

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1991

To direct the Attorney General to conduct studies on child custody and divorce in domestic violence cases, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to conduct studies on child custody and divorce in domestic violence cases, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Victims
5 of Domestic Violence Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON CHILD CUSTODY IN DOMESTIC VIO-**
7 **LENCE CASES.**

8 The Attorney General, in consultation with the Sec-
9 retary of Health and Human Services, shall conduct a
10 study investigating whether victims who raise evidence of

1 domestic violence are more likely to lose primary custody
2 of children to an abusive partner or to the State, includ-
3 ing—

4 (1) a review of State laws, regulations, and
5 practices on how child neglect and custody situations
6 are handled in domestic violence situations; and

7 (2) a list of recommendations on how to re-
8 structure State laws, regulations, and practices to
9 better protect victims of domestic violence and their
10 children.

11 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON COSTS OF DIVORCE IN DOMESTIC VIO-**
12 **LENCE CASES.**

13 The Attorney General, in coordination with the Sec-
14 retary of Health and Human Services, shall—

15 (1) conduct a study on the direct and collateral
16 economic costs and risks of divorce from an abusive
17 partner to a victim of domestic violence, including
18 the payment of alimony, legal fees, spousal support,
19 or the division of property, disaggregated on the
20 basis of whether the individual has higher earnings
21 than their partner; and

22 (2) include recommendations based on the
23 study conducted under paragraph (1).

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