

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 485

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Act, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Stronger Child Abuse
3 Prevention and Treatment Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

5 The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

- Sec. 101. Repeal of findings.
- Sec. 102. Repeal of Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect.
- Sec. 103. National clearinghouse for information relating to child abuse.
- Sec. 104. Research and assistance activities.
- Sec. 105. Grants to States, Indian Tribes or tribal organizations, and public or private agencies and organizations.
- Sec. 106. Grants to States for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs.
- Sec. 107. Miscellaneous requirements.
- Sec. 108. Reports.
- Sec. 109. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 110. Monitoring and oversight.
- Sec. 111. Electronic interstate data exchange system.
- Sec. 112. Technical and conforming amendments.

TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- Sec. 201. Purpose and authority.
- Sec. 202. Eligibility.
- Sec. 203. Amount of grant.
- Sec. 204. Application.
- Sec. 205. Local program requirements.
- Sec. 206. Performance measures.
- Sec. 207. National network for community-based family resource programs.
- Sec. 208. Definitions.
- Sec. 209. Rule of construction.
- Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 211. Study and report.

TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sec. 301. Purpose.
- Sec. 302. Report and guidance on unregulated custody transfers.
- Sec. 303. Information and services.
- Sec. 304. Study and report on successful adoptions.
- Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

- Sec. 401. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.

1 TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

2 SEC. 101. REPEAL OF FINDINGS.

3 Section 2 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
4 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is repealed.

5 SEC. 102. REPEAL OF ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE 6 AND NEGLECT.

7 Section 102 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
8 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102) is repealed.

9 SEC. 103. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION 10 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

11 Section 103 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
12 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “early
14 learning programs and” after “including”;

15 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

16 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the
17 end;

18 (B) in clause (iv), by adding “and” at the
19 end; and

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

21 “(v) the number of child fatalities and
22 near fatalities due to maltreatment, as re-
23 ported by States in accordance with the
24 uniform standards established pursuant to

1 subsection (d), and any other relevant in-
2 formation related to such fatalities;” and

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

4 “(d) UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR TRACKING AND RE-
5 PORTING OF CHILD FATALITIES RESULTING FROM MAL-
6 TREATMENT.—

7 “(1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
8 24 months after the date of the enactment of the
9 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
10 Act, the Secretary shall develop and issue final regu-
11 lations establishing uniform standards for the track-
12 ing and reporting of child fatalities and near-fatali-
13 ties resulting from maltreatment. As a condition on
14 eligibility for receipt of funds under section 106, the
15 standards established under this paragraph shall be
16 used by States for the tracking and reporting of
17 such fatalities under subsection (d) of such section.

18 “(2) MAINTENANCE OF STATE LAW.—Notwith-
19 standing the uniform standards developed under
20 paragraph (1), a State that defines or describes such
21 fatalities for any purpose other than tracking and
22 reporting under this subsection may continue to use
23 that definition or description for such purpose.

24 “(3) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.—In devel-
25 oping regulations under paragraph (1), the Sec-

1 retary shall submit such regulations to a negotiated
2 rulemaking process, which shall include the partici-
3 pants described in paragraph (4).

4 “(4) PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED.—The partici-
5 pants described in this paragraph are—

6 “(A) State and county officials responsible
7 for administering the State plans under this
8 Act and parts B and E of title IV of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et
10 seq.);

11 “(B) child welfare professionals with field
12 experience;

13 “(C) child welfare researchers;

14 “(D) domestic violence researchers;

15 “(E) domestic violence professionals;

16 “(F) child development professionals;

17 “(G) mental health professionals;

18 “(H) pediatric emergency medicine physi-
19 cians;

20 “(I) child abuse pediatricians, as certified
21 by the American Board of Pediatrics, who spe-
22 cialize in treating victims of child abuse;

23 “(J) forensic pathologists;

24 “(K) public health administrators;

25 “(L) public health researchers;

1 “(M) law enforcement;
 2 “(N) family court judges;
 3 “(O) prosecutors;
 4 “(P) medical examiners and coroners;
 5 “(Q) a representative from the National
 6 Center for Fatality Review and Prevention; and
 7 “(R) such other individuals and entities as
 8 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

9 **SEC. 104. RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.**

10 Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
 11 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
 14 follows:

15 “(1) TOPICS.—The Secretary shall, in consulta-
 16 tion with other Federal agencies and recognized ex-
 17 perts in the field, carry out a continuing inter-
 18 disciplinary program of research, including longitu-
 19 dinal research, that is designed to provide informa-
 20 tion needed to improve primary prevention of child
 21 abuse and neglect, better protect children from child
 22 abuse or neglect, and improve the well-being of vic-
 23 tims of child abuse or neglect, with at least a portion
 24 of such research being field initiated. Such research
 25 program may focus on—

1 “(A) disseminating evidence-based treat-
2 ment directed to individuals and families experi-
3 encing trauma due to child abuse and neglect,
4 including efforts to improve the scalability of
5 the treatments and programs being researched;

6 “(B) developing a set of evidence-based ap-
7 proaches to support child and family well-being
8 and developing ways to identify, relieve, and
9 mitigate stressors affecting families in rural,
10 urban, and suburban communities;

11 “(C) establishing methods to promote ra-
12 cial equity in the child welfare system, including
13 a focus on how neglect is defined, how services
14 are provided, and the unique impact on Native
15 American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian
16 communities;

17 “(D) improving service delivery or out-
18 comes for child welfare service agencies engaged
19 with families experiencing domestic violence,
20 substance use disorder, or other complex needs;

21 “(E) the extent to which the number of
22 unsubstantiated, unfounded, and false reported
23 cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed
24 to the inability of a State to respond effectively
25 to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

1 “(F) the extent to which the lack of ade-
2 quate resources and the lack of adequate pro-
3 fessional development of individuals required by
4 law to report suspected cases of child abuse and
5 neglect have contributed to the inability of a
6 State to respond effectively to serious cases of
7 child abuse and neglect;

8 “(G) the extent to which unsubstantiated
9 reports return as more serious cases of child
10 abuse or neglect;

11 “(H) the incidence and outcomes of child
12 abuse and neglect allegations reported within
13 the context of divorce, custody, or other family
14 court proceedings, and the interaction between
15 family courts and the child protective services
16 system;

17 “(I) the information on the national inci-
18 dence of child abuse and neglect specified in
19 clauses (i) through (xi) of subparagraph (J);
20 and

21 “(J) the national incidence of child abuse
22 and neglect, including—

23 “(i) the extent to which incidents of
24 child abuse and neglect are increasing or
25 decreasing in number and severity;

1 “(ii) the incidence of substantiated
2 and unsubstantiated reported child abuse
3 and neglect cases;

4 “(iii) the number of substantiated
5 cases that result in a judicial finding of
6 child abuse or neglect or related criminal
7 court convictions;

8 “(iv) the extent to which the number
9 of unsubstantiated, unfounded and false
10 reported cases of child abuse or neglect
11 have contributed to the inability of a State
12 to respond effectively to serious cases of
13 child abuse or neglect;

14 “(v) the extent to which the lack of
15 adequate resources and the lack of ade-
16 quate education of individuals required by
17 law to report suspected cases of child
18 abuse and neglect have contributed to the
19 inability of a State to respond effectively to
20 serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

21 “(vi) the number of unsubstantiated,
22 false, or unfounded reports that have re-
23 sulted in a child being placed in substitute
24 care, and the duration of such placement;

1 “(vii) the extent to which unsubstan-
2 tiated reports return as more serious cases
3 of child abuse or neglect;

4 “(viii) the incidence and prevalence of
5 physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and
6 physical and emotional neglect in sub-
7 stitute care;

8 “(ix) the incidence and prevalence of
9 child maltreatment by a wide array of de-
10 mographic characteristics such as age, sex,
11 race, family structure, household relation-
12 ship (including the living arrangement of
13 the resident parent and family size), school
14 enrollment and education attainment, dis-
15 ability, grandparents as caregivers, labor
16 force status, work status in previous year,
17 and income in previous year;

18 “(x) the extent to which reports of
19 suspected or known instances of child
20 abuse or neglect involving a potential com-
21 bination of jurisdictions, such as intra-
22 state, interstate, Federal-State, and State-
23 Tribal, are being screened out solely on the
24 basis of the cross-jurisdictional complica-
25 tions; and

1 “(xi) the incidence and outcomes of
2 child abuse and neglect allegations re-
3 ported within the context of divorce, cus-
4 tody, or other family court proceedings,
5 and the interaction between family courts
6 and the child protective services system.”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “para-
8 graph (1)(O)” and inserting “paragraph
9 (1)(J)”;

10 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
11 follows:

12 “(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years
14 after the date of the enactment of the Stronger
15 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the
16 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Com-
17 mittee on Education and Labor of the House of
18 Representatives and the Committee on Health,
19 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
20 a report that contains the results of the re-
21 search conducted under paragraph (2).

22 “(B) NATIONAL INCIDENCE.—The Sec-
23 retary shall ensure that research conducted,
24 and data collected, under paragraph (1)(J) are
25 reported in a way that will allow longitudinal

1 comparisons as well as comparisons to the na-
2 tional incidence studies conducted under this
3 title.”; and

4 (D) by striking the second paragraph (4);
5 (2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph
6 (2) to read as follows:

7 “(2) AREAS OF EMPHASIS.—Such technical as-
8 sistance—

9 “(A) shall focus on—

10 “(i) implementing strategies that can
11 leverage existing community-based and
12 State funded resources to prevent child
13 abuse and neglect and providing education
14 for individuals involved in prevention ac-
15 tivities;

16 “(ii) reducing racial bias in child wel-
17 fare systems, including how such systems
18 interact with health, law enforcement, and
19 education systems;

20 “(iii) promoting best practices for
21 families experiencing domestic violence,
22 substance use disorder, or other complex
23 needs; and

24 “(iv) providing professional develop-
25 ment and other technical assistance to

1 child welfare agencies to improve the un-
2 derstanding of and to help address the ef-
3 fects of trauma and adverse childhood ex-
4 periences in parents and children in con-
5 tact with the child welfare system; and

6 “(B) may include the identification of—

7 “(i) various methods and procedures
8 for the investigation, assessment, and pros-
9 ecution of child physical and sexual abuse
10 cases;

11 “(ii) ways to mitigate psychological
12 trauma to the child victim;

13 “(iii) effective programs carried out
14 by the States under titles I and II; and

15 “(iv) effective approaches being uti-
16 lized to link child protective service agen-
17 cies with health care, mental health care,
18 and developmental services and early inter-
19 vention to improve forensic diagnosis and
20 health evaluations, and barriers and short-
21 ages to such linkages.”;

22 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3);

23 and

24 (4) by striking subsection (e).

1 **SEC. 105. GRANTS TO STATES, INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL**
2 **ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**
3 **AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

4 Section 105 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
8 paragraph (11);

9 (B) by striking paragraphs (1) through (6)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(1) PREVENTION SERVICES.—The Secretary
12 may award grants under this subsection to entities
13 to establish or expand prevention services that re-
14 duce incidences of child maltreatment and strength-
15 en families.

