To amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2017

Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Family First Prevention Services Act of 2017”.
2

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

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

TITLE I—INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

Sec. 101. Purpose.

Subtitle A—Prevention Activities Under Title IV–E
Sec. 111. Foster care prevention services and programs.
Sec. 112. Foster care maintenance payments for children with parents in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse.
Sec. 113. Title IV–E payments for evidence-based kinship navigator programs.

Subtitle B—Enhanced Support Under Title IV–B
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Sec. 122. Reducing bureaucracy and unnecessary delays when placing children in homes across State lines.
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Sec. 131. Reviewing and improving licensing standards for placement in a relative foster family home.
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Sec. 133. Modernizing the title and purpose of title IV–E.
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TITLE II—ENSURING THE NECESSITY OF A PLACEMENT THAT IS NOT IN A FOSTER FAMILY HOME

Sec. 201. Limitation on Federal financial participation for placements that are not in foster family homes.
Sec. 202. Assessment and documentation of the need for placement in a qualified residential treatment program.
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TITLE III—CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Sec. 401. Reauthorizing adoption and legal guardianship incentive programs.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Sec. 501. Technical corrections to data exchange standards to improve program coordination.
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TITLE VI—ENSURING STATES REINVEST SAVINGS RESULTING FROM INCREASE IN ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

Sec. 601. Delay of adoption assistance phase-in.
Sec. 602. GAO study and report on State reinvestment of savings resulting from increase in adoption assistance.

1 TITLE I—INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

2 SEC. 101. PURPOSE.

3 The purpose of this title is to enable States to use Federal funds available under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements through the provision of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs, and kinship navigator services.

4 Subtitle A—Prevention Activities Under Title IV–E

5 SEC. 111. FOSTER CARE PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

6 (a) State Option.—Section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and” and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting “; adoption assistance in accordance with section 473, and, at the option of the State, services or programs specified in subsection (e)(1) of this section for children who are candidates for foster care or who are pregnant or parenting foster youth and the parents or kin caregivers of the children, in accordance with the requirements of that subsection;”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subsection, the Secretary may make a payment to a State for providing the following services or programs for a child described in paragraph (2) and the parents or kin caregivers of the child when the need of the child, such a parent, or such a caregiver for the services or programs are directly related to the safety, permanence, or well-being of the child or to preventing the child from entering foster care:

“(A) MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES.—Mental health and substance abuse pre-
vention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) with respect to the child.

“(B) IN-HOME PARENT SKILL-BASED PROGRAMS.—In-home parent skill-based programs for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) with respect to the child and that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling.

“(2) CHILD DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a child described in this paragraph is the following:

“(A) A child who is a candidate for foster care (as defined in section 475(13)) but can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services or programs specified in paragraph (1).

“(B) A child in foster care who is a pregnant or parenting foster youth.

“(3) DATE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the dates described in this paragraph are the following:
“(A) The date on which a child is identified in a prevention plan maintained under paragraph (4) as a child who is a candidate for foster care (as defined in section 475(13)).

“(B) The date on which a child is identified in a prevention plan maintained under paragraph (4) as a pregnant or parenting foster youth in need of services or programs specified in paragraph (1).

“(4) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PROVIDING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—Services and programs specified in paragraph (1) may be provided under this subsection only if specified in advance in the child’s prevention plan described in subparagraph (A) and the requirements in subparagraphs (B) through (E) are met:

“(A) PREVENTION PLAN.—The State maintains a written prevention plan for the child that meets the following requirements (as applicable):

“(i) CANDIDATES.—In the case of a child who is a candidate for foster care described in paragraph (2)(A), the prevention plan shall—
“(I) identify the foster care prevention strategy for the child so that the child may remain safely at home, live temporarily with a kin caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved, or live permanently with a kin caregiver;

“(II) list the services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the child to ensure the success of that prevention strategy; and

“(III) comply with such other requirements as the Secretary shall establish.

“(ii) PREGNANT OR PARENTING FOSTER YOUTH.—In the case of a child who is a pregnant or parenting foster youth described in paragraph (2)(B), the prevention plan shall—

“(I) be included in the child’s case plan required under section 475(1);

“(II) list the services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the youth to ensure that the youth
is prepared (in the case of a pregnant foster youth) or able (in the case of a parenting foster youth) to be a parent;

“(III) describe the foster care prevention strategy for any child born to the youth; and

“(IV) comply with such other requirements as the Secretary shall establish.

“(B) TRAUMA-INFORMED.—The services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of a child are provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address trauma’s consequences and facilitate healing.

“(C) ONLY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROMISING, SUPPORTED, OR WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICES PERMITTED.—
“(i) In general.—Only State expenditures for services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) that are provided in accordance with practices that meet the requirements specified in clause (ii) of this subparagraph and that meet the requirements specified in clause (iii), (iv), or (v), respectively, for being a promising, supported, or well-supported practice, shall be eligible for a Federal matching payment under section 474(a)(6)(A).

“(ii) General practice requirements.—The general practice requirements specified in this clause are the following:

“(I) The practice has a book, manual, or other available writings that specify the components of the practice protocol and describe how to administer the practice.

“(II) There is no empirical basis suggesting that, compared to its likely benefits, the practice constitutes a risk of harm to those receiving it.
“(III) If multiple outcome studies have been conducted, the overall weight of evidence supports the benefits of the practice.

“(IV) Outcome measures are reliable and valid, and are administrated consistently and accurately across all those receiving the practice.

“(V) There is no case data suggesting a risk of harm that was probably caused by the treatment and that was severe or frequent.

“(iii) PROMISING PRACTICE.—A practice shall be considered to be a ‘promising practice’ if the practice is superior to an appropriate comparison practice using conventional standards of statistical significance (in terms of demonstrated meaningful improvements in validated measures of important child and parent outcomes, such as mental health, substance abuse, and child safety and well-being), as established by the results or outcomes of at least one study that—
“(I) was rated by an independent systematic review for the quality of the study design and execution and determined to be well-designed and well-executed; and

“(II) utilized some form of control (such as an untreated group, a placebo group, or a wait list study).

“(iv) SUPPORTED PRACTICE.—A practice shall be considered to be a ‘supported practice’ if—

“(I) the practice is superior to an appropriate comparison practice using conventional standards of statistical significance (in terms of demonstrated meaningful improvements in validated measures of important child and parent outcomes, such as mental health, substance abuse, and child safety and well-being), as established by the results or outcomes of at least one study that—

“(aa) was rated by an independent systematic review for the quality of the study design and
execution and determined to be
well-designed and well-executed;

“(bb) was a rigorous ran-
dom-controlled trial (or, if not
available, a study using a rig-
gorous quasi-experimental re-
search design); and

“(cc) was carried out in a
usual care or practice setting;
and

“(II) the study described in sub-
clause (I) established that the practice
has a sustained effect (when com-
pared to a control group) for at least
6 months beyond the end of the treat-
ment.

“(v) WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICE.—A
practice shall be considered to be a ‘well-
supported practice’ if—

“(I) the practice is superior to an
appropriate comparison practice using
conventional standards of statistical
significance (in terms of demonstrated
meaningful improvements in validated
measures of important child and par-
ent outcomes, such as mental health, substance abuse, and child safety and well-being), as established by the results or outcomes of at least two studies that—

"(aa) were rated by an independent systematic review for the quality of the study design and execution and determined to be well-designed and well-executed;

"(bb) were rigorous randomized controlled trials (or, if not available, studies using a rigorous quasi-experimental research design); and

"(cc) were carried out in a usual care or practice setting; and

"(II) at least one of the studies described in subclause (I) established that the practice has a sustained effect (when compared to a control group) for at least 1 year beyond the end of treatment.
“(D) Guidance on practices criteria and pre-approved services and programs.—

“(i) In general.—Not later than October 1, 2018, the Secretary shall issue guidance to States regarding the practices criteria required for services or programs to satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (C). The guidance shall include a pre-approved list of services and programs that satisfy the requirements.

