall  
9 be applied as if the amendments made by that section had  
10 not been enacted.

11 (f) PROHIBITION ON CONSIDERING A PERIOD OF IN-  
12 CARCERATION VOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT.—Section  
13 466(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 666(a)) is  
14 amended by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

15 “(20) PROCEDURES RELATING TO PERIODS OF  
16 INCARCERATION OF NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Procedures which re-  
18 quire that, in determining or modifying the  
19 amount of, or terms and conditions of, any sup-  
20 port obligation of a noncustodial parent, the  
21 State—

22 “(i) shall not consider any period of  
23 incarceration of such parent as a period of  
24 voluntary unemployment that disqualifies  
25 the parent from obtaining a modification

1 of the support obligation consistent with  
2 the parent’s ability to pay child support;  
3 and

4 “(ii) subject to subparagraph (B) in  
5 the case of an incarcerated parent, may—

6 “(I) temporarily suspend any  
7 support obligation on the parent and  
8 the enforcement of any support obli-  
9 gation of the parent existing prior to  
10 the period of incarceration; and

11 “(II) temporarily prohibit the ac-  
12 crual of any interest on any support  
13 obligation of the parent existing prior  
14 to the period of incarceration during  
15 any such period.

16 “(B) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CHAL-  
17 LENGE SUSPENSION.—Such procedures shall re-  
18 quire the State to provide a custodial parent  
19 with—

20 “(i) notice of any suspension of re-  
21 view, adjustment, or enforcement of a sup-  
22 port obligation and of any prohibition on  
23 interest accrual on such obligation that is  
24 imposed in accordance with subparagraph  
25 (A)(ii); and

1           “(ii) an opportunity to request that  
2           the suspension or prohibition be termi-  
3           nated or modified on the basis that the  
4           noncustodial parent has sufficient income  
5           or resources to continue payment of the  
6           support obligation during the noncustodial  
7           parent’s period of incarceration.”.

8           (g) REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT  
9 ARREARAGES UPON REQUEST.—Section 466(a)(10) of  
10 such Act (42 U.S.C. 666(a)(10)) is amended by adding  
11 at the end the following:

12           “(D) REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF AR-  
13 REARAGES.—Procedures which require the  
14 State to review, and if appropriate, reduce the  
15 balance of arrearages permanently assigned to  
16 the State under part A or E of this title, or  
17 under title XIX, pursuant to standards and  
18 procedures established by the State, in cases  
19 where the obligor lacks sufficient ability to pay  
20 the arrears, adjustment will promote timely  
21 payment of current support, or barriers, such  
22 as incarceration, may have limited the ability of  
23 the obligor to timely seek a modification of the  
24 order, and it is in the best interests of the child  
25 to make such reduction. Nothing in the pre-

1           ceding sentence shall be construed as affecting  
2           arrearrages that have not been permanently as-  
3           signed to the State under any such part or  
4           title.”.

5           (h) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than October 1,  
6 2016, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
7 study and submit a report to Congress regarding the fol-  
8 lowing:

9           (1) The effect of age eligibility restrictions for  
10 the earned income tax credit established under sec-  
11 tion 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for in-  
12 dividuals without qualifying children on—

13           (A) the ability of young parents to pay  
14 child support;

15           (B) compliance with child support orders;

16           and

17           (C) the relationship between young non-  
18 custodial parents and their children.

19           (2) The impact of State earned income tax  
20 credit programs, especially such programs with tar-  
21 geted benefits for noncustodial parents, on—

22           (A) the ability of noncustodial parents to  
23 pay child support;

24           (B) compliance with child support orders;

25           and

1 (C) the relationship between noncustodial  
2 parents and their children.

3 (3) The challenges faced by legal immigrants  
4 and individuals for whom English is not their pri-  
5 mary language in fulfilling child support and other  
6 noncustodial parenting obligations.