16 “(2) TRAUMATIC STRESS.—The Secretary may
17 award grants under this subsection to entities to ad-
18 dress instances of traumatic stress in families due to
19 child abuse and neglect, especially for families with
20 complex needs or families that exhibit high levels of
21 adverse childhood experiences.

22 “(3) PROMOTING A HIGH-QUALITY WORK-
23 FORCE.—The Secretary may award grants under
24 this subsection to entities to carry out programs or
25 strategies that promote a high-quality workforce in
26 the child welfare system through—

1 “(A) improvements to recruitment, sup-
2 port, or retention efforts; or

3 “(B) education for professionals and para-
4 professionals in the prevention, identification,
5 and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

6 “(4) IMPROVING COORDINATION.—The Sec-
7 retary may award grants under this subsection to
8 entities to carry out activities to improve intrastate
9 coordination within the child welfare system. Such
10 activities may include—

11 “(A) aligning information technology sys-
12 tems;

13 “(B) improving information sharing re-
14 garding child and family referrals; or

15 “(C) creating collaborative voluntary part-
16 nerships among public and private agencies, the
17 State’s child protective services, local social
18 service agencies, community-based family sup-
19 port programs, State and local legal agencies,
20 developmental disability agencies, substance use
21 disorder treatment providers, health care pro-
22 viders and agencies, domestic violence preven-
23 tion programs, mental health services, schools
24 and early learning providers, religious entities,
25 and other community-based programs.

1 “(5) PRIMARY PREVENTION.—The Secretary
2 may award grants under this subsection to entities
3 to carry out or expand primary prevention programs
4 or strategies that address family or community pro-
5 tective factors.

6 “(6) NEGLECT DUE TO ECONOMIC INSECURITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this
7 subsection to entities to carry out programs or strat-
8 egies that reduce findings of child neglect due in full
9 or in part to family economic insecurity.

11 “(7) EDUCATION OF MANDATORY REPORT-
12 ERS.—The Secretary may award grants under this
13 subsection to entities for projects that involve re-
14 search-based strategies for innovative education of
15 mandated child abuse and neglect reporters, and for
16 victims to understand mandatory reporting.

17 “(8) SENTINEL INJURIES.—The Secretary may
18 award grants under this subsection to entities to
19 identify and test effective practices to improve early
20 detection and management of injuries indicative of
21 potential abuse in infants to prevent future cases of
22 child abuse and related fatalities.

23 “(9) INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Sec-
24 retary may award grants under this subsection to
25 entities to carry out innovative programs or strate-

gies to coordinate the delivery of services to help reduce child abuse and neglect via partnerships among health, mental health, education (including early learning and care programs as appropriate), and child welfare agencies and providers.

“(10) REDUCING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DUE TO THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OF A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out activities to reduce child abuse and neglect due to the substance use disorder of a parent or caregiver.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a grant under this subsection to a non-profit entity to provide for the ongoing operation of a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents, caregivers, mandated reporters, and other concerned community members, including through alternative modalities for communications (such as texting or chat services) with such victims and other information seekers.

1 “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants de-
2 scribed in this paragraph, the Secretary shall
3 give priority to applicants with experience in
4 operating a hotline that provides assistance to
5 victims of child abuse, parents, caregivers, and
6 mandated reporters.

7 “(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-
8 ceive a grant described in this paragraph, a
9 nonprofit entity shall submit an application to
10 the Secretary that shall—

11 “(i) contain such assurances and in-
12 formation, be in such form, and be sub-
13 mitted in such manner, as the Secretary
14 shall prescribe;

15 “(ii) include a complete description of
16 the entity’s plan for the operation of a na-
17 tional child abuse hotline, including de-
18 scriptions of—

19 “(I) the professional development
20 program for hotline personnel, includ-
21 ing technology professional develop-
22 ment to ensure that all persons affili-
23 ated with the hotline are able to effec-
24 tively operate any technological sys-
25 tems used by the hotline;

1 “(II) the qualifications for hot-
2 line personnel;

3 “(III) the methods for the cre-
4 ation, maintenance, and updating of a
5 comprehensive list of prevention and
6 treatment service providers;

7 “(IV) a plan for publicizing the
8 availability of the hotline throughout
9 the United States;

10 “(V) a plan for providing service
11 to non-English speaking callers, in-
12 cluding service through hotline per-
13 sonnel who have non-English language
14 capability;

15 “(VI) a plan for facilitating ac-
16 cess to the hotline and alternative mo-
17 dality services by persons with hearing
18 impairments and disabilities;

19 “(VII) a plan for providing crisis
20 counseling, general assistance, and re-
21 ferrals to youth victims of child abuse;
22 and

23 “(VIII) a plan to offer alternative
24 services to calling, such as texting or
25 live chat;

1 “(iii) demonstrate that the entity has
2 the capacity and the expertise to maintain
3 a child abuse hotline and a comprehensive
4 list of service providers;

5 “(iv) demonstrate the ability to pro-
6 vide information and referrals for contacts,
7 directly connect contacts to service pro-
8 viders, and employ crisis interventions;

9 “(v) demonstrate that the entity has a
10 commitment to providing services to indi-
11 viduals in need; and

12 “(vi) demonstrate that the entity com-
13 plies with State privacy laws and has es-
14 tablished quality assurance practices.”; and

15 (2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(b) GOALS AND PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary
18 shall ensure that each entity receiving a grant under this
19 section—

20 “(1) establishes quantifiable goals for the out-
21 come of the project funded with the grant; and

22 “(2) adequately measures the performance of
23 the project relative to such goals.

24 “(c) PERFORMANCE REPORT REQUIRED.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a
2 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
3 retary a performance report that includes—

4 “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
5 the project funded with the grant relative to the
6 goals established for such project under sub-
7 section (b)(1); and

8 “(B) data supporting such evaluation.

9 “(2) SUBMISSION.—The report under para-
10 graph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary at
11 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
12 formation as the Secretary may require.

13 “(d) CONTINUING GRANTS.—The Secretary may only
14 award a continuing grant to an entity under this section
15 if such entity submits a performance report required
16 under subsection (c) that demonstrates effectiveness of the
17 project funded.”.

18 **SEC. 106. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NE-**
19 **GLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PRO-**
20 **GRAMS.**

21 (a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—Sub-
22 section (a) of section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention
23 and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended to read
24 as follows:

1 “(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—The
2 Secretary shall make grants to the States, from allotments
3 under subsection (f) for each State that applies for a grant
4 under this section, for purposes of assisting the States in
5 improving and implementing a child protective services
6 system that is family-centered, integrates community serv-
7 ices, and is capable of providing rapid response to high-
8 risk cases, by carrying out the following:

9 “(1) Conducting the intake, assessment, screen-
10 ing, and investigation of reports of child abuse or
11 neglect.

12 “(2) Ensuring that reports concerning a child’s
13 living arrangements or subsistence needs are ad-
14 dressed through services or benefits and that no
15 child is separated from such child’s parent for rea-
16 sons of poverty.

17 “(3) Creating and improving the use of multi-
18 disciplinary teams and interagency, intra-agency,
19 interstate, and intrastate protocols to enhance fair
20 investigations; and improving legal preparation and
21 representation.

22 “(4) Complying with the assurances in section
23 106(b)(2).

1 “(5) Establishing State and local networks of
2 child and family service providers that support child
3 and family well-being, which shall—

4 “(A) include child protective services, as
5 well as agencies and service providers, that ad-
6 dress family-strengthening, parenting skills,
7 child development, early childhood care and
8 learning, child advocacy, public health, mental
9 health, substance use disorder treatment, do-
10 mestic violence, developmental disabilities, hous-
11 ing, juvenile justice, elementary and secondary
12 education, and child placement; and

13 “(B) address instances of child abuse and
14 neglect by incorporating evaluations that assess
15 the development of a child, including language
16 and communication, cognitive, physical, and so-
17 cial and emotional development, the need for
18 mental health services, including trauma-related
19 services, trauma-informed care, and parental
20 needs.

21 “(6) Ensuring child protective services is ad-
22 dressing the safety of children and responding to
23 parent and family needs, which shall include—

24 “(A) family-oriented efforts that emphasize
25 case assessment and follow up casework focused

on child safety and child and parent well-being,
which may include—

“(i) ensuring parents and children undergo physical and mental health assessments, as appropriate, and ongoing developmental monitoring;

“(ii) multidisciplinary approaches to assessing family needs and connecting the family with services, including prevention services under section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671);

“(iii) organizing a treatment team with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect, and improving parent and child well-being;

“(iv) case monitoring that supports child well-being; and

“(v) differential response efforts; and

“(B) establishing and maintaining a rapid response system that responds promptly to all reports of child abuse or neglect, with special attention to cases involving children under 3 years of age.

“(7) Educating caseworkers, community service providers, attorneys, health care professionals, par-

1 ents, and others engaged in the prevention, interven-
2 tion, and treatment of child abuse and neglect,
3 which shall include education on—

4 “(A) practices that help ensure child safety
5 and well-being;

6 “(B) approaches to family-oriented preven-
7 tion, intervention, and treatment of child abuse
8 and neglect;

9 “(C) early childhood, child, and adolescent
10 development, and the impact of adverse child-
11 hood experiences on such development;

12 “(D) the relationship between child abuse
13 and domestic violence, and support for non-
14 abusing parents;

15 “(E) strategies to work with families im-
16 pacted by substance use disorder and mental
17 health issues (and, when appropriate, be coordi-
18 nated with prevention efforts funded under sec-
19 tion 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
20 671));

21 “(F) effective use of multiple services to
22 address family and child needs, including needs
23 resulting from trauma;

24 “(G) efforts to improve family and child
25 well-being;

1 “(H) support for child welfare workers af-
2 fected by secondary trauma; and

3 “(I) supporting families and caregivers to
4 combat and prevent unsubstantiated, un-
5 founded, or false reports, including through
6 education on the rights of families and care-
7 givers.

8 “(8) Creating or improving data systems that
9 allow for—

10 “(A) the identification of cases requiring
11 prompt responses;

12 “(B) real-time case monitoring that tracks
13 assessments, service referrals, follow-up, case
14 reviews, and progress toward parent and child
15 goals; and

16 “(C) sharing basic identifying data with
17 law enforcement, as necessary.

18 “(9) Improving the general child protective sys-
19 tem by developing, improving, and implementing
20 safety assessment tools, providing that such tools,
21 protocols, and systems shall not authorize the sepa-
22 ration of any child from the legal parent or guardian
23 of such child solely on the basis of poverty, or with-
24 out a judicial order, except in the case of imminent
25 harm.”.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) STATE PLAN.—Paragraph (1) of section
3 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
4 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “(1) STATE PLAN.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
8 ceive a grant under this section, a State shall
9 submit to the Secretary a State plan that—

10 “(i) specifies how the grant will be
11 used, and the State’s strategic plan, to
12 treat child abuse and neglect and enhance
13 community-based, prevention-centered ap-
14 proaches that attempt to prevent child
15 abuse and neglect while strengthening and
16 supporting families whenever possible; and

17 “(ii) meets the requirements of this
18 subsection.

19 “(B) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-
20 TION.—

21 “(i) COORDINATION.—Each State, to
22 the maximum extent practicable, shall co-
23 ordinate its State plan under this sub-
24 section with its State plan under part B of
25 title IV of the Social Security Act (42

1 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) relating to child and
2 family services and, in States electing to
3 provide services under part E of title IV of
4 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et
5 seq.) relating to foster care prevention
6 services, its State plan under such part E.