“(ii) Updates.—The Secretary shall issue updates to the guidance required by clause (i) as often as the Secretary determines necessary.

“(E) Outcome assessment and reporting.—The State shall collect and report to the Secretary the following information with respect to each child for whom, or on whose behalf mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services or in-home parent skill-based programs are provided during a 12-month period beginning on the date the child is determined by the State to be a child described in paragraph (2):
“(i) The specific services or programs provided and the total expenditures for each of the services or programs.

“(ii) The duration of the services or programs provided.

“(iii) In the case of a child described in paragraph (2)(A), the child’s placement status at the beginning, and at the end, of the 1-year period, respectively, and whether the child entered foster care within 2 years after being determined a candidate for foster care.

“(5) STATE PLAN COMPONENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State electing to provide services or programs specified in paragraph (1) shall submit as part of the State plan required by subsection (a) a prevention services and programs plan component that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

“(B) PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS PLAN COMPONENT.—In order to meet the requirements of this subparagraph, a prevention services and programs plan component, with respect to each 5-year period for which the
plan component is in operation in the State, shall include the following:

“(i) How providing services and programs specified in paragraph (1) is expected to improve specific outcomes for children and families.

“(ii) How the State will monitor and oversee the safety of children who receive services and programs specified in paragraph (1), including through periodic risk assessments throughout the period in which the services and programs are provided on behalf of a child and reexamination of the prevention plan maintained for the child under paragraph (4) for the provision of the services or programs if the State determines the risk of the child entering foster care remains high despite the provision of the services or programs.

“(iii) With respect to the services and programs specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), information on the specific promising, supported, or well-supported practices the State plans to use
to provide the services or programs, including a description of—

“(I) the services or programs and whether the practices used are promising, supported, or well-supported;

“(II) how the State plans to implement the services or programs, including how implementation of the services or programs will be continuously monitored to ensure fidelity to the practice model and to determine outcomes achieved and how information learned from the monitoring will be used to refine and improve practices;

“(III) how the State selected the services or programs;

“(IV) the target population for the services or programs; and

“(V) how each service or program provided will be evaluated through a well-designed and rigorous process, which may consist of an ongoing, cross-site evaluation approved by the Secretary.
“(iv) A description of the consultation that the State agencies responsible for administering the State plans under this part and part B engage in with other State agencies responsible for administering health programs, including mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, and with other public and private agencies with experience in administering child and family services, including community-based organizations, in order to foster a continuum of care for children described in paragraph (2) and their parents or kin caregivers.

“(v) A description of how the State shall assess children and their parents or kin caregivers to determine eligibility for services or programs specified in paragraph (1).

“(vi) A description of how the services or programs specified in paragraph (1) that are provided for or on behalf of a child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child will be coordinated with other child and family services provided to the
child and the parents or kin caregivers of
the child under the State plan under part
B.

“(vii) Descriptions of steps the State
is taking to support and enhance a com-
petent, skilled, and professional child wel-
fare workforce to deliver trauma-informed
and evidence-based services, including—

“(I) ensuring that staff is quali-
fied to provide services or programs
that are consistent with the prom-
ising, supported, or well-supported
practice models selected; and

“(II) developing appropriate pre-
vention plans, and conducting the risk
assessments required under clause
(iii).

“(viii) A description of how the State
will provide training and support for case-
workers in assessing what children and
their families need, connecting to the fami-
lies served, knowing how to access and de-
deliver the needed trauma-informed and evi-
dence-based services, and overseeing and
evaluating the continuing appropriateness of the services.

“(ix) A description of how caseload size and type for prevention caseworkers will be determined, managed, and overseen.

“(x) An assurance that the State will report to the Secretary such information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to the provision of services and programs specified in paragraph (1), including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures for the State under paragraph (6) and compliance with paragraph (7).

“(C) Reimbursement for Services Under the Prevention Plan Component.—

“(i) Limitation.—Except as provided in subclause (ii), a State may not receive a Federal payment under this part for a given promising, supported, or well-supported practice unless (in accordance with subparagraph (B)(iii)(V)) the plan includes a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy for that practice.
“(ii) Waiver of Limitation.—The Secretary may waive the requirement for a well-designed and rigorous evaluation of any well-supported practice if the Secretary deems the evidence of the effectiveness of the practice to be compelling and the State meets the continuous quality improvement requirements included in subparagraph (B)(iii)(II) with regard to the practice.

“(6) Prevention Services Measures.—

“(A) Establishment; Annual Updates.—Beginning with fiscal year 2021, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall establish the following prevention services measures based on information and data reported by States that elect to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1):

“(i) Percentage of candidates for foster care who do not enter foster care.—The percentage of candidates for foster care for whom, or on whose behalf, the services or programs are provided who do not enter foster care, including those placed with a kin caregiver
outside of foster care, during the 12-month period in which the services or programs are provided and through the end of the succeeding 12-month period.

“(ii) **PER-CHILD SPENDING.**—The total amount of expenditures made for mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services or in-home parent skill-based programs, respectively, for, or on behalf of, each child described in paragraph (2).

“(B) **DATA.**—The Secretary shall establish and annually update the prevention services measures—

“(i) based on the median State values of the information reported under each clause of subparagraph (A) for the 3 then most recent years; and

“(ii) taking into account State differences in the price levels of consumption goods and services using the most recent regional price parities published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce or such other data as the Secretary determines appropriate.
“(C) Publication of state prevention services measures.—The Secretary shall annually make available to the public the prevention services measures of each State.

“(7) Maintenance of effort for state foster care prevention expenditures.—

“(A) In general.—If a State elects to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the State foster care prevention expenditures for the fiscal year shall not be less than the amount of the expenditures for fiscal year 2014.

“(B) State foster care prevention expenditures.—The term ‘State foster care prevention expenditures’ means the following:

“(i) TANF; IV–B; SSBG.—State expenditures for foster care prevention services and activities under the State program funded under part A (including from amounts made available by the Federal Government), under the State plan developed under part B (including any such amounts), or under the Social Services Block Grant Programs under subtitle A of title XX (including any such amounts).
“(ii) OTHER STATE PROGRAMS.—
State expenditures for foster care prevention services and activities under any State program that is not described in clause (i) (other than any State expenditures for foster care prevention services and activities under the State program under this part (including under a waiver of the program)).

“(C) STATE EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘State expenditures’ means all State or local funds that are expended by the State or a local agency including State or local funds that are matched or reimbursed by the Federal Government and State or local funds that are not matched or reimbursed by the Federal Government.

“(D) DETERMINATION OF PREVENTION SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall require each State that elects to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1) to report the expenditures specified in subparagraph (B) for fiscal year 2014 and for such fiscal years thereafter as are necessary to determine whether the State is complying with the
maintenance of effort requirement in subpara-
graph (A). The Secretary shall specify the spe-
cific services and activities under each program
referred to in subparagraph (B) that are ‘pre-
vention services and activities’ for purposes of
the reports.

“(8) Prohibition against use of state foster
care prevention expenditures and federal IV–E prevention funds for matching or
expenditure requirement.—A State that elects
to provide services and programs specified in para-
graph (1) shall not use any State foster care preven-
tion expenditures for a fiscal year for the State
share of expenditures under section 474(a)(6) for a
fiscal year.