7 (i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-  
9 vided in this section, the amendments made by this  
10 section shall take effect on October 1, 2016, and  
11 shall apply to payments under parts A and D of title  
12 IV of the Social Security Act for calendar quarters  
13 beginning on or after that date, without regard to  
14 whether regulations to implement the amendments  
15 are promulgated by such date.

16 (2) STATE OPTION TO ACCELERATE EFFECTIVE  
17 DATE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a State  
18 may elect to have the amendments made by the pre-  
19 ceding provisions of this section apply to the State  
20 and to amounts collected by the State (and to pay-  
21 ments under such parts), on and after such date as  
22 the State may select that is not later than Sep-  
23 tember 30, 2016.

1 **SEC. 107. COLLECTION OF CHILD SUPPORT UNDER THE**  
2 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (a) ENCOURAGEMENT OF COLLECTION OF CHILD  
5 SUPPORT.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
6 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (e)—

8 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and  
9 (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

10 (B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking  
11 “paragraph (6)” and inserting “paragraph  
12 (7)”; and

13 (C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
14 following:

15 “(5) DEDUCTION FOR CHILD SUPPORT RE-  
16 CEIVED.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A household shall be  
18 allowed a deduction of 20 percent of all legally  
19 obligated child support payments received from  
20 an identified or putative parent of a child in the  
21 household if that parent is not a household  
22 member.

23 “(B) ORDER OF DETERMINING DEDUC-  
24 TIONS.—A deduction under this paragraph shall  
25 be determined before the computation of the ex-

1           cess shelter deduction under paragraph (7).”;  
2           and

3           (2) in subsection (k)(4)(B), by striking “sub-  
4           section (e)(6)” and inserting “subsection (e)(7)”.

5           (b) SIMPLIFIED VERIFICATION OF CHILD SUPPORT  
6 PAYMENTS.—Section 5(n) of the Food and Nutrition Act  
7 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(n)) is amended—

8           (1) in the subsection heading, by striking  
9           “STATE OPTIONS TO SIMPLIFY”, and inserting  
10          “SIMPLIFIED”; and

11          (2) by striking “Regardless of whether” and in-  
12          serting the following:

13               “(1) IN GENERAL.—A household that is paying  
14          legally obligated child support through the program  
15          under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act  
16          (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) shall receive—

17                       “(A) a deduction under subsection (e)(4);

18                       or

19                       “(B) an exclusion under subsection (d)(6);  
20          for child support payments made.

21               “(2) STATE OPTIONS.—Regardless of whether”.

22           (c) INCLUSION OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES PRO-  
23 GRAMS IN DEFINITION OF WORK PROGRAM.—Section  
24 6(o)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
25 2015(o)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” at  
2 the end;

3 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
4 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

6 “(E) participate in and comply with the re-  
7 quirements of a demonstration project under  
8 section 102 of the Julia Carson Responsible Fa-  
9 therhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015;”.

10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—This section and the amend-  
12 ments made by this section take effect on October  
13 1, 2015.

14 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—A State shall imple-  
15 ment the amendments made by subsections (a) and  
16 (b) for participating households at the 1st certifi-  
17 cation, or 1st recertification, of the household that  
18 occurs on or after October 1, 2015.

19 **SEC. 108. GRANTS SUPPORTING HEALTHY FAMILY PART-**  
20 **NEERSHIPS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTER-**  
21 **VENTION AND PREVENTIONS.**

22 Section 403(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
23 603(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following  
24 new paragraph:

1           “(6) GRANTS SUPPORTING HEALTHY FAMILY  
2 PARTNERSHIPS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTER-  
3 VENTION AND PREVENTION.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
5 award grants on a competitive basis to healthy  
6 family partnerships to develop and implement  
7 promising practices for—

8           “(i) assessing and providing services  
9 to individuals and families affected by do-  
10 mestic violence, including through case-  
11 worker training, the provision of technical  
12 assistance to community partners, and the  
13 implementation of safe visitation and ex-  
14 change programs; or

15           “(ii) preventing domestic violence,  
16 particularly as a barrier to economic secu-  
17 rity, and fostering healthy relationships.