7 “(ii) CONSULTATION.—In developing
8 a State plan under this subsection, a State
9 shall consult with community-based pre-
10 vention and service agencies, parents and
11 families affected by child abuse or neglect
12 in the State, law enforcement, family court
13 judges, prosecutors who handle criminal
14 child abuse cases, and medical profes-
15 sionals engaged in the treatment of child
16 abuse and neglect.

17 “(C) DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF
18 PLAN.—Each State plan shall—

19 “(i) be submitted not less than every
20 5 years; and

21 “(ii) if necessary, revised by the State
22 to inform the Secretary of any substantive
23 changes, including—

24 “(I) any changes to State law or
25 regulations, relating to the prevention

1 of child abuse and neglect that may
2 affect the eligibility of the State under
3 this section; or

4 “(II) any changes in the State’s
5 activities, strategies, or programs
6 under this section.”.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section
8 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
9 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 “(2) CONTENTS.—A State plan submitted
12 under paragraph (1) shall contain a description of
13 the activities that the State will carry out using
14 amounts received under the grant to achieve the ob-
15 jectives of this title, including—

16 “(A) an assurance in the form of a certifi-
17 cation by the Governor of the State that the
18 State has in effect and is enforcing a State law,
19 or has in effect and is operating a statewide
20 program, relating to child abuse and neglect
21 that includes—

22 “(i) provisions or procedures for an
23 individual to report known and suspected
24 instances of child abuse and neglect, in-
25 cluding a State law for mandatory report-

1 ing by individuals required to report such
2 instances;

3 “(ii) procedures for the immediate
4 screening, risk and safety assessment, and
5 prompt investigation of such reports of al-
6 leged abuse and neglect in order to ensure
7 the well-being and safety of children;

8 “(iii) procedures for immediate steps
9 to be taken to ensure and protect the safe-
10 ty of a victim of child abuse or neglect and
11 of any other child under the same care who
12 may also be in danger of child abuse or ne-
13 glect and ensuring their placement in a
14 safe environment;

15 “(iv) methods to preserve the con-
16 fidentiality of all records in order to pro-
17 tect the rights of the child and of the
18 child’s parents or guardians, including re-
19 quirements ensuring that reports and
20 records made and maintained pursuant to
21 the purposes of this Act shall only be made
22 available to—

23 “(I) individuals who are the sub-
24 ject of the report;

1 “(II) Federal, State, or local gov-
2 ernment entities, or any agent of such
3 entities, as described in clause (xi) of
4 this subparagraph;

5 “(III) child abuse citizen review
6 panels;

7 “(IV) child fatality review panels;

8 “(V) a grand jury or court, upon
9 a finding that information in the
10 record is necessary for the determina-
11 tion of an issue before the court or
12 grand jury; and

13 “(VI) other entities or classes of
14 individuals statutorily authorized by
15 the State to receive such information
16 pursuant to a legitimate State pur-
17 pose;

18 “(v) provisions and procedures requir-
19 ing that in every case involving a victim of
20 child abuse or neglect which results in a
21 judicial proceeding, a guardian ad litem,
22 who has received education appropriate to
23 the role, including education in early child-
24 hood, child, and adolescent development,
25 and domestic violence, and who may be an

1 attorney or a court appointed special advo-
2 cate who has received education appro-
3 priate to that role (or both), shall be ap-
4 pointed to represent the child (who, for
5 purposes of this section, shall have any age
6 limit elected by the State pursuant to sec-
7 tion 475(8)(B)(iii) of the Social Security
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)(B)(iii)) in such pro-
9 ceedings—

10 “(I) to obtain first-hand, a clear
11 understanding of the situation and
12 needs of such child; and

13 “(II) to make recommendations
14 to the court concerning the best inter-
15 ests of such child;

16 “(vi) the establishment of citizen re-
17 view panels in accordance with subsection
18 (c);

19 “(vii) provisions and procedures to re-
20 quire that a representative of the child pro-
21 tective services agency shall, at the initial
22 time of contact with the individual subject
23 to a child abuse or neglect investigation,
24 advise the individual of the complaints or
25 allegations made against the individual, in

1 a manner that is consistent with laws pro-
2 tecting the rights of the informant;

3 “(viii) provisions, procedures, and
4 mechanisms—

5 “(I) for the expedited termi-
6 nation of parental rights in the case
7 of any infant determined to be aban-
8 doned under State law; and

9 “(II) by which individuals who
10 disagree with an official finding of
11 child abuse or neglect can appeal such
12 finding;

13 “(ix) provisions addressing the profes-
14 sional development of representatives of
15 the child protective services system regard-
16 ing the legal duties of the representatives,
17 which may consist of various methods of
18 informing such representatives of such du-
19 ties (including providing such education in
20 different languages if necessary), in order
21 to protect the legal rights and safety of
22 children and their parents and caregivers
23 from the initial time of contact during in-
24 vestigation through treatment;

1 “(x) provisions for immunity from
2 civil or criminal liability under State and
3 local laws and regulations for individuals
4 making good faith reports of suspected or
5 known instances of child abuse or neglect,
6 or who otherwise provide information or
7 assistance, including medical evaluations or
8 consultations, in connection with a report,
9 investigation, or legal intervention pursu-
10 ant to a good faith report of child abuse or
11 neglect;

12 “(xi) provisions to require the State to
13 disclose confidential information to any
14 Federal, State, or local government entity,
15 or any agent of such entity, that has a
16 need for such information in order to carry
17 out its responsibilities under law to protect
18 children from child abuse and neglect;

19 “(xii) provisions requiring, and proce-
20 dures in place that facilitate the prompt
21 expungement of any records that are ac-
22 cessible to the general public or are used
23 for purposes of employment or other back-
24 ground checks in cases determined to be
25 unsubstantiated or false, except that noth-

1 ing in this section shall prevent State child
2 protective services agencies from keeping
3 information on unsubstantiated reports in
4 their casework files to assist in future risk
5 and safety assessment;

6 “(xiii) provisions and procedures for
7 requiring criminal background record
8 checks that meet the requirements of sec-
9 tion 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)) for prospective fos-
11 ter and adoptive parents and other adult
12 relatives and non-relatives residing in the
13 household;

14 “(xiv) provisions for systems of tech-
15 nology that support the State child protec-
16 tive services system and track reports of
17 child abuse and neglect from intake
18 through final disposition;

19 “(xv) provisions and procedures re-
20 quiring identification and assessment of all
21 reports involving children known or sus-
22 pected to be victims of sex trafficking (as
23 defined in section 103(12) of the Traf-
24 ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22
25 U.S.C. 7102(12)));

1 “(xvi) provisions, procedures, and
2 mechanisms that assure that the State
3 does not require reunification of a sur-
4 viving child with a parent who has been
5 found by a court of competent jurisdic-
6 tion—

7 “(I) to have committed murder
8 (which would have been an offense
9 under section 1111(a) of title 18,
10 United States Code, if the offense had
11 occurred in the special maritime or
12 territorial jurisdiction of the United
13 States) of another child of such par-
14 ent;

15 “(II) to have committed vol-
16 untary manslaughter (which would
17 have been an offense under section
18 1112(a) of title 18, United States
19 Code, if the offense had occurred in
20 the special maritime or territorial ju-
21 risdiction of the United States) of an-
22 other child of such parent;

23 “(III) to have aided or abetted,
24 attempted, conspired, or solicited to

1 commit such murder or voluntary
2 manslaughter;

3 “(IV) to have committed a felony
4 assault that results in the serious bod-
5 ily injury to the surviving child or an-
6 other child of such parent;

7 “(V) to have committed sexual
8 abuse against the surviving child or
9 another child of such parent; or

10 “(VI) to be required to register
11 with a sex offender registry under sec-
12 tion 113(a) of the Adam Walsh Child
13 Protection and Safety Act of 2006
14 (34 U.S.C. 20913(a)); and

15 “(xvii) an assurance that, upon the
16 implementation by the State of the provi-
17 sions, procedures, and mechanisms under
18 clause (xvi), conviction of any one of the
19 felonies listed in clause (xvi) constitute
20 grounds under State law for the termi-
21 nation of parental rights of the convicted
22 parent as to the surviving children (al-
23 though case-by-case determinations of
24 whether or not to seek termination of pa-

1 rental rights shall be within the sole discre-
2 tion of the State);

3 “(B) an assurance that the State has in
4 place procedures for responding to the reporting
5 of medical neglect (including instances of with-
6 holding of medically indicated treatment from
7 infants with disabilities who have life-threat-
8 ening conditions), procedures or programs, or
9 both (within the State child protective services
10 system), to provide for—

11 “(i) coordination and consultation
12 with individuals designated by and within
13 appropriate health-care facilities;

14 “(ii) prompt notification by individ-
15 uals designated by and within appropriate
16 health-care facilities of cases of suspected
17 medical neglect (including instances of
18 withholding of medically indicated treat-
19 ment from infants with disabilities who
20 have life-threatening conditions); and

21 “(iii) authority, under State law, for
22 the State child protective services system
23 to pursue any legal remedies, including the
24 authority to initiate legal proceedings in a
25 court of competent jurisdiction, as may be

1 necessary to prevent the withholding of
2 medically indicated treatment from infants
3 with disabilities who have life-threatening
4 conditions;

5 “(C) an assurance or certification that pro-
6 grams and education conducted under this title
7 address the unique needs of unaccompanied
8 homeless youth, including access to enrollment
9 and support services and that such youth are
10 eligible for under parts B and E of title IV of
11 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.,
12 670 et seq.) and meet the requirements of the
13 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
14 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.); and

15 “(D) a description of—

16 “(i) policies and procedures (including
17 appropriate referrals to child welfare serv-
18 ice systems and for other appropriate serv-
19 ices (including home visiting services and
20 mutual support and parent partner pro-
21 grams) determined by a family assessment)
22 to address the needs of infants born with
23 and identified as being affected by sub-
24 stance use or withdrawal symptoms result-
25 ing from prenatal drug exposure, or a

1 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, includ-
2 ing a requirement that health care pro-
3 viders involved in the delivery or care of
4 such infants notify the child protective wel-
5 fare service system of the occurrence of
6 such condition in such infants, except
7 that—

8 “(I) child protective services shall
9 undertake an investigation only when
10 the findings of a family assessment
11 warrant such investigation; and

12 “(II) such notification shall not
13 be construed to—

14 “(aa) establish a definition
15 under Federal law of what con-
16 stitutes child abuse or neglect; or

17 “(bb) require prosecution for
18 any illegal action;

19 “(ii) the development of a multi-dis-
20 ciplinary plan of safe care for the infant
21 born and identified as being affected by
22 substance use or withdrawal symptoms or
23 a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to en-
24 sure the safety and well-being of such in-

1 fant following release from the care of
2 health care providers, including through—

3 “(I) using a risk-based approach
4 to develop each plan of safe care;

5 “(II) addressing, through coordi-
6 nated service delivery, the health and
7 substance use disorder treatment
8 needs of the infant and affected fam-
9 ily or caregiver as determined by a
10 family assessment; and

