

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1450

To enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2019

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services.

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 “Supporting Adoptive  
5 Families Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES.**

7 (a) ENSURING WELL-BEING OF ADOPTED CHILDREN  
8 AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Section 421 of the Social Se-  
9 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 621) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the  
11 end;

1           (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-  
2           graph (6); and

3           (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-  
4           lowing new paragraph:

5           “(5) ensuring the well-being of adopted children  
6           and their adoptive families and promoting efforts to  
7           prevent such children from entering the foster care  
8           system through the provision of pre- and post-adop-  
9           tive support services; and”.

10          (b) PRE- AND POST-ADOPTIVE SUPPORT SERV-  
11          ICES.—Paragraph (8) of section 431(a) of such Act (42  
12          U.S.C. 629a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

13                 “(8) ADOPTION PROMOTION AND SUPPORT  
14          SERVICES.—

15                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘adoption  
16                 promotion and support services’ means services  
17                 and activities designed to encourage more adop-  
18                 tions out of the foster care system and support  
19                 domestic adoptions and adoptions from other  
20                 countries, consistent with promoting the best  
21                 interests of adopted children and their adoptive  
22                 families. Such services and activities may in-  
23                 clude pre- and post-adoptive support services,  
24                 as described in subparagraph (B), that are de-

1 signed to support adopted children and their  
2 adoptive families.

3 “(B) PRE- AND POST-ADOPTIVE SUPPORT  
4 SERVICES.—The term ‘pre- and post-adoptive  
5 support services’ means the following:

6 “(i) Pre-adoptive support services,  
7 which may include—

8 “(I) direct services, including  
9 training, educational support, coun-  
10 seling, and other services for adoptive  
11 parents and families that address  
12 caregiver interests and concerns re-  
13 garding common behavioral issues,  
14 such as—

15 “(aa) issues relating to emo-  
16 tional, behavioral, or develop-  
17 mental health needs;

18 “(bb) issues relating to at-  
19 tachment, identity, abandonment,  
20 cultural differences, grief, and  
21 loss; and

22 “(cc) issues resulting from  
23 birth defects due to fetal alcohol  
24 syndrome or any other substance

1 abuse-related developmental dis-  
2 order;

3 “(II) the provision of educational  
4 resources for adoptive parents regard-  
5 ing the geographic, ethnic, and cul-  
6 tural background of the adopted child;

7 “(III) peer-to-peer mentoring and  
8 support groups that permit a newly  
9 adoptive parent to communicate and  
10 learn from more experienced adoptive  
11 parents, including programs that en-  
12 hance communication between adop-  
13 tive parents with children of similar  
14 geographic, ethnic, or cultural back-  
15 grounds; and

16 “(IV) the provision of informa-  
17 tional resources for adoptive parents,  
18 including—

19 “(aa) resources available  
20 through Federal and State agen-  
21 cies, including information re-  
22 garding benefits for children with  
23 a medical condition or a physical,  
24 mental, or emotional disability;

1 “(bb) newsletters, Web sites,  
2 and other informational resources  
3 regarding adoption-related serv-  
4 ices;

5 “(cc) the establishment of  
6 lending libraries containing infor-  
7 mation and resources for adop-  
8 tive parents; and

9 “(dd) conferences, discus-  
10 sion groups, and seminars that  
11 are available to adoptive parents  
12 and other relevant stakeholders.

13 “(ii) Post-adoptive support services,  
14 which may include—

15 “(I) continued provision to adop-  
16 tive parents of pre-adoptive support  
17 services described in clause (i);

18 “(II) the provision of accessible  
19 and reliable respite services for adop-  
20 tive parents;

21 “(III) direct services and coun-  
22 seling for adopted children, including,  
23 as appropriate—

24 “(aa) support services for an  
25 adopted child with emotional, be-

1 havioral, or developmental health  
2 needs;

3 “(bb) support services that  
4 address issues relating to attach-  
5 ment, identity, abandonment, cul-  
6 tural differences, grief, and loss;  
7 and

8 “(cc) treatment services that  
9 are specialized for adopted chil-  
10 dren, including psychiatric resi-  
11 dential services, outpatient men-  
12 tal health services, social skills  
13 training, intensive in-home super-  
14 vision services, recreational ther-  
15 apy, suicide prevention, and sub-  
16 stance abuse treatment;

17 “(IV) peer-to-peer mentoring and  
18 support groups that allow adopted  
19 children to communicate and socialize  
20 with other adopted children, including  
21 programs that provide for communica-  
22 tion between adopted children from  
23 similar geographic, ethnic, or cultural  
24 backgrounds; and

1                   “(V) crisis and family preserva-  
2                   tion services, including crisis coun-  
3                   seling and a 24-hour emergency hot-  
4                   line for adoptive parents.”.