“(9) Administrative costs.—Expenditures
described in section 474(a)(6)(B)—

“(A) shall not be eligible for payment
under subparagraph (A), (B), or (E) of section
474(a)(3); and

“(B) shall be eligible for payment under
section 474(a)(6)(B) without regard to whether
the expenditures are incurred on behalf of a
child who is, or is potentially, eligible for foster
care maintenance payments under this part.
“(10) APPLICATION.—The provision of services or programs under this subsection to or on behalf of a child described in paragraph (2) shall not be considered to be receipt of aid or assistance under the State plan under this part for purposes of eligibility for any other program established under this Act.”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(13) The term ‘child who is a candidate for foster care’ means, a child who is identified in a prevention plan under section 471(e)(4)(A) as being at imminent risk of entering foster care (without regard to whether the child would be eligible for foster care maintenance payments under section 472 or is or would be eligible for adoption assistance or kinship guardianship assistance payments under section 473) but who can remain safely in the child’s home or in a kinship placement as long as services or programs specified in section 471(e)(1) that are necessary to prevent the entry of the child into foster care are provided. The term includes a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement.”.
(c) PAYMENTS UNDER TITLE IV–E.—Section 474(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘; plus’’; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) subject to section 471(c)—

“(A) for each quarter—

“(i) subject to clause (ii)—

“(I) beginning after September 30, 2019, and before October 1, 2025, an amount equal to 50 percent of the total amount expended during the quarter for the provision of services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 471(e)(1) that are provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices that meet the applicable criteria specified for the practices in section 471(e)(4)(C); and

“(II) beginning after September 30, 2025, an amount equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage (which shall be as defined in section 1905(b), in the case of a State other
than the District of Columbia, or 70 percent, in the case of the District of Columbia) of the total amount expended during the quarter for the provision of services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 471(e)(1) that are provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices that meet the applicable criteria specified for the practices in section 471(e)(4)(C) (or, with respect to the payments made during the quarter under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into by the State and an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium for the administration or payment of funds under this part, an amount equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage that would apply under section 479B(d) (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘tribal FMAP’) if the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium made the payments under a program oper-
ated under that section, unless the
tribal FMAP is less than the Federal
medical assistance percentage that ap-
plies to the State); except that
“(ii) not less than 50 percent of the
total amount payable to a State under
clause (i) for a fiscal year shall be for the
provision of services or programs specified
in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section
471(e)(1) that are provided in accordance
with well-supported practices; plus
“(B) for each quarter specified in subpara-
graph (A), an amount equal to the sum of the
following proportions of the total amount ex-
pended during the quarter:
“(i) 50 percent of so much of the ex-
penditures as are found necessary by the
Secretary for the proper and efficient ad-
ministration of the State plan for the pro-
vision of services or programs specified in
section 471(e)(1), including expenditures
for activities approved by the Secretary
that promote the development of necessary
processes and procedures to establish and
implement the provision of the services and
programs for individuals who are eligible
for the services and programs and expendi-
tures attributable to data collection and re-
porting; and

“(ii) 50 percent of so much of the ex-
penditures with respect to the provision of
services and programs specified in section
471(e)(1) as are for training of personnel
employed or preparing for employment by
the State agency or by the local agency ad-
ministering the plan in the political sub-
division and of the members of the staff of
State-licensed or State-approved child wel-
fare agencies providing services to children
described in section 471(e)(2) and their
parents or kin caregivers, including on how
to determine who are individuals eligible
for the services or programs, how to iden-
tify and provide appropriate services and
programs, and how to oversee and evaluate
the ongoing appropriateness of the services
and programs.”.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES,
CLEARINGHOUSE, AND DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUA-
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1 TIONS.—Section 476 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 676) is
2 amended by adding at the end the following:
3 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES,
4 CLEARINGHOUSE, DATA COLLECTION, AND EVALUATIONS
5 RELATING TO PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—
6 “(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall provide to States and,
7 as applicable, to Indian tribes, tribal organizations,
8 and tribal consortia, technical assistance regarding
9 the provision of services and programs described in
10 section 471(e)(1) and shall disseminate best prac-
11 tices with respect to the provision of the services and
12 programs, including how to plan and implement a
13 well-designed and rigorous evaluation of a prom-
14 ising, supported, or well-supported practice.
15 ”(2) CLEARINGHOUSE OF PROMISING, SUPPORTED, AND WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICES.—The
16 Secretary shall, directly or through grants, con-
17 tracts, or interagency agreements, evaluate research
18 on the practices specified in clauses (iii), (iv), and
19 (v), respectively, of section 471(e)(4)(C), and pro-
20 grams that meet the requirements described in sec-
21 tion 427(a)(1), including culturally specific, or
22 location- or population-based adaptations of the
23 practices, to identify and establish a public clearing-
house of the practices that satisfy each category de-
scribed by such clauses. In addition, the clearing-
house shall include information on the specific out-
comes associated with each practice, including
whether the practice has been shown to prevent child
abuse and neglect and reduce the likelihood of foster
care placement by supporting birth families and kin-
ship families and improving targeted supports for
pregnant and parenting youth and their children.

“(3) DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATIONS.—
The Secretary, directly or through grants, contracts,
or interagency agreements, may collect data and
conduct evaluations with respect to the provision of
services and programs described in section 471(e)(1)
for purposes of assessing the extent to which the
provision of the services and programs—

“(A) reduces the likelihood of foster care
placement;

“(B) increases use of kinship care arrange-
ments; or

“(C) improves child well-being.

“(4) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
submit to the Committee on Finance of the
Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means
of the House of Representatives periodic reports based on the provision of services and programs described in section 471(e)(1) and the activities carried out under this subsection.

“(B) Public availability.—The Secretary shall make the reports to Congress submitted under this paragraph publicly available.

“(5) Appropriation.—Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Secretary $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this subsection.”.

(e) Application to Programs Operated by Indian Tribal Organizations.—

(1) In general.—Section 479B of such Act (42 U.S.C. 679c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (e)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:
“(IV) at the option of the tribe, organization, or consortium, services and programs specified in section 471(e)(1) to children described in section 471(e)(2) and their parents or kin caregivers, in accordance with section 471(e) and subparagraph (E).”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS AND KIN CAREGIVERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a tribe, organization, or consortium that elects to provide services and programs specified in section 471(e)(1) to children described in section 471(e)(2) and their parents or kin caregivers under the plan, the Secretary shall specify the requirements applicable to the provision of the services and programs. The requirements shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be consistent with the requirements applicable to States under section 471(e) and shall
permit the provision of the services and
programs in the form of services and pro-
grams that are adapted to the culture and
context of the tribal communities served.

“(ii) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The
Secretary shall establish specific perform-
ance measures for each tribe, organization,
or consortium that elects to provide serv-
ices and programs specified in section
471(e)(1). The performance measures
shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be
consistent with the prevention services
measures required for States under section
471(e)(6) but shall allow for consideration
of factors unique to the provision of the
services by tribes, organizations, or con-
sortia.”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “and
(5)” and inserting “(5), and (6)(A)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading
for subsection (d) of section 479B of such Act (42
U.S.C. 679c) is amended by striking “FOR FOSTER
CARE MAINTENANCE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
PAYMENTS”. 
SEC. 112. FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS FOR
CHILDREN WITH PARENTS IN A LICENSED
RESIDENTIAL FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT
FACILITY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 472 of the Social Security
Act (42 U.S.C. 672) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by striking “or”
and inserting “, with a parent residing in a licensed
residential family-based treatment facility, but only
to the extent permitted under subsection (j), or in
a”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) CHILDREN PLACED WITH A PARENT RESIDING
IN A LICENSED RESIDENTIAL FAMILY-BASED TREAT-
MENT FACILITY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the pre-
ceding provisions of this section, a child who is eligi-
ble for foster care maintenance payments under this
section, or who would be eligible for the payments if
the eligibility were determined without regard to
paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a), shall be
eligible for the payments for a period of not more
than 12 months during which the child is placed
with a parent who is in a licensed residential family-
based treatment facility for substance abuse, but
only if—
“(A) the recommendation for the placement is specified in the child’s case plan before the placement;

“(B) the treatment facility provides, as part of the treatment for substance abuse, parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling; and

“(C) the substance abuse treatment, parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling is provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address the consequences of trauma and facilitate healing.