11 “(III) the development and im-
12 plementation by the State of moni-
13 toring systems regarding the imple-
14 mentation of such plans of safe care
15 to determine whether and in what
16 manner local entities are providing, in
17 accordance with State requirements,
18 referrals to and delivery of appro-
19 priate services for the infant and af-
20 fected family or caregiver;

21 “(iii) policies and procedures to make
22 available to the public on the State website
23 the data, findings, and information about
24 all cases of child abuse or neglect resulting

1 in a child fatality or near fatality, includ-
2 ing a description of—

3 “(I) how the State will not create
4 an exception to such public disclosure,
5 except in a case in which—

6 “(aa) the State would like to
7 delay public release of case-spe-
8 cific findings or information (in-
9 cluding any previous reports of
10 domestic violence and subsequent
11 actions taken to assess and ad-
12 dress such reports) while a crimi-
13 nal investigation or prosecution
14 of such a fatality or near fatality
15 is pending;

16 “(bb) the State is protecting
17 the identity of a reporter of child
18 abuse or neglect; or

19 “(cc) the State is with-
20 holding identifying information of
21 members of the victim’s family
22 who are not perpetrators of the
23 fatality or near fatality; and

24 “(II) how the State will ensure
25 that in providing the public disclosure

1 required under this clause, the State
2 will include—

3 “(aa) the cause and cir-
4 cumstances of the fatality or near
5 fatality;

6 “(bb) the age and gender of
7 the child; and

8 “(cc) any previous reports of
9 child abuse or neglect investiga-
10 tions that are relevant to the
11 child abuse or neglect that led to
12 the fatality or near fatality;

13 “(iv) how the State will use data col-
14 lected on child abuse or neglect to prevent
15 child fatalities and near fatalities;

16 “(v) how the State will implement ef-
17 forts to prevent child fatalities and near
18 fatalities;

19 “(vi) the cooperation of State law en-
20 forcement officials, court of competent ju-
21 risdiction, and appropriate State agencies
22 providing human services in the investiga-
23 tion, assessment, prosecution, and treat-
24 ment of child abuse and neglect;

1 “(vii) the steps the State will take to
2 improve the professional development, re-
3 tention, and supervision of caseworkers
4 and how the State will measure the effec-
5 tiveness of such efforts;

6 “(viii) the State’s plan to ensure each
7 child under the age of 3 who is involved in
8 a substantiated case of child abuse or ne-
9 glect will be referred to the State’s child
10 find system under section 635(a)(5) of the
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
12 (20 U.S.C. 1435(a)(5)) in order to deter-
13 mine if the child is an infant or toddler
14 with a disability (as defined in section
15 632(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1432(5)));

16 “(ix) the State’s plan to improve, as
17 part of a comprehensive State strategy led
18 by law enforcement, professional develop-
19 ment for child protective services workers
20 and their appropriate role in identifying,
21 assessing, and providing comprehensive
22 services for children who are sex traf-
23 ficking victims, in coordination with law
24 enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, run-
25 away and homeless youth shelters, and

1 health, mental health, and other social
2 service agencies and providers;

3 “(x) the services to be provided under
4 the grant to individuals, families, or com-
5 munities, either directly or through refer-
6 rals, aimed at preventing the occurrence of
7 child abuse and neglect;

8 “(xi) the State’s efforts to ensure pro-
9 fessionals who are required to report sus-
10 pected cases of child abuse and neglect are
11 aware of their responsibilities under sub-
12 paragraph (A)(i) and receive professional
13 development relating to performing such
14 responsibilities that is specific to their pro-
15 fession and workplace;

16 “(xii) policies and procedures encour-
17 aging the appropriate involvement of fami-
18 lies in decisionmaking pertaining to chil-
19 dren who experienced child abuse or ne-
20 glect;

21 “(xiii) the State’s efforts to improve
22 appropriate collaboration among child pro-
23 tective services agencies, domestic violence
24 services agencies, substance use disorder
25 treatment agencies, and other agencies in

1 investigations, interventions, and the deliv-
 2 ery of services and treatment provided to
 3 children and families affected by child
 4 abuse or neglect, including children ex-
 5 posed to domestic violence, where appro-
 6 priate;

7 “(xiv) policies and procedures regard-
 8 ing the use of differential response, as ap-
 9 plicable, to improve outcomes for children;
 10 and

11 “(xv) the State’s efforts to reduce ra-
 12 cial bias in its child protective services sys-
 13 tem.”.

14 (3) LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section
 15 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
 16 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

17 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 18 “LIMITATION” and inserting “LIMITATIONS”;

19 (B) by striking “With regard to clauses
 20 (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (2)(B),” and insert-
 21 ing the following:

22 “(A) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN IDENTI-
 23 FYING INFORMATION.—With regard to subpara-
 24 graphs (A)(iv) and (D)(iii) of paragraph (2),”;

1 (C) by striking the period at the end and
2 inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PRO-
5 CEEDINGS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be
6 construed to limit the State’s flexibility to de-
7 termine State policies relating to public access
8 to court proceedings to determine child abuse
9 and neglect, except that such policies shall, at
10 a minimum, ensure the safety and well-being of
11 the child, parents, and families.”.

12 (4) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section
13 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
14 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

15 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
16 “DEFINITIONS” and inserting “DEFINITION”;

17 (B) by striking “this subsection” and all
18 that follows through “means an act” and in-
19 serting the following: “this subsection, the term
20 ‘near fatality’ means an act”;

21 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
22 riod; and

23 (D) by striking subparagraph (B).

1 (c) CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS.—Section 106(c) of the
2 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
3 5106a(c)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “EXCEP-
5 TIONS.” and all that follows through “A State may”
6 and inserting “EXCEPTION.—A State may”;

7 (2) in paragraph (4)(A)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
9 striking “and where appropriate, specific
10 cases,”; and

11 (B) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “foster
12 care and adoption programs” and inserting
13 “foster care, prevention, and permanency pro-
14 grams”; and

15 (3) by amending the first sentence of paragraph
16 (6) to read as follows: “Each panel established
17 under paragraph (1) shall prepare and make avail-
18 able to the State and the public, on an annual basis,
19 a report containing a summary of the activities of
20 the panel, the criteria used for determining which
21 activities the panel engaged in, and recommenda-
22 tions or observations to improve the child protective
23 services system at the State and local levels, and the
24 data upon which these recommendations or observa-
25 tions are based.”.

1 (d) ANNUAL STATE DATA REPORTS.—Section
2 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended—

4 (1) by amending paragraph (13) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(13) The annual report containing the sum-
7 mary of the activities and recommendations of the
8 citizen review panels of the State required by sub-
9 section (c)(6), and the actions taken by the State as
10 a result of such recommendations.”;

11 (2) in paragraph (15), by striking “subsection
12 (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection
13 (b)(2)(D)(i)”;

14 (3) in paragraph (16), by striking “subsection
15 (b)(2)(B)(xxi)” and inserting “subsection
16 (b)(2)(D)(viii)”;

17 (4) in paragraph (17), by striking “subsection
18 (b)(2)(B)(xxiv)” and inserting “subsection
19 (b)(2)(A)(xv)”;

20 (5) in paragraph (18)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
22 section (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection
23 (b)(2)(D)(i)”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sub-
2 section (b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “subsection
3 (b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

4 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “sub-
5 section (b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “subsection
6 (b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

7 (6) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(19) The number of child fatalities and near
9 fatalities from maltreatment and related information
10 in accordance with the uniform standards estab-
11 lished under section 103(d).”.

12 (e) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 106(f) of the Child Abuse
13 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(f)) is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(6) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for
16 which the amount allotted to a State or territory
17 under this subsection exceeds the amount allotted to
18 the State or territory under such subsection for fis-
19 cal year 2021, the State or territory may use not
20 more than 2 percent of such excess amount for ad-
21 ministrative expenses.”.

22 **SEC. 107. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.**

23 Section 108 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
24 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106d) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “Indian
2 tribes, and tribal organizations,” after “States,”;

3 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)
4 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

5 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(c) PROTECTING AGAINST SYSTEMIC CHILD SEX-
8 UAL ABUSE.—

9 “(1) REPORTING AND TASK FORCE.—Not later
10 than 24 months after the date of the enactment of
11 the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
12 Act, each State task force established under section
13 107(c) and expanded as described in paragraph (2)
14 shall study and make recommendations on the fol-
15 lowing, with a focus on preventing systemic child
16 sexual abuse:

17 “(A) How to detect systemic child sexual
18 abuse that occurs in an organization.

19 “(B) How to prevent child sexual abuse
20 and systemic child sexual abuse from occurring
21 in organizations, which shall include rec-
22 ommendations to improve—

23 “(i) practices and policies for the edu-
24 cation of parents, caregivers, and victims,
25 and age appropriate education of children,

1 about risk factors or signs of potential
2 child sexual abuse; and

3 “(ii) the efficacy of applicable State
4 laws and the role such laws play in deter-
5 ring or preventing incidences of child sex-
6 ual abuse.

7 “(C) The feasibility of making available
8 the disposition of a perpetrator within an orga-
9 nization to—

10 “(i) the child alleging sexual abuse or
11 the child’s family; or

12 “(ii) an adult who was a child at the
13 time of the sexual abuse claim in question
14 or the adult’s family.

15 “(2) TASK FORCE COMPOSITION.—For purposes
16 of this subsection, a State task force shall include—

17 “(A) the members of the State task force
18 described in section 107(c) for the State; and

19 “(B) the following:

20 “(i) Family court judges.

21 “(ii) Individuals from religious organi-
22 zations.

23 “(iii) Individuals from youth-serving
24 organizations, including youth athletics or-
25 ganizations.

1 “(3) REPORTING ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not
2 later than 6 months after a State task force makes
3 recommendations under paragraph (1), the State
4 maintaining such State task force shall—

5 “(A) make public the recommendations of
6 such report;

7 “(B) report to the Secretary on the status
8 of adopting such recommendations; and

9 “(C) in a case in which the State declines
10 to adopt a particular recommendation, make
11 public the explanation for such declination.

12 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
13 section—

14 “(A) the terms ‘child sexual abuse’ and
15 ‘sexual abuse’ shall not be limited to an act or
16 a failure to act on the part of a parent or care-
17 taker;

18 “(B) the term ‘organization’ means any
19 entity that serves children; and

20 “(C) the term ‘systemic child sexual abuse’
21 means—

22 “(i) a pattern of informal or formal
23 policy or de facto policy to not follow State
24 and local requirements to report instances
25 of child sexual abuse in violation of State

1 and local mandatory reporting laws or pol-
 2 icy; or
 3 “(ii) a pattern of assisting individual
 4 perpetrators in maintaining their careers
 5 despite substantiated evidence of child sex-
 6 ual abuse.”.

7 **SEC. 108. REPORTS.**

8 (a) SCALING EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF
 9 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—Section 110 of the Child
 10 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106f)
 11 is amended to read as follows:

12 **“SEC. 110. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO SCALING EVI-**
 13 **DENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE**
 14 **AND NEGLECT; STUDY AND REPORT ON MAR-**
 15 **ITAL AGE OF CONSENT; STUDY AND REPORT**
 16 **ON STATE MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
 18 study that examines challenges to, and best practices for,
 19 the scalability of treatments that reduce the trauma re-
 20 sulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk
 21 of revictimization, such as those allowable under sections
 22 105 and 106.