18           “(B) EDUCATION SERVICES.—In awarding  
19 grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
20 shall ensure that 10 percent of the funds made  
21 available under such grants are used for high  
22 schools and other secondary educational institu-  
23 tions and institutions of higher education to  
24 provide education services on the value of  
25 healthy relationships, responsible parenting,

1 and healthy marriages characterized by mutual  
2 respect and nonviolence, and the importance of  
3 building relationships skills such as communica-  
4 tion, conflict resolution, and budgeting.

5 “(C) APPLICATION.—The respective entity  
6 and organization of a healthy family partner-  
7 ship entered into for purposes of receiving a  
8 grant under this paragraph shall submit a joint  
9 application to the Secretary, at such time and  
10 in such manner as the Secretary shall specify,  
11 containing—

12 “(i) a description of how the partner-  
13 ship intends to carry out the activities de-  
14 scribed in subparagraph (A);

15 “(ii) an assurance that funds made  
16 available under the grant shall be used to  
17 supplement, and not supplant, other funds  
18 used by the entity or organization to carry  
19 out programs, activities, or services de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B); and

21 “(iii) such other information as the  
22 Secretary may require.

23 “(D) GENERAL RULES GOVERNING USE OF  
24 FUNDS.—The rules of section 404, other than

1 subsection (b) of that section, shall not apply to  
2 a grant made under this paragraph.

3 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4 “(i) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—The term  
5 ‘domestic violence’ has the meaning given  
6 that term in section 402(a)(7)(B).

7 “(ii) HEALTHY FAMILY PARTNER-  
8 SHIP.—The term ‘healthy family partner-  
9 ship’ means a partnership between—

10 “(I) an entity receiving funds  
11 under a grant made under paragraph  
12 (2) to promote healthy marriage or re-  
13 sponsible fatherhood; and

14 “(II) an organization with dem-  
15 onstrated expertise working with sur-  
16 vivors of domestic violence.

17 “(F) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money  
18 in the Treasury of the United States not other-  
19 wise appropriated, there are appropriated for  
20 each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020,  
21 \$25,000,000 to carry out this paragraph.”.

22 **SEC. 109. PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a)(2) of the Social  
24 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and  
2           (E) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

3           (2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5                   “(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF  
6           FUNDS.—An entity may not be awarded a grant  
7           under this paragraph unless the entity, as a  
8           condition of receiving funds under such a  
9           grant—

10                   “(i) identifies in its application for the  
11           grant the domestic violence experts at the  
12           local, State, or national level with whom  
13           the entity will consult in the development  
14           and implementation of the programs and  
15           activities of the entity;

16                   “(ii) on award of the grant, and in  
17           consultation with such domestic violence  
18           experts, develops a written protocol which  
19           describes—

20                   “(I) how the entity will identify  
21           instances or risks of domestic violence;

22                   “(II) the procedures for respond-  
23           ing to such instances or risk, includ-  
24           ing making service referrals and pro-  
25           viding protections and appropriate as-

1                   sistance for identified individuals and  
2                   families;

3                   “(III) how confidentiality issues  
4                   will be addressed; and

5                   “(IV) the domestic violence train-  
6                   ing that will be provided to ensure ef-  
7                   fective and consistent implementation  
8                   of the protocol; and

9                   “(iii) in an annual report to the Sec-  
10                  retary, includes a description of the domes-  
11                  tic violence protocols, and a description of  
12                  any implementation issues identified with  
13                  respect to domestic violence and how the  
14                  issues were addressed.

15                  “(E) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINED.—In  
16                  this paragraph, the term ‘domestic violence’ has  
17                  the meaning given the term in section  
18                  402(a)(7)(B).”.

19                  (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 403(a)(2)  
20                  of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)), as amended by section  
21                  103(d) of this Act and subsection (a)(1) of this section,  
22                  is amended—

23                         (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

24                                 (A) by striking “and (E)” and inserting  
25                                 “(D), and (G)”; and

1 (B) by striking “(D)” and inserting “(F)”;  
2 and  
3 (2) in subparagraphs (B)(i) and (C)(i), by  
4 striking “(D)” each place it appears and inserting  
5 “(F)”.

