

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6503

To facilitate services and support to prevent the abandonment of women and children by alleviating the physical, financial, social, emotional, and other difficulties that may be encountered during pregnancy and childrearing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2016

Mr. FORTENBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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

A BILL

To facilitate services and support to prevent the abandonment of women and children by alleviating the physical, financial, social, emotional, and other difficulties that may be encountered during pregnancy and childrearing.

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 “Care for Life Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Purpose; findings.

TITLE I—PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT SERVICES

Sec. 101. Pregnancy and parenting support services.
 Sec. 102. Incentives for Workplace Solutions Awareness Campaign.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress.
 Sec. 202. Fund for the improvement of postsecondary educational establishments.

3 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—This Act seeks to achieve a consistent
 5 standard of informing newly pregnant women of all serv-
 6 ices and support that are available to them and to ensure
 7 that such women are not abandoned. Women at the point
 8 of learning about an unplanned pregnancy often ask them-
 9 selves what society will to do support them. A myriad of
 10 services and support is available, but often pregnant
 11 women, and even providers, are unaware of such services
 12 and support. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that
 13 newly pregnant women are aware of all the services and
 14 support that are available to them and this Act furthers
 15 the authority to make specialized grants in this regard.

16 (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

17 (1) Many women do not know where to turn for
 18 available assistance during pregnancy, childbirth,
 19 and child-rearing, particularly when facing financial,
 20 social, emotional, and other life challenges.

1 (2) Women who are pregnant and in fear of
2 being abandoned during pregnancy should have ac-
3 cess to available local, State, and Federal govern-
4 mental, as well as civil society, pregnancy and par-
5 enting resources.

6 (3) In a study of how women in the United
7 States face challenging circumstances during preg-
8 nancy that affect a woman’s willingness to carry a
9 child to term, research shows that of women who do
10 not carry their child to term—

11 (A) 44 percent are college-aged;

12 (B) 61 percent have at least one child;

13 (C) 69 percent are facing economic chal-
14 lenges;

15 (D) 75 percent feel they cannot afford a
16 child; and

17 (E) 75 percent say that having a baby
18 would interfere with work, school, or the ability
19 to care for other dependents.

20 (4) When a woman discovers she is pregnant
21 while facing physical, financial, social, emotional,
22 and other life challenges, the people around her can
23 help to mitigate anxiety in the face of uncertainty by
24 providing practical support with day-to-day needs as-

1 sociated with pregnancy, birth, and motherhood,
2 particularly in the context of her concerns about—

3 (A) family, paternity, and community sup-
4 port during pregnancy and following the birth
5 of a child or children;

6 (B) securing opportunities that a woman
7 may require, including the completion of edu-
8 cation that leads to employment; and

9 (C) workplaces that accommodate pregnant
10 and parenting women.

11 (5) Often pregnant women are unaware of the
12 support that may be available to them from private
13 and public sources at the local, State, and national
14 levels.

15 **TITLE I—PREGNANCY AND**
16 **PARENTING SUPPORT SERVICES**

17 **SEC. 101. PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT SERV-**
18 **ICES.**

19 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Con-
20 gress that women who are pregnant and fear being aban-
21 doned under difficult life circumstances, and recipients of
22 care funded through title X of the Public Health Service
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.), title XX of the Social Security
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.), and other Federal, State,
25 and local health care programs, should be aware of the

1 services available, during and after pregnancy, that will
2 support them while carrying their children to live birth
3 as well as supporting women who are raising their children
4 following birth or giving their children up for adoption.

5 (b) SUPPORT SERVICES.—Part D of title III of the
6 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating section 330F as section
9 330F-1; and

10 (2) by inserting after section 330E the fol-
11 lowing:

12 **“SEC. 330F. PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT SERV-**
13 **ICES.**

14 “(a) DATABASE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
16 and maintain a comprehensive, publicly accessible,
17 and user friendly database, to be known as the Preg-
18 nant and Parenting Women’s Care Information
19 Service, to serve as a consolidated source of informa-
20 tion on public and private service providers that ad-
21 dress the concerns of pregnant women through the
22 provision of pregnancy and parenting support serv-
23 ices.

24 “(2) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED.—The
25 database developed under paragraph (1) shall in-

1 include a list, by State and locality, of qualified pro-
2 viders including, for each listed provider—

3 “(A) Web sites and other relevant sources
4 of information about such provider;

5 “(B) as applicable and available—

6 “(i) contact information for such pro-
7 vider; and

8 “(ii) the number of years such pro-
9 vider has provided pregnancy and par-
10 enting support services; and

11 “(C) information on the services offered by
12 such provider targeted towards pregnant and
13 parenting women, including the rating and re-
14 views collected under subsection (b)(3).