5 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES.**

6           Paragraph (8) of section 473(a) of the Social Secu-  
7 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)) is amended to read as follows:

8                   “(8) With respect to the amount of savings (if  
9                   any) in State expenditures under this part resulting  
10                  from the application of paragraph (2)(A)(ii) to all  
11                  applicable children for a fiscal year, a State shall—

12                           “(A) spend a significant portion of such  
13                           amount to provide pre- and post-adoptive sup-  
14                           port services (as defined in section  
15                           431(a)(8)(B));

16                           “(B) spend the remainder of such amount  
17                           to provide to children or families any other  
18                           services that may be provided under this part  
19                           or part B; and

20                           “(C) on an annual basis, submit to the  
21                           Secretary a report that provides a detailed ac-  
22                           count of any services that were funded pursuant  
23                           to this paragraph.”.

1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR POST-ADOPTION**  
2 **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

3 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health  
4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.) is amended by  
5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 520N. POST-ADOPTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
8 the Assistant Secretary, shall award grants or cooperative  
9 agreements to eligible entities to—

10 “(1) develop and implement State-sponsored  
11 Statewide or tribal post-adoption mental health serv-  
12 ice programs for all adopted children;

13 “(2) support public organization and private  
14 nonprofit organizations actively involved in State-  
15 sponsored Statewide or tribal post-adoption mental  
16 health service programs;

17 “(3) collect and analyze data on State-spon-  
18 sored Statewide or tribal post-adoption mental  
19 health service programs that can be used to monitor  
20 the effectiveness of such services and for research,  
21 technical assistance, and policy development;

22 “(4) develop and provide educational and train-  
23 ing opportunities concerning the mental health needs  
24 of adopted children and their families for use by  
25 teachers, social workers, and other community men-  
26 tal health service providers; and



1           “(5) develop and provide materials for potential  
2           adoptive parents, both for domestic adoptions and  
3           adoptions from other countries, describing the pos-  
4           sible need for post-adoption mental health services  
5           and available resources.

6           “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

7           “(1) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term  
8           ‘eligible entity’ means—

9                   “(A) a State;

10                   “(B) a public organization or private non-  
11                   profit organization designated by a State to de-  
12                   velop or direct the State-sponsored Statewide  
13                   post-adoption mental health service program  
14                   under a grant under this section; and

15                   “(C) a federally recognized Indian tribe or  
16                   tribal organization (as defined in the Indian  
17                   Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
18                   Act) or an urban Indian organization (as de-  
19                   fined in the Indian Health Care Improvement  
20                   Act) that is actively involved in the development  
21                   and continuation of a post-adoption mental  
22                   health service program.

23           “(2) LIMITATION.—In carrying out this section,  
24           the Secretary shall ensure that each State is award-  
25           ed only 1 grant or cooperative agreement under this

1 section. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a  
2 State shall be considered to have been awarded a  
3 grant or cooperative agreement if the eligible entity  
4 involved is the State or an entity designated by the  
5 State under paragraph (1)(B). Nothing in this para-  
6 graph shall be construed to apply to entities de-  
7 scribed in paragraph (1)(C).

8 “(c) PREFERENCE.—In providing assistance under a  
9 grant or cooperative agreement under this section, the  
10 Secretary shall give preference to eligible entities that have  
11 demonstrated success in increasing the level of adoption  
12 competency among mental health providers, adoption law-  
13 yers, social workers, case workers, and adoptive parents.

14 “(d) REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECT SERVICES.—Not  
15 less than 85 percent of funds received under a grant or  
16 cooperative agreement under this section shall be used to  
17 provide direct services, of which not less than 5 percent  
18 shall be used for activities authorized under subsection  
19 (a)(3).

20 “(e) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this sec-  
22 tion, the Secretary shall collaborate with relevant  
23 Federal agencies and adoption-related working  
24 groups to promote interaction between domestic fos-

1 ter care agencies and private adoption agencies in  
2 other countries.

3 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sec-  
4 tion, the Secretary shall consult with—

5 “(A) State and social service agencies en-  
6 gaged in the placement of children for adoption,  
7 domestically or from other countries;

8 “(B) local and national organizations that  
9 serve foster and adopted youth;

10 “(C) health and education specialists who  
11 focus on adoption and foster care medicine;

12 “(D) youth who have been in foster care or  
13 adopted, domestically or from other countries;

14 “(E) families and friends of youth who  
15 have been in foster care or adopted, domesti-  
16 cally or from other countries; and

17 “(F) qualified professionals who possess  
18 the specialized knowledge, skills, experience,  
19 and relevant attributes needed to serve adopted  
20 children and their families.