23 “(b) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study described in
 24 subsection (a) shall be completed in a manner that con-
 25 siders the variability among treatment programs and

1 among populations vulnerable to child abuse and neglect.

2 The study shall include, at minimum:

3 “(1) A detailed synthesis of the existing re-
4 search literature examining barriers and challenges
5 to, and best practices for the scalability of child wel-
6 fare programs and services as well as programs and
7 services for vulnerable children and families in re-
8 lated fields, including healthcare and education.

9 “(2) Data describing state and local providers’
10 experiences with scaling treatments that reduce the
11 trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and
12 reduce the risk of revictimization.

13 “(3) Consultation with experts in child welfare,
14 healthcare, and education.

15 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
16 of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention
17 and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the
18 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
19 the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor
20 of the House of Representatives a report that contains the
21 results of the study conducted under subsection (a), in-
22 cluding recommendations for best practices for scaling
23 treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child
24 abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.

1 “(d) STUDY AND REPORT ON MARITAL AGE OF CON-
2 SENT.—

3 “(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall study, with
4 respect to each State—

5 “(A) the State law regarding the minimum
6 marriage age; and

7 “(B) the prevalence of marriage involving
8 a child who is under the age of such minimum
9 marriage age.

10 “(2) FACTORS.—The study required under
11 paragraph (1) shall include an examination of—

12 “(A) the extent to which any statutory ex-
13 ceptions to the minimum marriage age in such
14 laws contribute to the prevalence of marriage
15 involving a child described in paragraph (1)(B);

16 “(B) whether such exceptions allow such a
17 child to be married without the consent of such
18 child; and

19 “(C) the impact of such exceptions on the
20 safety of such children.

21 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
22 date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Pre-
23 vention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall sub-
24 mit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
25 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on

1 Education and Labor of the House of Representa-
2 tives a report containing the findings of the study
3 required by this subsection, including any best prac-
4 tices.

5 “(e) STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY
6 REPORTING LAWS.—

7 “(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall collect infor-
8 mation on and otherwise study State laws for man-
9 datory reporting of incidents of child abuse or ne-
10 glect. Such study shall examine trends in referrals
11 and investigations of child abuse and neglect due to
12 differences in such State laws with respect to the in-
13 clusion, as mandatory reporters, of the following in-
14 dividuals:

15 “(A) Individuals licensed or certified to
16 practice in any health-related field licensed by
17 the State, employees of health care facilities or
18 providers licensed by the State, who are en-
19 gaged in the admission, examination, care or
20 treatment of individuals, including mental
21 health and emergency medical service providers.

22 “(B) Individuals employed by a school who
23 have direct contact with children, including
24 teachers, administrators, and independent con-
25 tractors.

1 “(C) Peace officers and law enforcement
2 personnel.

3 “(D) Clergy, including Christian Science
4 practitioners, except where prohibited on ac-
5 count of clergy-penitent privilege.

6 “(E) Day care and child care operators
7 and employees.

8 “(F) Employees of social services agencies
9 who have direct contact with children in the
10 course of employment.

11 “(G) Foster parents.

12 “(H) Court appointed special advocates
13 (employees and volunteers).

14 “(I) Camp and after-school employees.

15 “(J) An individual, paid or unpaid, who,
16 on the basis of the individual’s role as an inte-
17 gral part of a regularly scheduled program, ac-
18 tivity, or service, accepts responsibility for a
19 child.

20 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the
21 date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Pre-
22 vention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall sub-
23 mit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
24 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on
25 Education and Labor of the House of Representa-

1 tives a report containing the findings of the study
2 required by this subsection, including any best prac-
3 tices related to the inclusion, as mandatory report-
4 ers, of individuals described in paragraph (1).”.

5 (b) REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN IN-
6 DIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
9 troller General, in consultation with the Indian
10 tribes from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of
11 Indian Affairs, shall study child abuse and neglect in
12 Indian Tribal communities for the purpose of identi-
13 fying vital information and making recommendations
14 concerning issues relating to child abuse and neglect
15 in such communities, and submit to the Committee
16 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the
17 Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the
18 Committee on Education and Labor and the Com-
19 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives a report on such study, which shall in-
21 clude—

22 (A) the number of Indian tribes providing
23 primary child abuse and neglect prevention ac-
24 tivities;

1 (B) the number of Indian tribes providing
2 secondary child abuse and neglect prevention
3 activities;

4 (C) promising practices of Indian tribes
5 with respect to child abuse and neglect preven-
6 tion that are culturally-based or culturally-
7 adapted;

8 (D) information and recommendations on
9 how such culturally-based or culturally-adapted
10 child abuse and neglect prevention activities
11 could become evidence-based;

12 (E) the number of Indian tribes that have
13 accessed Federal child abuse and neglect pre-
14 vention programs;

15 (F) child abuse and neglect prevention ac-
16 tivities that Indian tribes provide using State
17 funds;

18 (G) child abuse and neglect prevention ac-
19 tivities that Indian tribes provide using Tribal
20 funds;

21 (H) Tribal access to State children's trust
22 fund resources, as described in section 202 of
23 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 5116a);

1 (I) how a children’s trust fund model could
2 be used to support prevention efforts regarding
3 child abuse and neglect of American Indian and
4 Alaska Native children;

5 (J) Federal agency technical assistance ef-
6 forts to address child abuse and neglect preven-
7 tion and treatment of American Indian and
8 Alaska Native children;

9 (K) Federal agency cross-system collabora-
10 tion to address child abuse and neglect preven-
11 tion and treatment of American Indian and
12 Alaska Native children;

13 (L) Tribal access to child abuse and ne-
14 glect prevention research and demonstration
15 grants under the Child Abuse Prevention and
16 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.); and

17 (M) an examination of child abuse and ne-
18 glect data systems to identify what Tribal data
19 is being submitted, barriers to submitting data,
20 and recommendations on improving the collec-
21 tion of data from Indian Tribes.

22 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

23 (A) the term “Alaska Native” has the
24 meaning given the term in section 111 of the

1 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42
2 U.S.C. 5106g); and

3 (B) the terms “child abuse and neglect”
4 and “Indian tribe” have the meaning given the
5 terms in section 3 of the Child Abuse Preven-
6 tion and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

7 **SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 Section 112(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
9 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106h(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

11 (A) by striking “to carry out” through
12 “fiscal year 2010” and inserting “to carry out
13 this title \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2022”;
14 and

15 (B) by striking “2011 through 2015” and
16 inserting “2023 through 2027”; and

17 (2) by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting
18 the following:

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts ap-
20 propriated for a fiscal year under paragraph
21 (1), the Secretary shall make available 30 per-
22 cent of such amounts, or \$100,000,000, which-
23 ever is less, to fund discretionary activities
24 under this title.”.

1 **SEC. 110. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.**

2 Section 114(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5108(1)) is amended—

4 (1) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by
5 striking “and” at the end; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(C) include written guidance and tech-
8 nical assistance to support States, which shall
9 include guidance on the requirements of this
10 Act with respect to infants born with and iden-
11 tified as being affected by substance use or
12 withdrawal symptoms, Neonatal Abstinence
13 Syndrome, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder,
14 as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of section
15 106(b)(2)(D), including by—

16 “(i) enhancing States’ understanding
17 of requirements and flexibilities under the
18 law, including by clarifying key terms;

19 “(ii) addressing State-identified chal-
20 lenges with developing, implementing, and
21 monitoring plans of safe care; and

22 “(iii) disseminating best practices on
23 implementation of plans of safe care, on
24 such topics as differential response, col-
25 laboration and coordination, and identifica-
26 tion and delivery of services for different

populations, while recognizing needs of different populations and varying community approaches across States; and

“(D) include the submission of a report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains a description of the activities taken by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (C); and”.

SEC. 111. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 115. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

“(a) INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consider the recommendations included in the reports required under paragraph (8)(A) and subsection (b)(2) in developing an electronic interstate data exchange system that al-

1 lows State entities responsible under State law for
2 maintaining child abuse and neglect registries to
3 communicate information across State lines.

4 “(2) STANDARDS.—In developing the electronic
5 interstate data exchange system under paragraph
6 (1), the Secretary shall—

7 “(A) use interoperable standards developed
8 and maintained by intergovernmental partner-
9 ships, such as the National Information Ex-
10 change Model;

11 “(B) develop policies and governance
12 standards that—

13 “(i) ensure consistency in types of in-
14 formation shared and not shared; and

15 “(ii) specify circumstances under
16 which data should be shared through the
17 interstate data exchange system; and

18 “(C) ensure that all standards and policies
19 adhere to the privacy, security, and civil rights
20 laws of each State and Federal law.

21 “(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF ELECTRONIC
22 INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—The elec-
23 tronic interstate data exchange system may only be
24 used for purposes relating to child safety.

25 “(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 6
2 months after the date of the enactment of this
3 section, the Secretary of Health and Human
4 Services shall begin implementation of a pilot
5 program to generate recommendations for the
6 full integration of the electronic interstate data
7 exchange system. Such pilot program shall in-
8 clude not less than 10 States and not more
9 than 15 States.

10 “(B) COMPLETION.—Not later than 30
11 months after the date of the enactment of this
12 section, the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services shall complete the pilot program de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A).

15 “(5) INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of Health
16 and Human Services may assist States in the inte-
17 gration of this system into the infrastructure of each
18 State using funds appropriated under this sub-
19 section.

20 “(6) PARTICIPATION.—As a condition on eligi-
21 bility for receipt of funds under section 106, each
22 State shall—

23 “(A) participate in the electronic interstate
24 data exchange system to the fullest extent pos-
25 sible in accordance with State law (as deter-

1 mined by the Secretary of Health and Human
2 Services) not later than December 31, 2027;
3 and

4 “(B) prior to the participation described in
5 subparagraph (A), provide to the Secretary of
6 Health and Human Services an assurance that
7 the child abuse and neglect registry of such
8 State provides procedural due process protec-
9 tions with respect to including individuals on
10 such registry.

11 “(7) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Health
12 and Human Services may not access or store data
13 from the electronic interstate data exchange system,
14 unless the State to which such data pertains volun-
15 tarily shares such data with the Secretary of Health
16 and Human Services.

17 “(8) REPORTS.—The Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services shall prepare and submit to Con-
19 gress—

20 “(A) not later than 3 years after the date
21 of the enactment of this section, a report on the
22 recommendations from the pilot program de-
23 scribed in paragraph (4); and

1 “(B) not later than January 31, 2026, a
2 report on the progress made in implementing
3 this subsection.

4 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of
5 the funds appropriated under section 112 for a fiscal
6 year—

7 “(A) for each of fiscal years 2022 and
8 2023, \$2,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out
9 this section; and

10 “(B) for each of fiscal years 2024 through
11 2027, \$1,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out
12 this section.

13 “(b) WORKING GROUP.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
16 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall con-
17 vene a working group to study and make rec-
18 ommendations on the following:

19 “(A) The feasibility of making publicly
20 available on the website of each State defini-
21 tions and standards of substantiated child
22 abuse and neglect for the State.

23 “(B) Whether background check require-
24 ments under this Act, the Child Care and De-
25 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.