15 “(b) INPUT; INFORMATION.—In developing and
16 maintaining the database under subsection (a), the Sec-
17 retary shall—

18 “(1) seek the input of—

19 “(A) qualified providers; and

20 “(B) relevant State officials;

21 “(2) identify the complete list of Federal pro-
22 grams that provide pregnancy and parenting support
23 services; and

24 “(3) create a process to collect from women rat-
25 ings and reviews of qualified providers listed in the

1 database based on the interactions of such women
2 with such providers.

3 “(c) BEST PRACTICES.—

4 “(1) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall
5 conduct an annual review of best practices in preg-
6 nancy and parenting support services nationwide.

7 “(2) INPUT.—In conducting each annual review
8 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

9 “(A) gather input from qualified providers
10 listed in the database developed under sub-
11 section (a) and experts described in subsection
12 (b)(1), including experts and providers rep-
13 resenting—

14 “(i) State and local governments;

15 “(ii) the private sector; and

16 “(iii) prenatal and parenting care cen-
17 ters; and

18 “(B) in gathering such input, encourage
19 such providers and experts—

20 “(i) to share information on best
21 practices described in paragraph (1); and

22 “(ii) to identify difficulties facing
23 pregnant and parenting women and to de-
24 velop best practices to address such dif-
25 ficulties.

1 “(d) TOLL-FREE NUMBER.—The Secretary shall
2 enter into a contract, through the use of competitive pro-
3 cedures, with an entity to establish and operate a toll-free
4 number to provide women with referrals for obtaining
5 pregnancy and parenting support services, including serv-
6 ices to support mental and emotional health.

7 “(e) HEALTHY BIRTH AND HEALTHY LIFE
8 GRANTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
10 competitive grants to providers listed in the database
11 developed under subsection (a) to develop best prac-
12 tices for communities to identify optimal ways to
13 provide pregnancy and parenting support services.

14 “(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—The Sec-
15 retary may award a grant to a provider under this
16 subsection only if the provider agrees that the grant
17 will be used to supplement, and not supplant, preg-
18 nancy and parenting support services.

19 “(f) PRENATAL CARE GRANTS TO ACADEMIC MED-
20 ICAL CENTERS.—The Secretary may award competitive
21 grants to academic medical centers for the exclusive pur-
22 pose of having individuals affiliated with such academic
23 medical center with expertise in pregnancy and parenting
24 and accompanying social services, including patient advo-
25 cates, accomplish the following activities:

1 “(1) Deliver specialized training in pregnancy
2 and parenting support services.

3 “(2) Develop and implement programs to train
4 individuals to deliver such specialized training.

5 “(3) Seek input from women who have experi-
6 enced pregnancy to develop best practices for pro-
7 viders serving such women and advice for other
8 women experiencing pregnancy.

9 “(g) NO DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.—The Secretary
10 shall ensure that the programs and activities authorized
11 or required by this section are not duplicated by other pro-
12 grams and activities of the Department of Health and
13 Human Services.

14 “(h) PROHIBITION AGAINST FUNDING DISCRIMINA-
15 TORY ENTITIES.—

16 “(1) RULE.—No Federal funds may be made
17 available to a Federal agency or program, or to a
18 State or local government, if such agency, program,
19 or government subjects any institutional or indi-
20 vidual health care entity to discrimination on the
21 basis that the health care entity does not provide,
22 pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

23 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
24 ‘health care entity’ includes an individual physician
25 or other health care professional, a hospital, a pro-

1 vider-sponsored organization, a health maintenance
2 organization, a health insurance plan, or any other
3 kind of health care facility, organization, or plan.

4 “(i) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit
5 an annual report to the Congress on the activities carried
6 out under this section, the funds expended on such activi-
7 ties, and the results achieved through such activities.

8 “(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT
10 SERVICES.—The term ‘pregnancy and parenting
11 support services’ means services offered during and
12 after pregnancy to pregnant women and new parents
13 in order to help such women and such parents allevi-
14 ate the physical, financial, social, emotional, and
15 other difficulties that may be encountered during
16 and after pregnancy, consisting of the following:

17 “(A) Material and financial assistance, in-
18 cluding maternity and baby clothing, diapers,
19 baby food (including formula), baby furniture,
20 and car seats.

21 “(B) Information for parents with newborn
22 children, including adopted children, addressing
23 resources regarding pregnancy and childbirth,
24 infant feeding, time management, parenting

1 special needs children, and nutrition during and
2 after pregnancy.

3 “(C) Referrals for adoption, job training
4 and placement, housing, personal safety, food
5 stamps, and other governmental assistance.

6 “(D) Crisis hotlines, including for violence
7 prevention, suicide prevention, and survivors of
8 sexual assault who are pregnant due to such as-
9 sault.