21 “(3) POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—In carrying out  
22 this section, the Secretary shall—

23 “(A) coordinate and collaborate on policy  
24 development with the Administration for Chil-  
25 dren and Families and other relevant Depart-

1           ment of Health and Human Services agencies  
2           and adoption-related working groups; and

3           “(B) consult on policy development at the  
4           Federal level with those in the private sector  
5           engaged in the recruitment of foster and adop-  
6           tive parents, the placement of children in foster  
7           care and for adoption, and the provision of  
8           post-adoption services.

9           “(f) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

10           “(1) EVALUATIONS BY ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

11           Not later than 18 months after receipt of a grant or  
12           cooperative agreement under this section, an eligible  
13           entity shall submit to the Secretary the results of an  
14           evaluation to be conducted by the entity concerning  
15           the effectiveness of the activities carried out under  
16           the grant or agreement.

17           “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
18           date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall  
19           submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a  
20           report concerning the results of—

21           “(A) the evaluations conducted under  
22           paragraph (1); and

23           “(B) an evaluation conducted by the Sec-  
24           retary to analyze the effectiveness of the activi-

1           ties conducted with grants, collaborations, and  
2           consultations under this section.

3           “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4           “(1) ADOPTED CHILD.—The term ‘adopted  
5           child’ means an individual who is under 21 years of  
6           age and was adopted from foster care, through a  
7           private placement agency, or from another country.

8           “(2) ADOPTION COMPETENCY.—The term  
9           ‘adoption competency’ means an understanding of—

10           “(A) the nature of adoption as a form of  
11           family formation and the different types of  
12           adoption;

13           “(B) relevant emotional and physical  
14           issues involved in the adoption process, includ-  
15           ing issues relating to separation, loss, attach-  
16           ment, abuse, trauma, and neglect;

17           “(C) common developmental challenges as-  
18           sociated with adoption;

19           “(D) the characteristics and skills that  
20           allow for successful adoptive families;

21           “(E) proper sensitivity with respect to the  
22           different geographic, ethnic, or cultural back-  
23           grounds of adopted children and adoptive fami-  
24           lies; and

1           “(F) the necessary skills for effectively ad-  
2           vocating on behalf of birth and adoptive fami-  
3           lies.

4           “(3) POST-ADOPTION MENTAL HEALTH SERV-  
5           ICES.—The term ‘post-adoption mental health serv-  
6           ices’ includes—

7           “(A) direct services, including training,  
8           educational support, counseling, and other serv-  
9           ices for adoptive parents and families that ad-  
10          dress caregiver interests and concerns regarding  
11          child behavioral issues that are common among  
12          adopted children and children in foster care, in-  
13          cluding, as appropriate—

14           “(i) caring for an adopted child with  
15           emotional, behavioral, or developmental  
16           health needs; and

17           “(ii) providing for the emotional needs  
18           of an adopted child, including issues relat-  
19           ing to attachment, identity, abandonment,  
20           cultural differences, grief, and loss;

21           “(B) peer-to-peer mentoring and support  
22           groups that permit a newly adoptive parent to  
23           communicate and learn from more experienced  
24           adoptive parents;

1           “(C) the provision of informational re-  
2 sources and available services for adoptive par-  
3 ents;

4           “(D) direct services, including counseling,  
5 peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups, and  
6 other services for adopted children that address  
7 common behavioral and adjustment issues, in-  
8 cluding, as appropriate—

9                   “(i) support services for an adopted  
10 child with emotional, behavioral, or devel-  
11 opmental health needs;

12                   “(ii) support services that address the  
13 emotional needs of an adopted child, in-  
14 cluding issues relating to attachment, iden-  
15 tity, abandonment, cultural differences,  
16 grief, and loss; and

17                   “(iii) treatment services that are spe-  
18 cialized for adopted children, including  
19 psychiatric residential services, outpatient  
20 mental health services, social skills train-  
21 ing, intensive in-home supervision services,  
22 recreational therapy, suicide prevention,  
23 and substance abuse treatment;

24           “(E) peer-to-peer mentoring and support  
25 groups that allow adopted children to commu-

1           nicate and socialize with other adopted children;  
2           and

3                   “(F) crisis intervention and family preser-  
4           vation services.