1 9858 et seq.), and part E of title IV of the So-
2 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) are
3 complementary or if there are discrepancies
4 that need to be addressed.

5 “(C) How to improve communication be-
6 tween and across States, including through the
7 use of technology and the use of the electronic
8 interstate data exchange system established
9 under subsection (a), to allow for more accurate
10 and efficient exchange of child abuse and ne-
11 glect records.

12 “(D) How to reduce barriers and establish
13 best practices for the State to provide timely re-
14 sponses to requests from other States for infor-
15 mation contained in the State’s child abuse and
16 neglect registry through the electronic inter-
17 state data exchange system established under
18 subsection (a).

19 “(E) How to ensure due process for any
20 individual included in a State’s child abuse and
21 neglect registry, including the following:

22 “(i) The level of evidence necessary
23 for inclusion in the State’s child abuse and
24 neglect registry.

1 “(ii) The process for notifying such
2 individual of inclusion in the State’s child
3 abuse and neglect registry and the implica-
4 tions of such inclusion.

5 “(iii) The process for providing such
6 individual the opportunity to challenge
7 such inclusion, and the procedures for re-
8 solving such challenge.

9 “(iv) The length of time an individ-
10 ual’s record is to remain in the State’s
11 child abuse and neglect registry, and the
12 process for removing such individual’s
13 record.

14 “(v) The criteria for when such indi-
15 vidual’s child abuse and neglect registry
16 record may be—

17 “(I) made accessible to the gen-
18 eral public;

19 “(II) made available for purposes
20 of an employment check; and

21 “(III) be shared for the purposes
22 of participation in the electronic inter-
23 state data exchange system described
24 in subsection (a).

1 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
2 the date of the enactment of this section, the work-
3 ing group convened under paragraph (1) shall sub-
4 mit a report containing its recommendations to the
5 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Com-
6 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
7 of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and
8 Labor of the House of Representatives.

9 “(3) CONSTRUCTION.—There shall be no re-
10 quirement for any State to adopt the recommenda-
11 tions of the working group, nor shall the Secretary
12 of Health and Human Services incentivize or coerce
13 any State to adopt any such recommendation.”.

14 **SEC. 112. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

15 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Child Abuse
16 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.),
17 as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is fur-
18 ther amended—

19 (1) by striking “Committee on Education and
20 the Workforce” each place it appears and inserting
21 “Committee on Education and Labor”;

22 (2) in section 103(c)(1)(F), by striking “abused
23 and neglected children” and inserting “victims of
24 child abuse or neglect”; and

1 (3) in section 107(f), by striking “(42 U.S.C.
2 10603a)” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20104)”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) SECTION 103.—Section 103(b)(5) (42
5 U.S.C. 5104(b)(5)) is amended by striking “section
6 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section
7 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”.

8 (2) SECTION 105.—Section 105(a)(11) (42
9 U.S.C. 5106(a)(11) (as redesignated by section
10 105(1)(A) of this Act) is amended—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sec-
12 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section
13 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

15 (i) in clause (i)(II), by striking “sec-
16 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “sec-
17 tion 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

18 (ii) in clause (i)(IV), by striking “sec-
19 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(II)” and inserting
20 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(II)”;

21 (iii) in clause (ii), by striking “clauses
22 (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and
23 inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section
24 106(b)(2)(D)”;

25 (C) in subparagraph (D)—

1 (i) in clause (i)(I), by striking “sec-
 2 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(I)” and inserting
 3 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;

4 (ii) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “sec-
 5 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “sec-
 6 tion 106(b)(2)(D)(i)”;

7 (iii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “sec-
 8 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “sec-
 9 tion 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;

10 (iv) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “sec-
 11 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(i)” and inserting “sec-
 12 tion 106(b)(2)(A)(i)”;

13 (v) in clause (iii)(IV), by striking
 14 “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting
 15 “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

16 (vi) in clause (v), by striking “section
 17 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section
 18 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

19 (D) in subparagraph (E), by striking “sec-
 20 tion 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section
 21 106(b)(2)(D)(i)”;

22 (E) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking
 23 “clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)”
 24 and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section
 25 106(b)(2)(D)”.

1 (3) SECTION 114.—Section 114(1)(B) (42
2 U.S.C. 5108(1)(B)) is amended by striking “clauses
3 (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and inserting
4 “clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)”.

5 (4) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-
6 tents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention
7 and Treatment Act is amended—

8 (A) by striking the items relating to sec-
9 tions 2 and 102;

10 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
11 section 114 the following:

“Sec. 115. Electronic interstate data exchange system.”;

12 and

13 (C) by striking the item relating to section
14 110, and inserting the following:

“Sec. 110. Study and report relating to scaling evidence-based treatment of
child abuse and neglect; study and report on marital age of
consent; study and report on State mandatory reporting laws.”.

15 **TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED**
16 **GRANTS FOR THE PREVEN-**
17 **TION OF CHILD ABUSE AND**
18 **NEGLECT**

19 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.**

20 Subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Child
21 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116)
22 are amended to read as follows:

23 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this title are—

1 “(1) to establish and maintain support for com-
2 munity-based family strengthening services and
3 statewide systems-building approaches to the extent
4 practicable, to ensure the development, operation,
5 expansion, coordination, and evaluation of quality
6 services, initiatives, programs, and activities to pre-
7 vent child abuse and neglect; and

8 “(2) to promote improved access for diverse
9 populations with demonstrated need, including low-
10 income families, racial and ethnic minorities, fami-
11 lies with children or caregivers with disabilities, un-
12 derserved communities, and rural communities, to
13 family strengthening services in order to more effec-
14 tively prevent child abuse and neglect.

15 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make grants
16 under this title on a formula basis to the entity designated
17 by the State as the lead entity (referred to in this title
18 as the ‘lead entity’) under section 202(1) for the following
19 purposes:

20 “(1) Providing programs, activities, and initia-
21 tives to help families build protective factors linked
22 to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, such as
23 knowledge of parenting and child development, pa-
24 rental resilience, social connections, time-limited and

1 need-based concrete support, and social and emo-
2 tional development of children, that—

3 “(A) are accessible to diverse populations,
4 effective, and culturally appropriate;

5 “(B) build upon existing strengths;

6 “(C) offer assistance to families;

7 “(D) provide early, comprehensive support
8 for parents;

9 “(E) promote the development of healthy
10 familial relationships and parenting skills, espe-
11 cially in young parents and parents with very
12 young children;

13 “(F) increase family stability;

14 “(G) improve family access to formal and
15 informal community-based resources, including
16 health and mental health services, time-limited
17 and need-based concrete supports, and services
18 and supports to meet the needs of families with
19 children or caregivers with disabilities; and

20 “(H) support the additional needs of fami-
21 lies with children with disabilities, including
22 through respite care.

23 “(2) Fostering the development of a continuum
24 of preventive services to strengthen families through

1 State- and community-based collaborations and both
2 public and private partnerships.

3 “(3) Financing the start-up, maintenance, ex-
4 pansion, or redesign of core services described in
5 section 205, where communities have identified gaps
6 and decided to prioritize the establishment of such
7 services, to the extent practicable given funding lev-
8 els and community priorities.

9 “(4) Maximizing funding through leveraging
10 Federal, State, local, public, and private funds to
11 carry out the purposes of this title.

12 “(5) Developing or enhancing statewide and
13 local networks to operate, expand, or enhance com-
14 munity-based family strengthening services, initia-
15 tives, and activities that promote child, parent, fam-
16 ily, and community health and well-being and pre-
17 vent child abuse and neglect.

18 “(6) Promoting the development of, and coordi-
19 nation with, existing community coalitions of net-
20 works of family strengthening services that utilize
21 culturally responsive providers in order to enhance
22 child, family, and community well-being and prevent
23 child abuse and neglect in all families.

1 “(7) Financing public information activities
2 that focus on parent and child development and
3 child abuse and neglect prevention.

4 “(8) To the extent practicable—

5 “(A) promoting the development and im-
6 plementation of a statewide systems-building
7 strategy to address the unmet needs identified
8 in the inventory described in section 204(3), in-
9 cluding the participation of public and private
10 stakeholders, community-based organizations,
11 legislators, parents and other relevant stake-
12 holders, and State agencies, including the child
13 welfare agency, the public health agency, hous-
14 ing agency, and the State education agency, to
15 scale evidence-based, evidence-informed, and
16 promising programs that expand access to fam-
17 ily strengthening services and reduce the num-
18 bers of children entering the foster care system;

19 “(B) developing comprehensive outreach
20 strategies to engage families with various risk
21 factors, including families who have experienced
22 trauma or domestic violence, parents with sub-
23 stance use disorder, and families with children
24 or caregivers with disabilities; and

1 “(C) providing capacity-building supports
2 to local programs to improve desired outcomes
3 for children and families, such as—

4 “(i) technical assistance, including
5 support for local programs to collect out-
6 come data that helps improve service deliv-
7 ery;

8 “(ii) professional development; and

9 “(iii) peer support networks, including
10 through developing a problem-solving
11 forum.”.

12 **SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY.**

13 Section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
14 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
17 serting the following:

18 “(A) the Governor of the State has designated
19 a lead entity to administer funds under this title for
20 the purposes identified under the authority of this
21 title, including to develop, implement, operate, en-
22 hance, or expand community-based family strength-
23 ening services designed to prevent child abuse and
24 neglect;”; and

1 (B) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(D) the Governor of the State has given con-
4 sideration to the capacity and expertise of all entities
5 requesting to be designated under subparagraph
6 (A);” and

7 (2) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(A) has demonstrated ongoing meaningful
11 partnerships with parents in the development,
12 operation, and oversight of State- and commu-
13 nity-based family strengthening services de-
14 signed to prevent child abuse and neglect;”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 “community-based and prevention-focused pro-
17 grams and activities designed to strengthen and
18 support families” and inserting “community-
19 based family strengthening services designed”;

20 (C) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
21 serting the following:

22 “(C) has the capacity to provide oper-
23 ational support (both financial and pro-
24 grammatic), professional development, technical

1 assistance, and evaluation assistance, to com-
 2 munity-based organizations;” and

3 (D) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
 4 serting the following:

5 “(D) will integrate efforts with individuals
 6 and organizations experienced in working in
 7 partnership with low-income families, racial and
 8 ethnic minorities, families with children or care-
 9 givers with disabilities, sexual and gender mi-
 10 nority youth, victims of domestic violence, and
 11 with the child abuse and neglect prevention ac-
 12 tivities in the State, and demonstrate a finan-
 13 cial commitment to those activities; and

14 “(E) will take into consideration access for
 15 diverse populations and unmet need when dis-
 16 tributing funds to local programs under section
 17 205.”.

18 **SEC. 203. AMOUNT OF GRANT.**

19 Section 203 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
 20 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116b) is amended—

21 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
 22 following:

23 “(a) RESERVATION.—For the purpose of making al-
 24 lotments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations and mi-
 25 grant programs, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of

1 the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for each
2 fiscal year, except that, if making such reservation would
3 cause the total amount allotted to States under this sec-
4 tion for a fiscal year to be less than such total for fiscal
5 year 2021, the Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of the
6 amount appropriated under section 210(a) for the year for
7 such purpose.”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(d) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the
10 amount allotted to a State under subsection (b) exceeds
11 the amount allotted to the State under such subsection
12 for fiscal year 2021, the State’s lead entity may use not
13 more than 10 percent of such excess amount for adminis-
14 trative expenses.”.