“(2) APPLICATION.—With respect to children for whom foster care maintenance payments are made under paragraph (1), only the children who satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a) shall be considered to be children with respect to whom foster care maintenance payments are made under this section for purposes of subsection (h) or section 473(b)(3)(B).”.
(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 474(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “subject to section 472(j),” before “an amount equal to the Federal” the first place it appears.

SEC. 113. TITLE IV-E PAYMENTS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS.

Section 474(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)), as amended by section 111(c), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; plus”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) an amount equal to 50 percent of the amounts expended by the State during the quarter as the Secretary determines are for kinship navigator programs that meet the requirements described in section 427(a)(1) and that the Secretary determines are operated in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices that meet the applicable criteria specified for the practices in section 471(e)(4)(C), without regard to whether the expenditures are incurred on behalf of children who are, or are potentially, eligible for foster care maintenance payments under this part.”.
Subtitle B—Enhanced Support
Under Title IV–B

SEC. 121. ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMIT FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES WHILE IN FOSTER CARE
AND PERMITTING TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES WHEN A CHILD RETURNS HOME FROM FOSTER CARE.

(a) In General.—Section 431(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(7)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “TIME-LIMITED FAMILY” and inserting “FAMILY”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “time-limited family” and inserting “family”; and

(B) by inserting “or a child who has been returned home” after “child care institution”; and

(C) by striking “, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child, pursuant to section 475(5)(F), is considered to have entered foster care” and inserting “and to ensure the strength and stability of the reunification. In the case of a child who has been returned home, the services and activities
shall only be provided during the 15-month pe-
period that begins on the date that the child re-
turns home”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 430 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629) is
amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
striking “time-limited”.

(2) Subsections (a)(4), (a)(5)(A), and (b)(1) of
section 432 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b) are
amended by striking “time-limited” each place it ap-
ppears.

SEC. 122. REDUCING BUREAUCRACY AND UNNECESSARY

DELAYS WHEN PLACING CHILDREN IN

HOMES ACROSS STATE LINES.

(a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section

471(a)(25) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
671(a)(25)) is amended—

(1) by striking “provide” and insert “provides”;

and

(2) by inserting “, which, not later than Octo-
ber 1, 2026, shall include the use of an electronic
interstate case-processing system” before the first
semicolon.

(b) GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELEC-

TRONIC INTERSTATE CASE-PROCESSING SYSTEM TO EX-
pedite the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care or Guardianship, or for Adoption.—

Section 437 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE CASE-PROCESSING SYSTEM TO EXPEDITE THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE OR GUARDIANSHIP, OR FOR ADOPTION.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to facilitate the development of an electronic interstate case-processing system for the exchange of data and documents to expedite the placements of children in foster, guardianship, or adoptive homes across State lines.

“(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A State that desires a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application containing the following:

“(A) A description of the goals and outcomes to be achieved during the period for which grant funds are sought, which goals and outcomes must result in—

“(i) reducing the time it takes for a child to be provided with a safe and appro-
priate permanent living arrangement across State lines;

“(ii) improving administrative processes and reducing costs in the foster care system; and

“(iii) the secure exchange of relevant case files and other necessary materials in real time, and timely communications and placement decisions regarding interstate placements of children.

“(B) A description of the activities to be funded in whole or in part with the grant funds, including the sequencing of the activities.

“(C) A description of the strategies for integrating programs and services for children who are placed across State lines.

“(D) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

“(3) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make a grant to a State that complies with paragraph (2).

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State to which a grant is made under this subsection shall use the grant to support the State in connecting with the electronic
interstate case-processing system described in para-
graph (1).

“(5) EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 1 year
after the final year in which grants are awarded
under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to
the Congress, and make available to the general
public by posting on a website, a report that con-
tains the following information:

“(A) How using the electronic interstate
case-processing system developed pursuant to
paragraph (4) has changed the time it takes for
children to be placed across State lines.

“(B) The number of cases subject to the
Interstate Compact on the Placement of Chil-
dren that were processed through the electronic
interstate case-processing system, and the num-
ber of interstate child placement cases that
were processed outside the electronic interstate
case-processing system, by each State in each
year.

“(C) The progress made by States in im-
plementing the electronic interstate case-proc-
essing system.

“(D) How using the electronic interstate
case-processing system has affected various
metrics related to child safety and well-being, including the time it takes for children to be placed across State lines.

“(E) How using the electronic interstate case-processing system has affected administrative costs and caseworker time spent on placing children across State lines.

“(6) DATA INTEGRATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and the States, shall assess how the electronic interstate case-processing system developed pursuant to paragraph (4) could be used to better serve and protect children that come to the attention of the child welfare system, by—

“(A) connecting the system with other data systems (such as systems operated by State law enforcement and judicial agencies, systems operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purposes of the Innocence Lost National Initiative, and other systems);

“(B) simplifying and improving reporting related to paragraphs (34) and (35) of section 471(a) regarding children or youth who have
been identified as being a sex trafficking victim
or children missing from foster care; and

“(C) improving the ability of States to
quickly comply with background check require-
ments of section 471(a)(20), including checks of
child abuse and neglect registries as required by
section 471(a)(20)(B).”.

(c) Reservation of Funds To Improve the
Interstate Placement of Children.—Section 437(b)
of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(b)) is amended by adding
at the end the following:

“(4) Improving the Interstate Placement
of Children.—The Secretary shall reserve
$5,000,000 of the amount made available for fiscal
year 2017 for grants under subsection (g), and the
amount so reserved shall remain available through
fiscal year 2021.”.

SEC. 123. ENHANCEMENTS TO GRANTS TO IMPROVE WELL-
BEING OF FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SUB-
STANCE ABUSE.

Section 437(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
629g(f)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “In-
crease the Well-Being of, and To Improve
the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Af-
FECTED BY’’ and inserting ‘‘IMPLEMENT IV–E PRE-
VENTION SERVICES, AND IMPROVE THE WELL-
BEING OF, AND IMPROVE PERMANENCY OUTCOMES
FOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HER-
OIN, OPIOIDS, AND OTHER’’;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
following:

‘‘(2) REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEFINED.—In
this subsection, the term ‘regional partnership’
means a collaborative agreement (which may be es-
tablished on an interstate, State, or intrastate basis)
entered into by the following:

‘‘(A) MANDATORY PARTNERS FOR ALL
PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—

‘‘(i) The State child welfare agency
that is responsible for the administration
of the State plan under this part and part
E.

‘‘(ii) The State agency responsible for
administering the substance abuse preven-
tion and treatment block grant provided
under subpart II of part B of title XIX of
the Public Health Service Act.

‘‘(B) MANDATORY PARTNERS FOR PART-
NERSHIP GRANTS PROPOSING TO SERVE CHIL-
DREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS.—If the partnership proposes to serve children in out-of-home placements, the Juvenile Court or Administrative Office of the Court that is most appropriate to oversee the administration of court programs in the region to address the population of families who come to the attention of the court due to child abuse or neglect.

“(C) OPTIONAL PARTNERS.—At the option of the partnership, any of the following:

“(i) An Indian tribe or tribal consortium.

“(ii) Nonprofit child welfare service providers.

“(iii) For-profit child welfare service providers.

“(iv) Community health service providers, including substance abuse treatment providers.

“(v) Community mental health providers.

“(vi) Local law enforcement agencies.

“(vii) School personnel.

“(viii) Tribal child welfare agencies (or a consortia of the agencies).
“(ix) Any other providers, agencies, personnel, officials, or entities that are related to the provision of child and family services under a State plan approved under this subpart.