5           “(h) FUNDING FOR POST-ADOPTION MENTAL  
6 HEALTH SERVICES.—From amounts appropriated to  
7 carry out title III, V, or XIX of the Public Health Service  
8 Act for each fiscal year, \$20,000,000 shall be used by the  
9 Secretary in each such fiscal year to fund services and  
10 programs authorized under this section.”.

11 **SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND**  
12 **DISSOLUTION.**

13           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 479 of the Social Security  
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 679) is amended by adding at the end the  
15 following new subsection:

16           “(e)(1) Not later than 12 months after the date of  
17 enactment of the Supporting Adoptive Families Act, the  
18 Secretary shall, as part of the data collection system es-  
19 tablished under this section, promulgate final regulations  
20 providing for the collection and analysis of information re-  
21 garding children who enter into State custody as a result  
22 of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dis-  
23 solution of an adoption, which shall require States to col-  
24 lect and report—



1           “(A) information on children who are adopted  
2 within the United States or from other countries and  
3 who enter into State custody as a result of the dis-  
4 ruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolu-  
5 tion of an adoption, including—

6                   “(i) the number of children who enter into  
7 State custody as a result of—

8                           “(I) the disruption of placement for  
9 adoption; or

10                           “(II) the dissolution of an adoption;  
11 and

12                   “(ii) for each child identified under clause  
13 (i)—

14                           “(I) as applicable, the country of birth  
15 for any child who was not born in the  
16 United States;

17                           “(II) the length of the adoption place-  
18 ment prior to disruption or dissolution;

19                           “(III) the age of the child at the time  
20 of the disruption or dissolution;

21                           “(IV) the reason for the disruption or  
22 dissolution; and

23                           “(V) the agencies who handled the  
24 placement for adoption; and

1           “(B) such other information as determined ap-  
2           propriate by the Secretary.

3           “(2) The information described in paragraph (1)  
4 shall be used—

5           “(A) to consolidate and expand the collection of  
6           information on adoption disruption and dissolution;

7           “(B) to improve research and data collection  
8           systems in order to more accurately determine and  
9           measure the rates, outcomes, and causes of adoption  
10          disruption and dissolution;

11          “(C) to identify pre- and post-adoptive support  
12          services (including services described in section  
13          431(a)(8)(B)) that result in lower rates of disrup-  
14          tion and dissolution of adoptions;

15          “(D) to develop an understanding of the rela-  
16          tionship between the rate of incidence of adoption  
17          disruptions and dissolutions and the support services  
18          that are provided to adoptive families in order to  
19          identify and develop effective evidence-based strate-  
20          gies, programs, and support services that help to  
21          prevent adoption disruption and dissolution; and

22          “(E) to develop and enhance training and edu-  
23          cational services regarding strategies for prevention  
24          of adoption disruption and dissolution.

1       “(3)(A) Not later than 6 months after the date of  
2 enactment of the Supporting Adoptive Families Act, the  
3 Secretary shall, subject to subparagraph (B), establish an  
4 advisory committee to study methods to effectively collect  
5 data regarding disruption and dissolution of adoptions  
6 that are not included in the data collection system estab-  
7 lished under this section, including—

8           “(i) data on children whose adoptions are dis-  
9 rupted or dissolved but do not enter into State cus-  
10 tody as a result of such disruption or dissolution;

11          “(ii) data on adoption displacements, whereby  
12 an adopted child is temporarily placed out of the  
13 home of an adoptive parent in order to receive med-  
14 ical, mental health, behavioral, or other forms of  
15 treatment; and

16          “(iii) such other data as determined appropriate  
17 by the Secretary.

18       “(B) The membership and organization of the advi-  
19 sory committee described in subparagraph (A) shall be de-  
20 termined by the Secretary and shall include—

21           “(i) State and child welfare agencies that are  
22 engaged in the placement of children for adoption  
23 domestically or from other countries;

24           “(ii) local and national organizations that serve  
25 adopted children and children in foster care; and

1           “(iii) members of State and local judiciary and  
2           court staff.

3           “(C) Not later than 12 months after establishment  
4 of the advisory committee described in subparagraph (A),  
5 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees  
6 of Congress a report containing recommendations of the  
7 advisory committee for improvement of the data collection  
8 system established under this section.”.

9           (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 479A(a) of the Social  
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 679b(a)) is amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” after  
12 the semicolon;

13           (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at  
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

15           (3) by adding at the end the following new  
16 paragraph:

17           “(8) include in the report submitted pursuant  
18 to paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2020 or any suc-  
19 ceeding fiscal year, national and State-by-State data  
20 on the numbers and rates of disruptions and dissolu-  
21 tions of adoptions, as collected pursuant to section  
22 479(e)(1).”.

○