10 “(E) Pro bono obstetric and prenatal care
11 services for women in the carrying of their chil-
12 dren to live birth, including services during
13 pregnancy and following childbirth, and neo-
14 natal care services, including referrals for such
15 services.

16 “(F) Pro bono legal services to assist
17 women who are pregnant and parents with new-
18 born children, including adopted children.

19 “(G) Child care services.

20 “(H) Pursuing collection of child support
21 and alimony.

22 “(I) Services to assist parents to care for,
23 and prepare to care for, a child with Down syn-
24 drome or another prenatally diagnosed condi-

1 tion, and to facilitate the adoption of such chil-
2 dren as appropriate.

3 “(J) Life-skills mentoring, including to en-
4 hance the following competencies:

5 “(i) Strengthening marriage.

6 “(ii) Communication and conflict
7 management for building healthy mar-
8 riages and families.

9 “(iii) Decisionmaking and relation-
10 ship-building skills prior to marriage.

11 “(iv) High-risk behavior awareness.

12 “(K) Services for postpartum depression
13 treatment.

14 “(2) QUALIFIED PROVIDER.—The term ‘quali-
15 fied provider’ means a service provider, including a
16 pregnancy support center, that has been engaged in
17 providing any pregnancy and parenting supporting
18 services for at least three years.”.

19 **SEC. 102. INCENTIVES FOR WORKPLACE SOLUTIONS**
20 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

21 The Secretary of Labor shall recognize and publicize
22 the practices of employers who successfully meet the needs
23 of their pregnant or parenting employees, such as through
24 the following policies:

25 (1) Family-friendly policies, including—

1 (A) providing child care facilities;

2 (B) providing family cafeterias and sepa-
3 rate cafeterias for those who prefer not to eat
4 with families;

5 (C) family leave policies for small employ-
6 ers not covered by the Family and Medical
7 Leave Act;

8 (D) paid family leave policies for employers
9 covered by such Act;

10 (E) providing rooms for mothers to
11 breastfeed in comfort, with refrigerators for the
12 storage of breast milk; and

13 (F) allowing telecommuting and flexible
14 work schedules, including meeting times condu-
15 cive to parenting if such meeting times do not
16 harm traditional full-time employees.

17 (2) Establishment of a committees to discuss
18 matters related to employer support for employees
19 who are pregnant or parenting.

20 (3) Policies that support pregnant women.

21 **TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF**
22 **EDUCATION**

23 **SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) women who are pregnant, including par-
2 enting students who fear being abandoned, should be
3 aware of and have access to available educational re-
4 sources to support them during pregnancy, birth,
5 and with child-rearing; and

6 (2) to address this concern, the Secretary of
7 Education should—

8 (A) administer a competitive, accountable
9 grant program to provide funds to institutions
10 of higher education for the aggregation and de-
11 velopment of pregnancy and child care best
12 practices and programs that support pregnant
13 women and mothers with children who are en-
14 gaged in childcare while completing postsec-
15 ondary education; and

16 (B) on an annual basis, report to the ap-
17 propriate congressional committees on the
18 progress of the Secretary in implementing the
19 grant program and the outcomes related to the
20 best practices and programs carried out under
21 the grant program, including the geographic
22 distribution of such best practices and edu-
23 cational programs.

1 **SEC. 202. FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSEC-**
2 **ONDARY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.**

3 Section 741(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
4 (20 U.S.C. 1138(a)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
6 (12);

7 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
8 graph (13) and inserting “; and”; and

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

10 “(14) developing an online information toolkit
11 about agencies that are working within institutions
12 of higher education to provide services related to
13 pregnancy and child care, the exclusive purpose of
14 which shall be to provide information on such serv-
15 ices to help pregnant and parenting students—

16 “(A) locate and utilize child care services,
17 family housing, health insurance (for themselves
18 and their family), flexible academic scheduling
19 (such as telecommuting programs), parenting
20 classes and programs, and postpartum coun-
21 seling and support groups;

22 “(B) identify scholarships, financial and
23 in-kind resources, grants, and loans for which
24 such students may be eligible;

25 “(C) meet the material needs of mothers
26 and their children, including such items as ma-

1 ternity and baby clothing, diapers, baby food,
2 baby furniture, and car seats;

3 “(D) access breast pumps at locations des-
4 ignated for breast feeding within the edu-
5 cational setting to support breast feeding and
6 pumping; and

7 “(E) access nutrition programs for preg-
8 nant women and mothers, including the pro-
9 grams under section 17 of the Child Nutrition
10 Act of 1966 (commonly known as ‘WIC’) and
11 section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of
12 2008 (commonly known as ‘SNAP’).”.

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