“(D) EXCEPTION FOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WHERE THE LEAD APPLICANT IS AN INDIAN TRIBE OR TRIBAL CONSORTIA.—If an Indian tribe or tribal consortium enters into a regional partnership for purposes of this subsection, the Indian tribe or tribal consortium—

“(i) may (but is not required to) include the State child welfare agency as a partner in the collaborative agreement;

“(ii) may not enter into a collaborative agreement only with tribal child welfare agencies (or a consortium of the agencies); and

“(iii) if the condition described in paragraph (2)(B) applies, may include tribal court organizations in lieu of other judicial partners.”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—
(i) by striking "2012 through 2016"
and inserting "2017 through 2021"; and

(ii) by striking "$500,000 and not
more than $1,000,000" and inserting
"$250,000 and not more than
$1,000,000";

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by
inserting "; PLANNING" after "APPROVAL";

(ii) in clause (i), by striking "clause
(ii)" and inserting "clauses (ii) and (iii)";

and

(iii) by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:

"(iii) SUFFICIENT PLANNING.—A
grant awarded under this subsection shall
be disbursed in two phases: a planning
phase (not to exceed 2 years); and an im-
plementation phase. The total disburse-
ment to a grantee for the planning phase
may not exceed $250,000, and may not ex-
ceed the total anticipated funding for the
implementation phase."; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:
“(D) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT FOR A FISCAL YEAR.—No payment shall be made under subparagraph (A) or (C) for a fiscal year until the Secretary determines that the eligible partnership has made sufficient progress in meeting the goals of the grant and that the members of the eligible partnership are coordinating to a reasonable degree with the other members of the eligible partnership.”;

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting “, parents, and families” after “children”;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “safety and permanence for such children; and” and inserting “safe, permanent caregiving relationships for the children;”;

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking “or” and inserting “increase reunification rates for children who have been placed in out of home care, or decrease”; and

(iv) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (v) and inserting after clause (ii) the following:
“(iii) improve the substance abuse treatment outcomes for parents including retention in treatment and successful completion of treatment;

“(iv) facilitate the implementation, delivery, and effectiveness of prevention services and programs under section 471(e); and”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “where appropriate,”; and

(C) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (F) and inserting the following:

“(E) A description of a plan for sustaining the services provided by or activities funded under the grant after the conclusion of the grant period, including through the use of prevention services and programs under section 471(e) and other funds provided to the State for child welfare and substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

“(F) Additional information needed by the Secretary to determine that the proposed activities and implementation will be consistent with research or evaluations showing which practices and approaches are most effective.”;
(5) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “abuse
treatment” and inserting “use disorder treatment in-
cluding medication assisted treatment and in-home
substance abuse disorder treatment and recovery”;

(6) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
paragraph (C); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
subparagraph (E) and inserting after subpara-
agraph (C) the following:

“(D) demonstrate a track record of suc-
cessful collaboration among child welfare, sub-
stance abuse disorder treatment and mental
health agencies; and”;

(7) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “establish indicators
that will be” and inserting “review indica-
tors that are”; and

(ii) by striking “in using funds made
available under such grants to achieve the
purpose of this subsection” and inserting
“and establish a set of core indicators re-
lated to child safety, parental recovery,
parenting capacity, and family well-being.
In developing the core indicators, to the extent possible, indicators shall be made consistent with the outcome measures described in section 471(e)(6)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “base the performance measures on lessons learned from prior rounds of regional partnership grants under this subsection, and” before “consult”; and

(ii) by striking clauses (iii) and (iv) and inserting the following:

“(iii) Other stakeholders or constituencies as determined by the Secretary.”;

(8) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than September 30 of each fiscal year in which a recipient of a grant under this subsection is paid funds under the grant, and every 6 months thereafter, the grant recipient shall submit to the Secretary a report on the services provided and activities carried out during the reporting period, progress made in achieving the goals
of the program, the number of children, adults, and families receiving services, and such additional information as the Secretary determines is necessary. The report due not later than September 30 of the last such fiscal year shall include, at a minimum, data on each of the performance indicators included in the evaluation of the regional partnership.”; and

(9) in paragraph (10), by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 131. REVIEWING AND IMPROVING LICENSING STANDARDS FOR PLACEMENT IN A RELATIVE FOSTER FAMILY HOME.

(a) Identification of Reputable Model Licensing Standards.—Not later than October 1, 2017, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall identify reputable model licensing standards with respect to the licensing of foster family homes (as defined in section 472(c)(1) of the Social Security Act).

(b) State Plan Requirement.—Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (34)(B), by striking “and” after the semicolon;
(2) in paragraph (35)(B), by striking the period
at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(36) provides that, not later than April 1, 2018, the State shall submit to the Secretary infor-
mation addressing—
“(A) whether the State licensing standards
are in accord with model standards identified
by the Secretary, and if not, the reason for the
specific deviation and a description as to why
having a standard that is reasonably in accord
with the corresponding national model stand-
ards is not appropriate for the State;
“(B) whether the State has elected to
waive standards established in 471(a)(10)(A)
for relative foster family homes (pursuant to
waiver authority provided by 471(a)(10)(D)), a
description of which standards the State most
commonly waives, and if the State has not
elected to waive the standards, the reason for
not waiving these standards;
“(C) if the State has elected to waive
standards specified in subparagraph (B), how
caseworkers are trained to use the waiver au-
thority and whether the State has developed a
process or provided tools to assist caseworkers in waiving nonsafety standards per the authority provided in 471(a)(10)(D) to quickly place children with relatives; and

“(D) a description of the steps the State is taking to improve caseworker training or the process, if any; and”.

SEC. 132. DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE PLAN TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES.

Section 422(b)(19) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(19)) is amended to read as follows:

“(19) document steps taken to track and prevent child maltreatment deaths by including—

“(A) a description of the steps the State is taking to compile complete and accurate information on the deaths required by Federal law to be reported by the State agency referred to in paragraph (1), including gathering relevant information on the deaths from the relevant organizations in the State including entities such as State vital statistics department, child death review teams, law enforcement agencies, offices of medical examiners or coroners; and
“(B) a description of the steps the State is taking to develop and implement of a comprehensive, statewide plan to prevent the fatalities that involves and engages relevant public and private agency partners, including those in public health, law enforcement, and the courts.”.

SEC. 133. MODERNIZING THE TITLE AND PURPOSE OF TITLE IV–E.

(a) PART HEADING.—The heading for part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART E—FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE, PREVENTION, AND PERMANENCY”.

(b) PURPOSE.—The first sentence of section 470 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 670) is amended—

(1) by striking “1995) and” and inserting “1995),”;

(2) by inserting “kinship guardianship assistance, and prevention services or programs specified in section 471(e)(1),” after “needs,”; and

(3) by striking “(commencing with the fiscal year which begins October 1, 1980)”.

SEC. 134. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) Effective Dates.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), subject to subsection (b), the amendments made by this title shall take effect on October 1, 2017.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The amendments made by sections 131 and 133 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) TRANSITION RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State plan under part B or E of title IV of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this title, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session
shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of
the State legislature.

(2) Application to programs operated by
Indian tribal organizations.—In the case of an
Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium
which the Secretary of Health and Human Services
determines requires time to take action necessary to
comply with the additional requirements imposed by
the amendments made by this title (whether the
tribe, organization, or tribal consortium has a plan
under section 479B of the Social Security Act or a
cooperative agreement or contract entered into with
a State), the Secretary shall provide the tribe, orga-
nization, or tribal consortium with such additional
time as the Secretary determines is necessary for the
tribe, organization, or tribal consortium to take the
action to comply with the additional requirements
before being regarded as failing to comply with the
requirements.
TITLE II—ENSURING THE NECESSITY OF A PLACEMENT THAT IS NOT IN A FOSTER FAMILY HOME

SEC. 201. LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION FOR PLACEMENTS THAT ARE NOT IN FOSTER FAMILY HOMES.

