

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2892

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about sensitivities regarding adoption in the health care industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about sensitivities regarding adoption in the health care industry, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hospital Adoption
5 Education Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) 24 percent of Americans say that they have
2 considered adopting a child.

3 (2) 80 percent of women who consider adoption
4 do so after their sixth month of pregnancy.

5 (3) 81 percent of birth parents report that easy
6 access to objective information is important to them
7 when making the decision to choose adoption.

8 (4) 93 percent of Americans consider hospitals
9 and health care facilities to be trustworthy sources
10 of information about adoption.

11 (5) 98.2 percent of nurses have no professional
12 development in the sensitivities around adoption.

13 (6) Less than 1 percent of women with unin-
14 tended pregnancies place their children through
15 adoption.

16 **SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF ADOPTION**
17 **RESOURCES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
19 Human Services—

20 (1) shall develop and nationally disseminate ac-
21 curate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote
22 understanding about—

23 (A) the sensitivities regarding adoption in
24 the health care industry; and

1 (B) best practices when interacting with
2 prospective birth mothers and adoptive families;
3 and

4 (2) in carrying out paragraph (1)—

5 (A) shall include digital resources; and

6 (B) may include other types of resources,
7 such as print resources.

8 (b) ONLINE ADOPTION RESOURCES FOR HEALTH
9 CARE WORKERS.—The Secretary shall maintain on the
10 public website of the Administration for Children and
11 Families a webpage on adoption resources for health care
12 workers to improve the awareness and understanding of
13 such workers regarding adoption.

14 (c) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.—

15 (1) COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall develop
16 the resources required by subsections (a) and (b)
17 through a committee of adoption experts.

18 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the
19 committee referred to in paragraph (1) shall in-
20 clude—

21 (A) representatives of organizations in-
22 volved in adoption education;

23 (B) maternal health experts;

24 (C) child welfare experts;

25 (D) licensed social workers;

(E) hospital case managers; and

(F) adoption attorneys.

**SEC. 4. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR CARE PROVIDERS REGARDING PATIENT
CARE FOR FAMILIES PURSUING ADOPTION,
INCLUDING PROSPECTIVE BIRTH MOTHERS
AND POTENTIAL ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administration for Children and Families, directly or through grants or contracts in accordance with subsection (b), shall—

(1) provide to care providers at hospitals and birthing centers education and professional development regarding patient care for families pursuing adoption, including prospective birth mothers and potential adoptive families; and

(2) provide consultation services to hospitals and birthing centers employing care providers on standardized policies, guidelines, and procedures regarding such education and professional development for such care providers.

(b) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS.—If the Secretary chooses to provide education, professional development, or consultation services under subsection (a) through the award of a grant or contract, the following provisions shall apply:

1 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for such an
2 award, an entity—

3 (A) shall—

4 (i) be a health care-based, nonprofit
5 education organization that focuses on
6 adoption;

7 (ii) partner with healthcare profes-
8 sionals, hospitals, birthing centers, and
9 community organizations to implement pa-
10 tient-centered care models;

11 (iii) emphasize holistic parenting sup-
12 port in the perinatal setting; and

13 (iv) have demonstrated experience
14 providing non-directive education to
15 healthcare professionals supporting expect-
16 ant parents considering adoption, par-
17 enting, and kinship care;

18 (B) shall not—

19 (i) be or represent a child-placing
20 agency;

21 (ii) provide or refer for abortions; or

22 (iii) hold any other vested interest in
23 a particular pregnancy outcome.

24 (2) APPLICATION.—To seek such an award, an
25 eligible entity shall submit an application to the Sec-

1 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing
2 such information and assurances as the Secretary
3 may require.

4 (3) PERIOD.—The period of such an award
5 shall not exceed 3 fiscal years.

6 (4) REPORTS.—As a condition on receipt of
7 such an award, an eligible entity shall agree to sub-
8 mit to the Secretary each fiscal year a report on the
9 activities carried out through the award. Each such
10 report shall include such information as the Sec-
11 retary determines is necessary to provide an accu-
12 rate description of such activities.

13 (5) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Activities
14 carried out using funds made available through such
15 an award shall supplement, and not supplant, activi-
16 ties carried out using other funds made available
17 from the Federal Government or other sources.

18 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; COORDINATION.—The
19 Secretary shall—

20 (1) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
21 ties regarding activities carried out through an
22 award under this section; and

23 (2) as appropriate, coordinate the provision of
24 education, professional development, and consulta-
25 tion services under subsection (a) with other adop-

tion-related research, professional development, services, and assistance activities carried out by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the activities carried out (directly or through grants or contracts) under this section, including by calculating—

(A) the number of hospitals and birthing centers that implement adoption-sensitive programming and education and professional development as a result of the activities under this section; and

(B) the number of care providers who receive adoption education or professional development as a result of the activities under this section.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the evaluation under paragraph (1) and submit to the Congress a report that contains the results of such evaluation, including the calculations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) The term “birth mother” means a woman
4 who places her baby with the adoptive parents and
5 terminates parental rights.

6 (2) The term “care provider” includes any
7 health care personnel (including bedside staff) and
8 ancillary staff who have contact in a hospital or
9 birthing center with expectant mothers, birth moth-
10 ers, and potential adoptive families.

11 (3) The term “child-placing agency” means a
12 business or service conducted, maintained, or oper-
13 ated by a person engaged in finding homes for new-
14 born infants by placing, or arranging for the place-
15 ment of, such newborn infants for adoption or foster
16 care.

17 (4) The term “potential adoptive family” means
18 one or more individuals who are actively seeking to
19 adopt a child.

20 (5) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
21 of Health and Human Services.

22 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 To carry out this Act, there is authorized to be appro-
24 priated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services

1 \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through
2 2029.