6 **SEC. 110. TANF EMPLOYMENT FUND.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(b) of the Social Secu-  
8 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 603(b)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(b) EMPLOYMENT FUND.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-  
11 lished in the Treasury of the United States a fund  
12 which shall be known as the ‘Employment Fund for  
13 Needy Families’ (in this subsection referred to as  
14 the ‘Fund’.)

15 “(2) DEPOSITS INTO FUND.—Out of any money  
16 in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise  
17 appropriated, there are appropriated for each of fis-  
18 cal years 2017 and 2018, \$608,000,000 for payment  
19 to the Fund, which shall remain available until ex-  
20 pended.

21 “(3) GRANTS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal  
23 years 2017 and 2018, the Secretary shall make  
24 a grant to any qualifying entity as provided in  
25 this paragraph.

1           “(B) QUALIFYING ENTITY.—For purposes  
2 of this paragraph, a qualifying entity for a fis-  
3 cal year is a State, territory, Indian tribe, or  
4 tribal organization that submits to the Sec-  
5 retary an application for a grant under this  
6 paragraph for the fiscal year, in such manner  
7 and at such time as the Secretary may require.

8           “(C) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—

9           “(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The  
10 Secretary shall reserve \$10,000,000 out of  
11 the amounts made available under para-  
12 graph (2) for each fiscal year to provide  
13 technical assistance to qualifying entities  
14 receiving a grant under this paragraph for  
15 the fiscal year.

16           “(ii) TERRITORIES AND INDIAN  
17 TRIBES.—The Secretary shall reserve,  
18 from the amount made available under  
19 paragraph (2) for a fiscal year that re-  
20 mains after applying clause (i), 3 percent  
21 for grants under this paragraph for the fis-  
22 cal year to qualifying entities that are ter-  
23 ritories and 1 percent for grants under this  
24 paragraph for the fiscal year to qualifying  
25 entities that are Indian tribes or tribal or-

1 organizations, to be allotted in a manner the  
2 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

3 “(iii) STATES.—

4 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The amount  
5 of a grant under this paragraph pay-  
6 able for a fiscal year to a qualifying  
7 entity that is a State shall be the  
8 amount that bears the same ratio to  
9 the aggregate amount as the number  
10 of individuals residing in the State  
11 who have attained 18 years of age but  
12 have not attained 67 years of age who  
13 are not employed, as determined by  
14 the Secretary, bears to the total num-  
15 ber of such individuals residing in all  
16 qualifying entities that are States.

17 “(II) AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—For  
18 purposes of this clause, the term ‘ag-  
19 gregate amount’ means the amount  
20 made available for a fiscal year under  
21 paragraph (2) that remains after ap-  
22 plying clauses (i) and (ii).

23 “(iv) UNUSED FUNDS.—

24 “(I) REASONABLE LIMITS ON  
25 CARRYING OVER FUNDS.—The Sec-

1           retary shall set reasonable limits on  
2           the amount of funds a State receiving  
3           a grant under this paragraph may  
4           carry over for expenditure in fiscal  
5           years after the fiscal year for which  
6           the grant is awarded.

7                   “(II) REDISTRIBUTION OF UN-  
8                   USED FUNDS.—Any portion of the  
9                   amount of a grant made to a State  
10                  under clause (iii) that the Secretary  
11                  determines will not be used by the  
12                  State shall be redistributed among the  
13                  States that the Secretary determines  
14                  will not have such an unused amount,  
15                  using the rules specified in clause (iii).  
16                  Any amount so redistributed to a  
17                  State is deemed part of the grant  
18                  made to the State under the preceding  
19                  provisions of this paragraph.

20                   “(D) USE OF FUNDS.—

21                           “(i) EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—

22                                   “(I)       SUBSIDIZED       EMPLOY-  
23                                   MENT.—A qualifying entity awarded a  
24                                   grant under this paragraph shall use  
25                                   the grant funds to conduct a sub-

1           sidized employment program to assist  
2           recipients of TANF cash assistance  
3           and TANF-eligible individuals who  
4           are not recipients of cash assistance  
5           in obtaining paid employment.