(a) Limitation on Federal Financial Participation.—

(1) In general.—Section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672), as amended by section 112, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by inserting ‘‘, but only to the extent permitted under subsection (k)’’ after ‘‘institution’’; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(k) Limitation on Federal Financial Participation.—

“(1) In general.—Beginning with the third week for which foster care maintenance payments are made under this section on behalf of a child placed in a child-care institution, no Federal payment shall be made to the State under section 474(a)(1) for amounts expended for foster care
maintenance payments on behalf of the child unless—

“(A) the child is placed in a child-care institution that is a setting specified in paragraph (2) (or is placed in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility consistent with subsection (j)); and

“(B) in the case of a child placed in a qualified residential treatment program (as defined in paragraph (4)), the requirements specified in paragraph (3) and section 475A(c) are met.

“(2) SPECIFIED SETTINGS FOR PLACEMENT.—The settings for placement specified in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) A qualified residential treatment program (as defined in paragraph (4)).

“(B) A setting specializing in providing prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth.

“(C) In the case of a child who has attained 18 years of age, a supervised setting in which the child is living independently.
“(3) Assessment to determine appropriateness of placement in a qualified residential treatment program.—

“(A) Deadline for assessment.—In the case of a child who is placed in a qualified residential treatment program, if the assessment required under section 475A(c)(1) is not completed within 30 days after the placement is made, no Federal payment shall be made to the State under section 474(a)(1) for any amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of the child during the placement.

“(B) Deadline for transition out of placement.—If the assessment required under section 475A(c)(1) determines that the placement of a child in a qualified residential treatment program is not appropriate, a court disapproves such a placement under section 475A(c)(2), or a child who has been in an approved placement in a qualified residential treatment program is going to return home or be placed with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, or in a foster family home, Federal payments shall be made to the State under section 474(a)(1) for
amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of the child while the child remains in the qualified residential treatment program only during the period necessary for the child to transition home or to such a placement. In no event shall a State receive Federal payments under section 474(a)(1) for amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of a child who remains placed in a qualified residential treatment program after the end of the 30-day period that begins on the date a determination is made that the placement is no longer the recommended or approved placement for the child.

“(4) QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.—For purposes of this part, the term ‘qualified residential treatment program’ means a program that—

“(A) has a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed to address the needs, including clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances and, with respect to a child, is able to implement the treatment identi-
fied for the child by the assessment of the child required under section 475A(e);

“(B) has registered or licensed nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff who—

“(i) provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by State law;

“(ii) are on-site during business hours; and

“(iii) are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;

“(C) to the extent appropriate, and in accordance with the child’s best interests, facilitates participation of family members in the child’s treatment program;

“(D) facilitates outreach to the family members of the child, including siblings, documents how the outreach is made (including contact information), and maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child;

“(E) documents how family members are integrated into the treatment process for the child, including post-discharge, and how sibling connections are maintained;
“(F) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least 6 months post-discharge; and

“(G) is licensed in accordance with section 471(a)(10) and is accredited by any of the following independent, not-for-profit organizations:

“(i) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

“(ii) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

“(iii) The Council on Accreditation (COA).

“(iv) Any other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization approved by the Secretary.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 474(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(1)), as amended by section 112(b), is amended by striking “section 472(j)” and inserting “subsections (j) and (k) of section 472”.

(b) DEFINITION OF FOSTER FAMILY HOME, CHILD-CARE INSTITUTION.—Section 472(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 672(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part:
“(1) FOSTER FAMILY HOME.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘foster family home’ means the home of an individual or family—

“(i) that is licensed or approved by the State in which it is situated as a foster family home that meets the standards established for the licensing or approval; and

“(ii) in which a child in foster care has been placed in the care of an individual, who resides with the child and who has been licensed or approved by the State to be a foster parent—

“(I) that the State deems capable of adhering to the reasonable and prudent parent standard;

“(II) that provides 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or other caretakers; and

“(III) that provides the care for not more than six children in foster care.

“(B) STATE FLEXIBILITY.—The number of foster children that may be cared for in a home
under subparagraph (A) may exceed the numerical limitation in subparagraph (A)(ii)(III), at the option of the State, for any of the following reasons:

“(i) To allow a parenting youth in foster care to remain with the child of the parenting youth.

“(ii) To allow siblings to remain together.

“(iii) To allow a child with an established meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family.

“(iv) To allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as prohibiting a foster parent from renting the home in which the parent cares for a foster child placed in the parent’s care.

“(2) CHILD-CARE INSTITUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘child-care institution’ means a private child-care institution, or a public child-care institution which accommodates no more than 25 children, which is
licensed by the State in which it is situated or has been approved by the agency of the State responsible for licensing or approval of institutions of this type as meeting the standards established for the licensing.

“(B) SUPERVISED SETTINGS.—In the case of a child who has attained 18 years of age, the term shall include a supervised setting in which the individual is living independently, in accordance with such conditions as the Secretary shall establish in regulations.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term shall not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent.”.

(c) TRAINING FOR STATE JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, AND OTHER LEGAL PERSONNEL IN CHILD WELFARE CASES.—Section 438(b)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(b)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “shall provide for the training of judges, attorneys, and other legal personnel in child welfare cases on Federal child welfare policies and payment limitations with respect to children in foster care who are
placed in settings that are not a foster family home,” after “with respect to the child.”

(d) ASSURANCE OF NONIMPACT ON JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.—

(1) State plan requirement.—Section 471(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)), as amended by section 131, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(37) includes a certification that, in response to the limitation imposed under section 472(k) with respect to foster care maintenance payments made on behalf of any child who is placed in a setting that is not a foster family home, the State will not enact or advance policies or practices that would result in a significant increase in the population of youth in the State’s juvenile justice system.”.

(2) GAO study and report.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate the impact, if any, on State juvenile justice systems of the limitation imposed under section 472(k) of the Social Security Act (as added by section 201(a)(1)) on foster care maintenance payments made on behalf of any child who is placed in a setting that is not a foster family home, in accordance with the amendments made by subsections (a) and...
(b) of this section. In particular, the Comptroller General shall evaluate the extent to which children in foster care who also are subject to the juvenile justice system of the State are placed in a facility under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system and whether the lack of available congregate care placements under the jurisdiction of the child welfare systems is a contributing factor to that result. Not later than December 31, 2023, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the evaluation.

SEC. 202. ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE NEED FOR PLACEMENT IN A QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.

Section 475A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ASSESSMENT, DOCUMENTATION, AND JUDICIAL DETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT IN A QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.—In the case of any child who is placed in a qualified residential treatment program (as defined in section 472(k)(4)), the following requirements shall apply for purposes of approving the case plan for the child and the case system review procedure for the child:
“(1)(A) Within 30 days of the start of each placement in such a setting, a qualified individual (as defined in subparagraph (D)) shall—

“(i) assess the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool approved by the Secretary;

“(ii) determine whether the needs of the child can be met with family members or through placement in a foster family home or, if not, which setting from among the settings specified in section 472(k)(2) would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child; and

“(iii) develop a list of child-specific short- and long-term mental and behavioral health goals.

“(B)(i) The State shall assemble a family and permanency team for the child in accordance with the requirements of clauses (ii) and (iii). The qualified individual conducting the assessment required under subparagraph (A) shall work in conjunction
with the family of, and permanency team for, the child while conducting and making the assessment.

“(ii) The family and permanency team shall consist of all appropriate biological family members, relative, and fictive kin of the child, as well as, as appropriate, professionals who are a resource to the family of the child, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers who have treated the child, or clergy. In the case of a child who has attained age 14, the family and permanency team shall include the members of the permanency planning team for the child that are selected by the child in accordance with section 475(5)(C)(iv).

“(iii) The State shall document in the child’s case plan—

“(I) the reasonable and good faith effort of the State to identify and include all such individuals on the family of, and permanency team for, the child;

“(II) all contact information for members of the family and permanency team, as well as contact information for other family members and fictive kin who are not part of the family and permanency team;
“(III) evidence that meetings of the family and permanency team, including meetings relating to the assessment required under subparagraph (A), are held at a time and place convenient for family;

“(IV) if reunification is the goal, evidence demonstrating that the parent from whom the child was removed provided input on the members of the family and permanency team;

“(V) evidence that the assessment required under subparagraph (A) is determined in conjunction with the family and permanency team; and

“(VI) the placement preferences of the family and permanency team relative to the assessment and, if the placement preferences of the family and permanency team and child are not the placement setting recommended by the qualified individual conducting the assessment under subparagraph (A), the reasons why the preferences of the team and of the child were not recommended.