15 **SEC. 204. APPLICATION.**

16 Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
17 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d) is amended—

18 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
19 striking “specified by the Secretary as essential to
20 carrying out the provisions of section 202, includ-
21 ing” and inserting “and assurances required in
22 paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202 and types of
23 information specified by the Secretary as essential in
24 carrying out the provisions of section 201(b), includ-
25 ing”;

1 (2) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4), by striking
2 “community-based and prevention-focused programs
3 and activities designed to strengthen and support
4 families” and inserting “community-based family
5 strengthening services designed”;

6 (3) in paragraph (3) by striking “community-
7 based and prevention-focused programs and activi-
8 ties” and inserting “community-based family
9 strengthening services designed”;

10 (4) in paragraph (5), by striking “and preven-
11 tion-focused programs and activities designed to
12 strengthen and support families to prevent child
13 abuse and neglect;” and inserting “services and
14 statewide strategies designed to strengthen and sup-
15 port families to promote child, family, and commu-
16 nity well-being and prevent child abuse and ne-
17 glect;”;

18 (5) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(6) a description of the State’s capacity and
21 commitment to ensure the meaningful involvement
22 of parents who are or have been consumers of pre-
23 ventative supports, including the involvement of par-
24 ents of diverse populations, such as low-income fami-
25 lies, families with children or caregivers with disabil-

1 ities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of
2 other underrepresented or underserved groups, fam-
3 ily advocates, and adult victims of child abuse or ne-
4 glect who can provide leadership in the planning, im-
5 plementation, and evaluation of the programs and
6 policy decisions of the applicant agency in accom-
7 plishing the desired outcomes for such efforts;”;

8 (6) by redesignating paragraph (12) as para-
9 graph (15);

10 (7) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
11 (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), respectively;

12 (8) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(7) a description of the process and criteria
15 the lead entity will use to identify and select commu-
16 nities in which to build a continuum of family
17 strengthening services, including an assurance that
18 the process will ensure access for all families, includ-
19 ing families in communities with high rates of child
20 abuse and neglect relative to other communities in
21 the State;”;

22 (9) by striking paragraph (9), as so redesign-
23 ated, and inserting the following:

24 “(9) a description of outreach activities that the
25 lead entity and local grantees will undertake to

1 maximize the participation of low-income families,
2 racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or
3 caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minor-
4 ity youth, victims of domestic violence, homeless
5 families and those at risk of homelessness, and
6 members of other underserved or underrepresented
7 groups;”;

8 (10) by striking paragraph (10), as so redesign-
9 nated, and inserting the following:

10 “(10) a plan for providing operational support,
11 professional development, and technical assistance to
12 grantees, other State and local programs and pro-
13 viders, families, and other entities involved in
14 strengthening families and preventing child abuse
15 and neglect;”;

16 (11) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by
17 striking “and its members (where appropriate)” and
18 inserting “of community-based family strengthening
19 services and statewide initiatives”; and

20 (12) by striking paragraph (12), as so redesign-
21 nated, and inserting the following:

22 “(12) a description of the actions that the ap-
23 plicant entity will take to inform systemic changes in
24 State policies, practices, procedures, and regulations
25 to improve the delivery of community-based family

1 strengthening services designed to promote child,
2 family, and community well-being, and to prevent
3 child abuse and neglect;

4 “(13) a description of how the lead entity will
5 incorporate research evidence in its process for se-
6 lecting community-based family strengthening serv-
7 ices;

8 “(14) an assurance that, in issuing regulations
9 to improve the delivery of community-based family
10 strengthening services designed to promote child,
11 family, and community well-being, and to prevent
12 child abuse and neglect, the State will—

13 “(A) take into account how such regula-
14 tions will impact activities funded under this
15 Act; and

16 “(B) where appropriate, attempt to avoid
17 duplication of efforts, minimize costs of compli-
18 ance with such regulations, and maximize local
19 flexibility with respect to such regulations;
20 and”.

21 **SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

22 Section 205 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
23 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e) is amended to read as
24 follows:

1 **“SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grants from the lead entity
3 made under this title shall be used to develop, implement,
4 operate, expand, and enhance community-based family
5 strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and
6 neglect that—

7 “(1) assess community assets and needs and
8 develop a strategy to create a comprehensive con-
9 tinuum of effective services that strengthen and sup-
10 port families to prevent child abuse and neglect,
11 through a planning process involving parents, local
12 and public agencies, local nonprofit organizations
13 and service providers, and private sector representa-
14 tives in meaningful ways;

15 “(2) develop or enhance existing place-based
16 family strengthening services, other parenting sup-
17 port services, and connections and coordination
18 among key family services in the community by
19 reaching spaces familiar to such families; and

20 “(3) help families build protective factors that
21 support child and family well-being and help prevent
22 child abuse and neglect, including knowledge of par-
23 enting and child development, parental resilience, so-
24 cial connections, time-limited and need-based con-
25 crete support, and social and emotional development
26 of children.

1 “(b) LOCAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants,
2 the lead entity shall consider, consistent with the needs
3 of the State and community, how the grantee—

4 “(1) demonstrates the ability to form collabora-
5 tions across a range of services or initiatives and the
6 commitment to engage in long-term planning and
7 strategic development for community-based family
8 strengthening services as well as provide on-going
9 problem solving support;

10 “(2) involves parents, including parents of chil-
11 dren with disabilities, diverse racial and ethnic
12 groups, and members of other underrepresented or
13 underserved populations, in the development, imple-
14 mentation, oversight, and evaluation of services;

15 “(3) addresses the need for place-based services
16 and the need to reach families in hard-to-reach areas
17 through approaches that provide core family
18 strengthening services;

19 “(4) promotes improved access to family
20 strengthening services for diverse populations and
21 ensures that the services address identified needs of
22 all families; and

23 “(5) demonstrates an understanding of the
24 sources of child and family trauma and the strate-

1 gies that mitigate the impact of and prevent adverse
2 childhood experiences.

3 “(c) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds from the
4 lead entity shall be used for community-based family
5 strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and
6 neglect, which may include the following:

7 “(1) Developing a strategy based on supporting
8 a comprehensive continuum of preventive, family-
9 centered services that strengthen and support fami-
10 lies to prevent child abuse and neglect, especially to
11 young parents, to parents with young children, and
12 to parents who are adult victims of domestic violence
13 or child abuse or neglect, through public-private
14 partnerships.

15 “(2) Addressing the needs of families in hard-
16 to-reach areas by creating access to place-based fam-
17 ily strengthening services.

18 “(3) Performing an assessment of community
19 needs, including by partnering, at the option of the
20 grantee, with an organization that already has per-
21 formed a needs assessment (such as a Maternal, In-
22 fant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program
23 under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42
24 U.S.C. 711) or a Head Start program under the
25 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.)).

1 “(4) Supporting outreach for services, including
2 by coordinating with existing family strengthening
3 services such as home visiting and other early inter-
4 vention programs.

5 “(5) Providing, promoting the development or
6 enhancement of, or connecting families to, core serv-
7 ices that include—

8 “(A) parenting support and parent edu-
9 cation programs, including services that help
10 parents and other caregivers support children’s
11 development;

12 “(B) parent leadership skills development
13 programs that support parents’ personal growth
14 as leaders in their families and communities;

15 “(C) mutual support groups for parents,
16 children, and parent partners;

17 “(D) respite and crisis care; and

18 “(E) referrals to optional community and
19 social services, including—

20 “(i) domestic violence services;

21 “(ii) screening and referrals to early
22 intervention;

23 “(iii) voluntary home visiting pro-
24 grams;

1 “(iv) health and mental health serv-
2 ices, including referrals for information on
3 the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of
4 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
5 seq.);

6 “(v) early care and learning programs
7 including child care and Head Start pro-
8 grams and Early Head Start programs
9 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
10 et seq.);

11 “(vi) nutrition programs, including
12 the special supplemental nutrition program
13 for women, infants, and children estab-
14 lished under section 17 of the Child Nutri-
15 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) and the
16 supplemental nutrition assistance program
17 established under the Food and Nutrition
18 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

19 “(vii) education and workforce devel-
20 opment programs, including adult literacy,
21 child development, wellness, and family so-
22 cioeconomic mobility programs; and

23 “(viii) services and supports to meet
24 the needs of families with children or care-
25 givers with disabilities, such as early inter-

1 vention services for infants and toddlers
2 with disabilities and their families, as early
3 intervention services are defined in section
4 632 of the Individuals with Disabilities
5 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

6 “(6) Providing leadership in mobilizing local
7 public and private resources to support the provision
8 of community-based family strengthening services
9 designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

10 “(7) Developing and maintaining meaningful
11 partnerships with parents relating to the develop-
12 ment, operation, evaluation, and oversight of the
13 programs and services.

14 “(8) Coordinating with other community-based
15 family strengthening services designed to prevent
16 child abuse and neglect in the development, oper-
17 ation, and expansion of networks where appropriate.

18 “(d) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants, a lead enti-
19 ty shall give priority to effective community-based efforts
20 that serve low-income communities and are focused on
21 comprehensive approaches to serving young parents or
22 parents with young children.”.

23 **SEC. 206. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

24 Section 206 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
25 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116f) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraphs (1), (5), (6), and (8), by
2 striking “community-based and prevention-focused
3 programs and activities designed to strengthen and
4 support families” and inserting “community-based
5 family strengthening services designed”;

6 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “meets” and
7 inserting “meet”;

8 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “including
9 core and optional services as described in section
10 202”;

11 (4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(3) shall demonstrate how they have addressed
14 unmet needs identified by the inventory required
15 under section 204;”;

16 (5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(4) shall describe the number of families
19 served, including families with children or caregivers
20 with disabilities, and the involvement of a diverse
21 representation of families in the design, operation,
22 and evaluation of both community-based family
23 strengthening services and networks of such serv-
24 ices;”;

1 (6) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(7) shall describe—

4 “(A) the number of programs funded
5 disaggregated by urban, suburban, and rural
6 community type;

7 “(B) the number of children and families
8 served under each such program disaggregated
9 by urban, suburban, and rural community type;
10 and

11 “(C) the number of programs that partner
12 with outside entities and the services such out-
13 side entities provide;”;

14 (7) in paragraph (8)—

15 (A) by striking “leadership of” and insert
16 “partnership with”; and

17 (B) by striking the period at the end and
18 inserting “; and”; and

19 (8) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(9) shall describe the extent to which there is
21 evidence to support the effectiveness of activities
22 conducted under this title for the program’s in-
23 tended purpose, or, in instances where such evidence
24 is not available, shall describe barriers and chal-
25 lenges to developing evidence of effectiveness.”.

1 **SEC. 207. NATIONAL NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY-BASED**
2 **FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 207 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
4 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116g) is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
6 striking “such sums as may be necessary” and in-
7 serting “not more than 5 percent”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “community-
9 based and prevention-focused programs and activi-
10 ties designed to strengthen and support families”
11 and inserting “community-based family strength-
12 ening services designed”.