6           “(II) SECTORAL SKILLS TRAIN-  
7           ING.—A qualifying entity may use not  
8           more than 15 percent of funds award-  
9           ed to the entity under this paragraph  
10          for a fiscal year to conduct a sectoral  
11          skills training program to provide sec-  
12          toral skills training to recipients of  
13          TANF cash assistance and TANF-eli-  
14          gible individuals who are not recipi-  
15          ents of cash assistance.

16          “(ii) ALLOWABLE EXPENSES.—A  
17          qualifying entity may use funds awarded  
18          under this paragraph to carry out clause  
19          (i), including the following activities:

20                  “(I) Administrative expenses.

21                  “(II) Supportive services, includ-  
22                  ing transportation and child care, to  
23                  enable individuals to participate in a  
24                  program described in clause (i).

1           “(III) Wages and associated pay-  
2           roll costs for individuals participating  
3           in the subsidized employment program  
4           described in clause (i)(I).

5           “(iii) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSIST-  
6           ANCE.—

7           “(I) REQUIREMENT TO USE 75  
8           PERCENT OF FUNDS TO ASSIST RE-  
9           CIPIENTS OF TANF CASH ASSIST-  
10          ANCE.—A qualifying entity shall use  
11          not less than 75 percent of funds  
12          awarded to the entity under this para-  
13          graph to assist under the program de-  
14          scribed in clause (i)(I) (and, if the en-  
15          tity so elects, the program described  
16          in clause (i)(II)) recipients of TANF  
17          cash assistance and may use the re-  
18          mainder of the funds to assist TANF-  
19          eligible individuals who are not recipi-  
20          ents of cash assistance.

21          “(II) RECIPIENT OF TANF CASH  
22          ASSISTANCE.—In this subparagraph,  
23          the term ‘recipient of TANF cash as-  
24          sistance’ means an individual who—

1           “(aa) has attained 18 years  
2 of age and has not attained 67  
3 years of age; and

4           “(bb) is not employed and is  
5 determined by the qualifying en-  
6 tity to have been unsuccessful at  
7 obtaining paid employment after  
8 participating in a job search pro-  
9 gram; and—

10           “(AA) is a member of a  
11 family that receives cash as-  
12 sistance under the State  
13 program funded under this  
14 part or any other State pro-  
15 gram funded with qualified  
16 State expenditures (as de-  
17 fined in section  
18 409(a)(7)(B)(i)); or

19           “(BB) is a noncustodial  
20 parent of a minor child re-  
21 siding with a family de-  
22 scribed in item (aa), in a  
23 case in which the parent is  
24 not considered by the State

1 to be a member of the fam-  
2 ily.

3 “(III) TANF-ELIGIBLE INDI-  
4 VIDUAL WHO IS NOT A RECIPIENT OF  
5 CASH ASSISTANCE.—In this subpara-  
6 graph, the term ‘TANF-eligible indi-  
7 vidual who is not a recipient of cash  
8 assistance’ means an individual who—

9 “(aa) has attained 18 years  
10 of age and has not attained 67  
11 years of age;

12 “(bb) is not employed and is  
13 determined by the qualifying en-  
14 tity to have been unsuccessful at  
15 obtaining paid employment after  
16 participating in a job search pro-  
17 gram;

18 “(cc) is not an individual de-  
19 scribed in subitems (AA) or (BB)  
20 of subclause (II)(bb); and

21 “(dd) is a member of a fam-  
22 ily that includes a minor child re-  
23 siding with the family (including  
24 a noncustodial parent of the  
25 child) if the family has an income

1 that is less than the poverty line  
2 (as defined in section 673(2) of  
3 the Omnibus Budget Reconcili-  
4 ation Act of 1981, including any  
5 revision required by such section,  
6 applicable to a family of the size  
7 involved).