“(C) In the case of a child who the qualified individual conducting the assessment under subparagraph (A) determines should not be placed in a fos-
ter family home, the qualified individual shall specify
in writing the reasons why the needs of the child
cannot be met by the family of the child or in a fos-
ter family home. A shortage or lack of foster family
homes shall not be an acceptable reason for deter-
mining that a needs of the child cannot be met in
a foster family home. The qualified individual also
shall specify in writing why the recommended place-
ment in a qualified residential treatment program is
the setting that will provide the child with the most
effective and appropriate level of care in the least re-
strictive environment and how that placement is con-
sistent with the short- and long-term goals for the
child, as specified in the permanency plan for the
child.

“(D)(i) Subject to clause (ii), in this subsection,
the term ‘qualified individual’ means a trained pro-
fessional or licensed clinician who is not an employee
of the State agency and who is not connected to, or
affiliated with, any placement setting in which chil-
dren are placed by the State.

“(ii) The Secretary may approve a request of a
State to waive any requirement in clause (i) upon a
submission by the State, in accordance with criteria
established by the Secretary, that certifies that the
trained professionals or licensed clinicians with responsibility for performing the assessments described in subparagraph (A) shall maintain objectivity with respect to determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child.

“(2) Within 60 days of the start of each placement in a qualified residential treatment program, a family or juvenile court or another court (including a tribal court) of competent jurisdiction, or an administrative body appointed or approved by the court, independently, shall—

“(A) consider the assessment, determination, and documentation made by the qualified individual conducting the assessment under paragraph (1);

“(B) determine whether the needs of the child can be met through placement in a foster family home or, if not, whether placement of the child in a qualified residential treatment program provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment and whether that placement is consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child; and
“(C) approve or disapprove the placement.

“(3) The written documentation made under paragraph (1)(C) and documentation of the determination and approval or disapproval of the placement in a qualified residential treatment program by a court or administrative body under paragraph (2) shall be included in and made part of the case plan for the child.

“(4) As long as a child remains placed in a qualified residential treatment program, the State agency shall submit evidence at each status review and each permanency hearing held with respect to the child—

“(A) demonstrating that ongoing assessment of the strengths and needs of the child continues to support the determination that the needs of the child cannot be met through placement in a foster family home, that the placement in a qualified residential treatment program provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment, and that the placement is consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child;
“(B) documenting the specific treatment or service needs that will be met for the child in the placement and the length of time the child is expected to need the treatment or services; and

“(C) documenting the efforts made by the State agency to prepare the child to return home or to be placed with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, or in a foster family home.

“(5) In the case of any child who is placed in a qualified residential treatment program for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months (or, in the case of a child who has not attained age 13, for more than 6 consecutive or nonconsecutive months), the State agency shall submit to the Secretary—

“(A) the most recent versions of the evidence and documentation specified in paragraph (4); and

“(B) the signed approval of the head of the State agency for the continued placement of the child in that setting.”.
SEC. 203. PROTOCOLS TO PREVENT INAPPROPRIATE DIAGNOSES.

(a) State Plan Requirement.—Section 422(b)(15)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (vi), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii); and

(3) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

“(vii) the procedures and protocols the State has established to ensure that children in foster care placements are not inappropriately diagnosed with mental illness, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities, and placed in settings that are not foster family homes as a result of the inappropriate diagnoses; and”.

(b) Evaluation.—Section 476 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 676), as amended by section 111(d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Evaluation of State Procedures and Protocols to Prevent Inappropriate Diagnoses of Mental Illness or Other Conditions.—The Sec-
retary shall conduct an evaluation of the procedures and
protocols established by States in accordance with the re-
quirements of section 422(b)(15)(A)(vii). The evaluation
shall analyze the extent to which States comply with and
enforce the procedures and protocols and the effectiveness
of various State procedures and protocols and shall iden-
tify best practices. Not later than January 1, 2019, the
Secretary shall submit a report on the results of the eval-
uation to Congress.”.

SEC. 204. ADDITIONAL DATA AND REPORTS REGARDING
CHILDREN PLACED IN A SETTING THAT IS
NOT A FOSTER FAMILY HOME.

Section 479A(a)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
U.S.C. 679b(a)(7)(A)) is amended by striking clauses (i)
through (vi) and inserting the following:

“(i) with respect to each such place-
ment—

“(I) the type of the placement
setting, including whether the place-
ment is shelter care, a group home
and if so, the range of the child popu-
lation in the home, a residential treat-
ment facility, a hospital or institution
providing medical, rehabilitative, or
psychiatric care, a setting specializing
in providing prenatal, post-partum or parenting supports, or some other kind of child-care institution and if so, what kind;

“(II) the number of children in the placement setting and the age, race, ethnicity, and gender of each of the children;

“(III) for each child in the placement setting, the length of the placement of the child in the setting, whether the placement of the child in the setting is the first placement of the child and if not, the number and type of previous placements of the child, and whether the child has special needs or another diagnosed mental or physical illness or condition; and

“(IV) the extent of any specialized education, treatment, counseling, or other services provided in the setting; and

“(ii) separately, the number and ages of children in the placements who have a
permanency plan of another planned permanent living arrangement; and”.

SEC. 205. EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICATION TO WAIVERS.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and subsections (b) and (c), the amendments made by this title shall take effect on October 1, 2017.

(2) TRANSITION RULE.—In the case of a State plan under part B or E of title IV of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this title, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet the additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.
(b) Limitation on Federal Financial Participation for Placements That Are Not in Foster Family Homes and Related Provisions.—The amendments made by sections 201(a), 201(b), 201(d), and 202 shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

(c) Application to States With Waivers.—In the case of a State that, on the date of enactment of this Act, has in effect a waiver approved under section 1130 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–9), the amendments made by this title shall not apply with respect to the State before the expiration (determined without regard to any extensions) of the waiver to the extent the amendments are inconsistent with the terms of the waiver.

TITLE III—CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

SEC. 301. SUPPORTING AND RETAINING FOSTER FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN.

(a) Supporting and Retaining Foster Parents as a Family Support Service.—Section 431(a)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 631(a)(2)(B)) is amended by redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (iv) through (vii), respectively, and inserting after clause (ii) the following:
“(iii) To support and retain foster families so they can provide quality family-based settings for children in foster care.”.

(b) SUPPORT FOR FOSTER FAMILY HOMES.—Section 436 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) SUPPORT FOR FOSTER FAMILY HOMES.—Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2018, $8,000,000 for the Secretary to make competitive grants to States, Indian tribes, or tribal consortia to support the recruitment and retention of high-quality foster families to increase their capacity to place more children in family settings, focused on States, Indian tribes, or tribal consortia with the highest percentage of children in non-family settings. The amount appropriated under this subparagraph shall remain available through fiscal year 2022.”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM.—Section 425 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 625) is amended by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.

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(b) Extension of Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program Authorizations.—

(1) In general.—Section 436(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(a)) is amended by striking all that follows “$345,000,000” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.”.

(2) Discretionary grants.—Section 437(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(a)) is amended by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.

c) Extension of Funding Reservations for Monthly Caseworker Visits and Regional Partnership Grants.—Section 436(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”;

and

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.

d) Reauthorization of Funding for State Courts.—

(1) Extension of program.—Section 438(e)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(e)(1)) is amended by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.
(2) Extension of Federal Share.—Section 438(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(d)) is amended by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.

(e) Repeal of Expired Provisions.—Section 438(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(e)) is repealed.

SEC. 303. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM AND RELATED PROVISIONS.