13 **SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.**

14 Section 208 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
15 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116h) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
17 paragraphs (2) and (1), respectively, and transfer-
18 ring paragraph (1) as redesignated to appear before
19 paragraph (2) as redesignated; and

20 (2) by striking paragraph (1) (as so redesign-
21 ated) and inserting the following:

22 “(1) **COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY STRENGTH-**
23 **ENING SERVICES.**—The term ‘community-based fam-
24 ily strengthening services’ includes organizations
25 such as family resource programs, family support
26 programs, voluntary home visiting programs, respite

1 care services, parenting education, mutual support
2 groups for parents, children, parent partner pro-
3 grams, and other community programs or networks
4 of such programs that provide activities that are de-
5 signed to prevent child abuse and neglect.”.

6 **SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Child Abuse Pre-
8 vention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210;

11 and

12 (2) by inserting after section 208 the following:

13 **“SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

14 “Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit
15 grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, adop-
16 tive parents, or any other individual in a parenting role
17 from receiving or participating in services and programs
18 under this title.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
20 tents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
21 Treatment Act is amended by striking the item relating
22 to section 209 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 209. Rule of construction.

“Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.”.

1 **SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 210 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.), as redesignated
4 by section 209 of this Act, is amended—

5 (1) by striking “There are” and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are”;

8 (2) by striking “to carry out” through “fiscal
9 year 2010” and inserting “to carry out this title
10 \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2022”;

11 (3) by striking “2011 through 2015” and in-
12 serting “2023 through 2027”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(b) TREATMENT OF NON-FEDERAL FUNDS IN CER-
15 TAIN FISCAL YEARS.—For any fiscal year for which the
16 amount appropriated under subsection (a) exceeds the
17 amount appropriated under such subsection for fiscal year
18 2021, the Secretary shall consider non-Federal funds and
19 in-kind contributions as part of the State contribution for
20 the activities specified in section 204(4).”.

21 **SEC. 211. STUDY AND REPORT.**

22 (a) STUDY RELATING TO NEW PREVENTION PRO-
23 GRAMS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
25 the United States shall complete a study, using data
26 reported by States to the Secretary of Health and

1 Human Services under section 206 of the Child
2 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
3 5116f), as amended by this Act—

4 (A) to determine how many families and
5 children in the first 3 years after the date of
6 the enactment of this Act are served annually
7 through programs funded under title II of the
8 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42
9 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.); and

10 (B) to compare the number of such fami-
11 lies and children served annually in the first 3
12 years after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act to the number of such families and children
14 served in fiscal year 2021.

15 (2) CONTENTS.—The study required under
16 paragraph (1) shall include the following for each of
17 the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of
18 this Act:

19 (A) An examination of how many families
20 received evidence-based programming under
21 title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and
22 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.).

23 (B) An examination of the extent to which
24 local programs conduct evaluations using funds

1 provided under such title and the findings of
2 such evaluations.

3 (C) An examination of whether findings of
4 effectiveness in evaluation studies vary by
5 urban, suburban, or rural community type.

6 (D) An examination of whether programs
7 partnering with other entities are more effective
8 than those that do not partner with other enti-
9 ties.

10 (E) An examination of barriers to imple-
11 ment evidence-based programming or to con-
12 duct evaluations in instances where such activi-
13 ties do not occur.

14 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
16 the United States shall submit to the Committee on
17 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and
18 the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
19 Representatives a report that contains the results of the
20 study conducted under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 301. PURPOSE.

Section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**” and inserting “**PURPOSE**”;

(2) by striking subsection (a); and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) PURPOSE.—”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “sexual and gender minority youth” after “particularly older children, minority children,”; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “services and,” after “post-legal adoption”.

SEC. 302. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFERS.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 201 the following:

1 **“SEC. 202. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUS-**
2 **TODY TRANSFERS.**

3 “(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that:

5 “(1) Some adopted children may be at risk of
6 experiencing an unregulated custody transfer be-
7 cause the challenges associated with adoptions (in-
8 cluding the child’s mental health needs and the dif-
9 ficulties many families face in acquiring support
10 services) may lead families to seek out unregulated
11 custody transfers.

12 “(2) Some adopted children experience trauma,
13 and the disruption and placement in another home
14 by unregulated custody transfer creates additional
15 trauma and instability for children.

16 “(3) Children who experience an unregulated
17 custody transfer may be placed with families who
18 have not completed required child welfare or crimi-
19 nal background checks or clearances.

20 “(4) Social services agencies and courts are
21 often unaware of the placement of children through
22 unregulated custody transfer and therefore do not
23 conduct assessments on the child’s safety and well-
24 being in such placements.

1 “(5) Such lack of placement oversight places a
2 child at risk for future abuse and increases the
3 chance that the child may experience—

4 “(A) abuse or neglect;

5 “(B) contact with unsafe adults or youth;

6 and

7 “(C) exposure to unsafe or isolated envi-
8 ronments.

9 “(6) The caregivers with whom a child is placed
10 through unregulated custody transfer often have no
11 legal responsibility with respect to such child, plac-
12 ing the child at risk for additional unregulated cus-
13 tody transfers.

14 “(7) Such caregivers also may not have com-
15 plete records with respect to such child, including
16 the child’s birth, medical, or immigration records.

17 “(8) A child adopted through intercountry
18 adoption may be at risk of not acquiring United
19 States citizenship if an unregulated custody transfer
20 occurs before the adoptive parents complete all nec-
21 essary steps to finalize the adoption of such child.

22 “(9) Engaging in, or offering to engage in, un-
23 regulated custody transfer places children at risk of
24 harm.

25 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
3 retary of Health and Human Services shall provide
4 to the Committee on Education and Labor of the
5 House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways
6 and Means of the House of Representatives, the
7 Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Com-
8 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
9 of the Senate a report on unregulated custody trans-
10 fers of children, including of adopted children.

11 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
12 paragraph (1) shall include—

13 “(A) the causes, methods, and characteris-
14 tics of unregulated custody transfers, including
15 the use of social media and the internet;

16 “(B) the effects of unregulated custody
17 transfers on children, including the lack of as-
18 sessment of a child’s safety and well-being by
19 social services agencies and courts due to such
20 unregulated custody transfer;

21 “(C) the prevalence of unregulated custody
22 transfers within each State and across all
23 States; and

24 “(D) recommended policies for preventing,
25 identifying, and responding to unregulated cus-

1 tody transfers, including of adopted children,
2 that include—

3 “(i) amendments to Federal and State
4 law to address unregulated custody trans-
5 fers;

6 “(ii) amendments to child protection
7 practices to address unregulated custody
8 transfers; and

9 “(iii) methods of providing the public
10 information regarding adoption and child
11 protection.

12 “(c) GUIDANCE TO STATES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date specified in subsection (b)(1), the Sec-
15 retary shall issue guidance and technical assistance
16 to States related to preventing, identifying, and re-
17 sponding to unregulated custody transfers, including
18 of adopted children.

19 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance required under
20 paragraph (1) shall include—

21 “(A) education materials related to pre-
22 venting, identifying, and responding to unregu-
23 lated custody transfers for employees of State,
24 local, and Tribal agencies that provide child
25 welfare services;

1 “(B) guidance on appropriate pre-adoption
2 education and post-adoption services for domes-
3 tic and international adoptive families to pro-
4 mote child permanency; and

5 “(C) the assistance available through the
6 National Resource Center for Special Needs
7 Adoption under section 203(b)(9).

8 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
10 the several States, the District of Columbia, and any
11 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
12 States.

13 “(2) UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFER.—
14 The term ‘unregulated custody transfer’ means the
15 abandonment of a child, by the child’s parent, legal
16 guardian, or a person or entity acting on behalf, and
17 with the consent, of such parent or guardian—

18 “(A) by placing a child with a person who
19 is not—

20 “(i) the child’s parent, step-parent,
21 grandparent, adult sibling, legal guardian,
22 or other adult relative;

23 “(ii) a friend of the family who is an
24 adult and with whom the child is familiar;
25 or

1 “(iii) a member of the Federally rec-
 2 ognized Indian tribe of which the child is
 3 also a member;

4 “(B) with the intent of severing the rela-
 5 tionship between the child and the parent or
 6 guardian of such child; and

7 “(C) without—

8 “(i) reasonably ensuring the safety of
 9 the child and permanency of the placement
 10 of the child, including by conducting an of-
 11 ficial home study, background check, and
 12 supervision; and

13 “(ii) transferring the legal rights and
 14 responsibilities of parenthood or guardian-
 15 ship under applicable Federal and State
 16 law to a person described in subparagraph
 17 (A).”.

18 **SEC. 303. INFORMATION AND SERVICES.**

19 (a) NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR SPECIAL
 20 NEEDS ADOPTION.—Section 203(b)(9) of the Child Abuse
 21 Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of
 22 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(9)) is amended by inserting “not
 23 later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the
 24 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, es-
 25 tablish and” before “maintain”.

1 (b) PLACEMENT WITH ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Sec-
2 tion 203(b)(11)(C) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
4 5113(b)(11)(C)) is amended by striking “such children”
5 and inserting “the children and youth described in the
6 matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 201”.

7 (c) PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(1) of
8 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption
9 Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(1)) is amended
10 by striking “post” and inserting “pre- and post-”.

11 (d) SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(2) of the Child Abuse
12 Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of
13 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(2)) is amended by inserting
14 “and the development of such services,” after “not sup-
15 plant, services”.

16 (e) ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO ADOPTION
17 ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES.—Section
18 203(e)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
19 and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(e)(1))
20 is amended—

21 (1) by striking “with, States,” and inserting
22 “with States, Indian Tribes,”; and

23 (2) by inserting “, including through the use of
24 web-based tools such as the electronic interstate
25 case-processing system referred to in section 437(g)

1 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(g))” be-
2 fore the period at the end.

3 **SEC. 304. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOP-**
4 **TIONS.**

5 Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
6 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
7 5114) is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 204. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOP-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 “(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study
11 (directly or by grant to, or contract with, public or private
12 nonprofit research agencies or organizations) on adoption
13 outcomes and the factors (including parental substance
14 use disorder) affecting those outcomes.

15 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 36
16 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger
17 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act the Secretary
18 shall submit a report to Congress that includes the results
19 of the study required under subsection (a).”.

20 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 Section 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
22 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.
23 5115(a)) is amended—

24 (1) by striking “fiscal year 2010” and inserting
25 “fiscal year 2022”; and

1 (2) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through
 2 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through
 3 2027”.

4 **TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO**
 5 **OTHER LAWS**

6 **SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**
 7 **OTHER LAWS.**

8 (a) HEAD START ACT.—Section 658E(c)(2)(L) of
 9 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9858e(c)(2)(L)) is amend-
 10 ed by striking “will comply with the child abuse reporting
 11 requirements of section 106(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Child
 12 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
 13 5106a(b)(2)(B)(i))” and inserting “will comply with the
 14 child abuse reporting requirements of section
 15 106(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
 16 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(A)(i))”.

17 (b) VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1984.—Section
 18 1404A of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C.
 19 20104) is amended by striking “section 109” and insert-
 20 ing “section 107”.

Passed the House of Representatives March 16,
 2021.

Attest:

Clerk.

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 485

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and
Treatment Act, and for other purposes.