8 “(E) ANNUAL REPORT.—

9 “(i) SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT.—For  
10 each fiscal year for which an eligible entity  
11 receives a grant under this paragraph, the  
12 entity shall submit to the Secretary a re-  
13 port on the subsidized employment pro-  
14 gram described in subparagraph (D)(i)(I),  
15 including a description of—

16 “(I) the design of the wage sub-  
17 sidy provided to individuals receiving  
18 employment assistance under the pro-  
19 gram (in this clause referred to as  
20 ‘subsidized employees’);

21 “(II) requirements imposed on  
22 employers by the State as a condition  
23 of participating in the program;

24 “(III) the types of jobs in which  
25 subsidized employees are placed;

1           “(IV) demographic information  
2           for subsidized employees and for the  
3           target population the entity seeks to  
4           assist under the program;

5           “(V) the total number of sub-  
6           sidized employees participating in the  
7           program during the fiscal year;

8           “(VI) the average number of  
9           hours worked per week by a sub-  
10          sidized employee;

11          “(VII) the average length of time  
12          for which a subsidized employee par-  
13          ticipates in the program; and

14          “(VIII) the employment out-  
15          comes for subsidized employees after  
16          participating in the program, includ-  
17          ing the number of individuals hired by  
18          an employer with which the individual  
19          was placed during the program and  
20          the number of individuals hired by  
21          other employers.

22          “(ii) **SECTORAL SKILLS TRAINING.**—If  
23          an eligible entity elects to conduct a sec-  
24          toral skills training program described in  
25          subparagraph (D)(i)(II), the report re-

1                   required under clause (i) of this subpara-  
2                   graph shall also include a description of—

3                               “(I) the design of the program;

4                               “(II) the industries in which indi-  
5                   viduals receiving assistance under the  
6                   program (in this clause referred to as  
7                   ‘trainees’) receive training;

8                               “(III) demographic information  
9                   for trainees and for the target popu-  
10                  lation the entity seeks to assist under  
11                  the program;

12                              “(IV) the total number of train-  
13                  ees participating in the program dur-  
14                  ing the fiscal year;

15                              “(V) the average number of  
16                  hours per week for which a trainee re-  
17                  ceives training;

18                              “(VI) the average length of time  
19                  for which a trainee participates in the  
20                  program; and

21                              “(VII) the employment outcomes  
22                  for trainees after participating in the  
23                  program.

24                              “(F) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall  
25                  establish and implement a rigorous system for

1 evaluating the success of subsidized employment  
2 programs and sectoral training programs con-  
3 ducted pursuant to this paragraph.

4 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 “(A) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZA-  
6 TION.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal or-  
7 ganization’ have the meaning given such terms  
8 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination  
9 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
10 450b).

11 “(B) SECTORAL SKILLS TRAINING.—The  
12 term ‘sectoral skills training’ means training  
13 that implements a sectoral skills training strat-  
14 egy established by an industry or sector part-  
15 nership (as defined in section 3(26) of the  
16 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act).

17 “(C) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means  
18 each of the 50 States of the United States and  
19 the District of Columbia.

20 “(D) TERRITORIES.—The term ‘territories’  
21 means Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States  
22 Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands,  
23 and American Samoa.”.

24 (b) PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS COUNTED TOWARD  
25 WORK PARTICIPATION RATE.—Section 407(b) of such Act

1 (42 U.S.C. 607(b)), as amended by section 104(a)(1)(B)  
2 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(5) STATE OPTION TO INCLUDE SUBSIDIZED  
4 EMPLOYMENT AND SECTORAL SKILLS TRAINING  
5 PARTICIPANTS.—

6 “(A) If an individual who is not a recipient  
7 of assistance under the State program funded  
8 under this part (or any other State program  
9 funded with qualified State expenditures (as de-  
10 fined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) participates in  
11 work activities for not less than the minimum  
12 average number of hours per week specified in  
13 the table in subsection (c)(1) of this section  
14 during a month as part of a State’s subsidized  
15 employment or sectoral skills training program  
16 funded under section 403(b), the State may  
17 count the individual as a family that includes  
18 an adult or a minor child head of household  
19 who is engaged in work for the month for pur-  
20 poses of paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection.”.

