

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4388

To prioritize, in certain substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, the treatment and recovery of addicted minors, and individuals responsible for the care of dependent minors who are at risk of entering the foster care system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Mr. DUFFY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prioritize, in certain substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, the treatment and recovery of addicted minors, and individuals responsible for the care of dependent minors who are at risk of entering the foster care system.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Forgotten Families
5 Recovery Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PRIORITIZING RURAL**
2 **FAMILIES AND AT-RISK YOUTH WITHIN SUB-**
3 **STANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Behavioral health and detoxification (detox)
6 services are not as readily available in rural commu-
7 nities. For those that are available, their range of
8 services is frequently limited.

9 (2) Patients who require treatment for sub-
10 stance abuse may need to travel long distances to
11 access these services.

12 (3) Rural first responders or the rural hospital
13 emergency room (ER) staff may have limited experi-
14 ence in providing care to a patient presenting the
15 physical effects of a drug overdose.

16 (4) Law enforcement and prevention programs
17 may be spread sparsely over large rural geographic
18 areas.

19 (5) According to a 2012 study published by the
20 Maine Rural Health Research Center, alcohol use
21 and binge drinking are more common among rural
22 youth aged 12 to 13 than among urban youth the
23 same age.

24 (6) Rural adolescents reported higher rates of
25 binge drinking and driving under the influence
26 (DUI) than urban adolescents.

1 (7) A 2014 JAMA Psychiatry article concluded
2 that heroin users entering treatment over the past
3 50 years have demonstrated a changing geographical
4 composition, with an increasing percentage in more
5 recent years arriving from communities outside of
6 large urban areas.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
9 in carrying out substance abuse prevention, treatment,
10 and recovery programs, should prioritize appropriate fund-
11 ing for activities within rural populations, especially those
12 with high rates of substance abuse among families, or high
13 rates of dependent minors at risk of entering the foster
14 care system.

15 **SEC. 3. PRIORITY FOR THE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY OF**
16 **ADDICTED MINORS, AND INDIVIDUALS RE-**
17 **SPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF DEPENDENT**
18 **MINORS WHO ARE AT RISK OF ENTERING**
19 **THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.**

20 Section 516(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act
21 (42 U.S.C. 290bb–22(b)(2)) is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at
23 the end;

24 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
25 paragraph (D); and

1 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(C) promoting the treatment and recovery
4 of addicted minors, and individuals responsible
5 for the care of dependent minors who are at
6 risk of entering the foster care system; and”.

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