21 (c) STATE PLAN REQUIRED TO INCLUDE DESCRIP-  
22 TION OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—Section  
23 402(a)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) is  
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1           “(vi) The document shall indicate  
2           whether the State intends to apply for a  
3           grant to conduct a subsidized employment  
4           program and, if the State so chooses, a  
5           sectoral skills training program, under sec-  
6           tion 403(b). If so, the document shall in-  
7           clude a description of the program or pro-  
8           grams the State intends to conduct using  
9           the grant funds and a description of how  
10          the program or programs will serve non-  
11          custodial parents of minor children.”.

12          (d) GRANTS EXEMPTED FROM TERRITORIAL PAY-  
13          MENT CEILING.—Section 1108(a)(2) of such Act (42  
14          U.S.C. 1308(a)(2)) is amended by inserting “403(b),”  
15          after “403(a)(5),”.

16          (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO RETAIN DEFINI-  
17          TION OF A NEEDY STATE.—

18                 (1) NUMBER OF WEEKS FOR WHICH JOB  
19          SEARCH COUNTS AS WORK.—Section 407(c)(2)(A) of  
20          such Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

21                         (A) in clause (i), by striking “section  
22                         409(a)(7)(B)(i)” and inserting “clause (iii)”;

23                         and

24                         (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(iii) NEEDED STATE.—For purposes  
2 of clause (i), a State is a needy State for  
3 a month if—

4           “(I) the average rate of—

5           “(aa) total unemployment in  
6 such State (seasonally adjusted)  
7 for the period consisting of the  
8 most recent 3 months for which  
9 data for all States are published  
10 equals or exceeds 6.5 percent;  
11 and

12           “(bb) total unemployment in  
13 such State (seasonally adjusted)  
14 for the 3-month period equals or  
15 exceeds 110 percent of such aver-  
16 age rate for either (or both) of  
17 the corresponding 3-month peri-  
18 ods ending in the 2 preceding  
19 calendar years; or

20           “(II) as determined by the Sec-  
21 retary of Agriculture (in the discretion  
22 of the Secretary of Agriculture), the  
23 monthly average number of individ-  
24 uals (as of the last day of each  
25 month) participating in the supple-

1           mental nutrition assistance program  
2           in the State in the then most recently  
3           concluded 3-month period for which  
4           data are available exceeds by not less  
5           than 10 percent the lesser of—

6                     “(aa) the monthly average  
7                     number of individuals (as of the  
8                     last day of each month) in the  
9                     State that would have partici-  
10                    pated in the supplemental nutri-  
11                    tion assistance program in the  
12                    corresponding 3-month period in  
13                    fiscal year 1994 if the amend-  
14                    ments made by titles IV and VIII  
15                    of the Personal Responsibility  
16                    and Work Opportunity Reconcili-  
17                    ation Act of 1996 had been in ef-  
18                    fect throughout fiscal year 1994;  
19                    or

20                    “(bb) the monthly average  
21                    number of individuals (as of the  
22                    last day of each month) in the  
23                    State that would have partici-  
24                    pated in the supplemental nutri-  
25                    tion assistance program in the

1 corresponding 3-month period in  
2 fiscal year 1995 if the amend-  
3 ments made by titles IV and VIII  
4 of the Personal Responsibility  
5 and Work Opportunity Reconcili-  
6 ation Act of 1996 had been in ef-  
7 fect throughout fiscal year  
8 1995.”.

9 (2) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY TO REDUCE  
10 WORK PARTICIPATION RATE PENALTY DUE TO CIR-  
11 CUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED STATE TO BECOME  
12 NEEDY STATE.—Section 409(a)(3)(C) of such Act  
13 (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(3)(C)) is amended by striking  
14 “section 403(b)(5)” and inserting “section  
15 407(c)(2)(A)(iii)”.

16 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
17 this section shall apply with respect to fiscal years begin-  
18 ning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 111. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of the Congress that a State to which  
21 a grant is made under section 403 of the Social Security  
22 Act should consider a noncustodial parent of a minor  
23 child, if the child is a recipient of assistance under a State  
24 program funded under part A of title IV of such Act (or  
25 under any other State program funded with qualified

1 State expenditures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)  
 2 of such Act), to be a member of the family of the child  
 3 for purposes of providing assistance to the family, the  
 4 child, and the noncustodial parent under the program.

## 5 **TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISION**

### 6 **SEC. 201. INCREASE IN CREDIT PERCENTAGE UNDER** 7 **EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR ELIGIBLE** 8 **INDIVIDUALS WITH NO QUALIFYING CHIL-** 9 **DREN.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The row in the table in section  
 11 32(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 relating  
 12 to no qualifying children is amended to read as follows:

“No qualifying children .....	20	7.65”.
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13 (b) INCOME PHASEOUT FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS  
 14 WITH NO QUALIFYING CHILDREN.—The table in section  
 15 32(b)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by striking  
 16 “\$5,280” and inserting “\$11,500”.

17 (c) REDUCTION OF MARRIAGE PENALTY MADE PER-  
 18 MANENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(b)(2)(B) of such  
 20 Code is amended to read as follows:

21 “(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a  
 22 joint return filed by an eligible individual and  
 23 such individual’s spouse, the phaseout amount

1           determined under subparagraph (A) shall be in-  
2           creased by \$5,000.”.

3           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 32(b)  
4           of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (3).

5           (d) INCREASE IN AGE RANGE FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WITH NO QUALIFYING CHILD.—Section  
6           32(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of such Code is amended—  
7           32(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of such Code is amended—

8           (1) by striking “age 25” and inserting “age  
9           21”, and

10          (2) by striking “age 65” and inserting “age  
11          68”.

12          (e) TAXPAYER ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NO QUALIFYING CHILDREN IF QUALIFYING  
13          CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE VALID SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.—Section 32(c)(1)(F) of such Code is amended to  
14          CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE VALID SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.—Section 32(c)(1)(F) of such Code is amended to  
15          BERS.—Section 32(c)(1)(F) of such Code is amended to  
16          read as follows:

17                   “(F) INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT INCLUDE  
18                   TIN, ETC., OF ANY QUALIFYING CHILD.—In the  
19                   case of any eligible individual who has one or  
20                   more qualifying children, if—

21                           “(i) no qualifying child of such indi-  
22                           vidual is taken into account under sub-  
23                           section (b) by reason of paragraph (3)(D),  
24                           and

1                   “(ii) no child of such individual is  
2                   taken into account for purposes of any  
3                   other child tax benefit under this chapter,  
4                   for purposes of the credit allowed under this  
5                   section, such individual may be considered an  
6                   eligible individual without a qualifying child.”.

7           (f) EXPANDING THE EITC FOR CERTAIN FORMER  
8 FOSTER YOUTH.—Section 32(c)(1) of such Code, as  
9 amended by subsection (e), is amended by adding at the  
10 end the following:

11                   “(G) FOSTER YOUTH.—

12                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of  
13                   subparagraph (A), the term ‘eligible indi-  
14                   vidual’ shall include an individual who is a  
15                   qualified foster youth.

16                   “(ii) QUALIFIED FOSTER YOUTH DE-  
17                   FINED.—For purposes of clause (i), the  
18                   term ‘qualified foster youth’ means an in-  
19                   dividual who—

20                   “(I) has attained age 18 but not  
21                   attained age 21 before the close of the  
22                   taxable year, and

23                   “(II) on or after attaining the  
24                   age of 14 was placed in a foster fam-  
25                   ily home by an agency of a State or

1 a political subdivision thereof or by a  
2 qualified foster care placement agency  
3 (as defined by section 131(b)(3)).”.

4 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
5 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
6 December 31, 2015.

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