(a) Authority To Serve Former Foster Youth Up To Age 23.—Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by inserting “(or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained such age, in accordance with such subsection)” after “21 years of age”;

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(A)—

(A) by inserting “(i)” before “A certification”;  
(B) by striking “children who have left foster care” and all that follows through the period and inserting “youths who have aged out

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of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) If the State has elected under section 475(8)(B) to extend eligibility for foster care to all children who have not attained 21 years of age, or if the Secretary determines that the State agency responsible for administering the State plans under this part and part B uses State funds or any other funds not provided under this part to provide services and assistance for youths who have aged out of foster care that are comparable to the services and assistance the youths would receive if the State had made such an election, the certification required under clause (i) may provide that the State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 23 years of age.”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “children who have left foster care” and all that follows through the period and inserting “youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under subparagraph (A)(i)
to provide assistance and services to youths who
have aged out of foster care and have not attained
such age, in accordance with subparagraph
(A)(ii)).”.

(b) Authority To Redistribute Unspent Funds.—Section 477(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(d))
is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or does not
expend allocated funds within the time period speci-
fied under section 477(d)(3)” after “provided by the
Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Redistribution of Unexpended Amounts.—

“(A) Availability of Amounts.—To the
extent that amounts paid to States under this
section in a fiscal year remain unexpended by
the States at the end of the succeeding fiscal
year, the Secretary may make the amounts
available for redistribution in the second suc-
ceeding fiscal year among the States that apply
for additional funds under this section for that
second succeeding fiscal year.

“(B) Redistribution.—
“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall redistribute the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year among eligible applicant States. In this subparagraph, the term ‘eligible applicant State’ means a State that has applied for additional funds for the fiscal year under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the State will use the funds for the purpose for which originally allotted under this section.

“(ii) AMOUNT TO BE REDISTRIBUTED.—The amount to be redistributed to each eligible applicant State shall be the amount so made available multiplied by the State foster care ratio (as defined in subsection (c)(4), except that, in such subsection, ‘all eligible applicant States (as defined in subsection (d)(5)(B)(i))’ shall be substituted for ‘all States’).

“(iii) TREATMENT OF REDISTRIBUTED AMOUNT.—Any amount made available to a State under this paragraph shall be regarded as part of the allotment of the
State under this section for the fiscal year
in which the redistribution is made.

“(C) Tribes.—For purposes of this para-
graph, the term ‘State’ includes an Indian tribe,
tribal organization, or tribal consortium that re-
ceives an allotment under this section.”.

(c) Expanding and Clarifying the Use of Edu-
cation and Training Vouchers.—

(1) In General.—Section 477(i)(3) of such
Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking “on the date” and all that
follows through “23” and inserting “to remain
eligible until they attain 26”; and

(B) by inserting “, but in no event may a
youth participate in the program for more than
5 years (whether or not consecutive)” before
the period.

(2) Conforming Amendment.—Section
477(i)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)(1)) is
amended by inserting “who have attained 14 years
of age” before the period.

(d) Other Improvements.—Section 477 of such
Act (42 U.S.C. 677), as amended by subsections (a), (b),
and (c), is amended—
(1) in the section heading, by striking “INDE-
PENDENCE PROGRAM” and inserting “PROGRAM
FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULT-
HOOD”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “identify children who
are likely to remain in foster care until 18
years of age and to help these children
make the transition to self-sufficiency by
providing services” and inserting “support
all youth who have experienced foster care
at age 14 or older in their transition to
adulthood through transitional services”;

(ii) by inserting “and post-secondary
education” after “high school diploma”; and

(iii) by striking “training in daily liv-
ing skills, training in budgeting and finan-
cial management skills” and inserting
“training and opportunities to practice
daily living skills (such as financial literacy
training and driving instruction)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “who are
likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of
age receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment” and inserting “who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older achieve meaningful, permanent connections with a caring adult”; (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions” and inserting “who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience”; and (D) by striking paragraph (4) and redesignating paragraphs (5) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (7); (3) in subsection (b)— (A) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking “adolescents” and inserting “youth”; and (B) in paragraph (3)— (i) in subparagraph (D)— (I) by inserting “including training on youth development” after “to provide training”; and
(II) by striking “adolescents preparing for independent living” and all that follows through the period and inserting “youth preparing for a successful transition to adulthood and making a permanent connection with a caring adult.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (H), by striking “adolescents” each place it appears and inserting “youth”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (K)—

(I) by striking “an adolescent” and inserting “a youth”; and

(II) by striking “the adolescent” each place it appears and inserting “the youth”; and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than October 1, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the National Youth in Transition Database and any other databases in which States report outcome measures relating to children
in foster care and children who have aged out of foster care or left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption. The report shall include the following:

“(A) A description of the reasons for entry into foster care and of the foster care experiences, such as length of stay, number of placement settings, case goal, and discharge reason of 17-year-olds who are surveyed by the National Youth in Transition Database and an analysis of the comparison of that description with the reasons for entry and foster care experiences of children of other ages who exit from foster care before attaining age 17.

“(B) A description of the characteristics of the individuals who report poor outcomes at ages 19 and 21 to the National Youth in Transition Database.

“(C) Benchmarks for determining what constitutes a poor outcome for youth who remain in or have exited from foster care and plans the executive branch will take to incorporate these benchmarks in efforts to evaluate child welfare agency performance in providing services to children transitioning from foster care.
“(D) An analysis of the association between types of placement, number of overall placements, time spent in foster care, and other factors, and outcomes at ages 19 and 21.

“(E) An analysis of the differences in outcomes for children in and formerly in foster care at age 19 and 21 among States.”.

c) Clarifying Documentation Provided to Foster Youth Leaving Foster Care.—Section 475(5)(I) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675(5)(I)) is amended by inserting after “REAL ID Act of 2005” the following: “, and any official documentation necessary to prove that the child was previously in foster care”.

Title IV—Continuing Incentives to States to Promote Adoption and Legal Guardianship

Sec. 401. Reauthorizing Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Programs.

Section 473A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “2013 through 2015” and inserting “2016 through 2020”;

(2) in subsection (h)(1)(D), by striking “2016” and inserting “2021”; and
(3) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “2016” and inserting “2021”.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SEC. 501. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS TO IMPROVE PROGRAM COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 440 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629m) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 440. DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY.

“(a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with an interagency work group established by the Office of Management and Budget and considering State government perspectives, by rule, designate data exchange standards to govern, under this part—

“(1) necessary categories of information that State agencies operating programs under State plans approved under this part are required under applicable Federal law to electronically exchange with another State agency; and

“(2) Federal reporting and data exchange required under applicable Federal law.
“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The data exchange standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent prac-
ticable—

“(1) incorporate a widely accepted, non-propri-
etary, searchable, computer-readable format, such as
the eXtensible Markup Language;

“(2) contain interoperable standards developed
and maintained by intergovernmental partnerships,
such as the National Information Exchange Model;

“(3) incorporate interoperable standards devel-
oped and maintained by Federal entities with au-
thority over contracting and financial assistance;

“(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles;

“(5) be implemented in a manner that is cost-
effective and improves program efficiency and effec-
tiveness; and

“(6) be capable of being continually upgraded
 as necessary.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
section shall be construed to require a change to existing
data exchange standards found to be effective and effi-
cient.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Not later than the date that
is 24 months after the date of the enactment of this sec-
tion, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue a proposed rule that—

(1) identifies federally required data exchanges, includes specification and timing of exchanges to be standardized, and addresses the factors used in determining whether and when to standardize data exchanges; and

(2) specifies State implementation options and describes future milestones.

SEC. 502. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO STATE REQUIREMENT TO ADDRESS THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

Section 422(b)(18) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(18)) is amended by striking “such children” and inserting “all vulnerable children under 5 years of age”.

TITLE VI—ENSURING STATES REINVEST SAVINGS RESULTING FROM INCREASE IN ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

SEC. 601. DELAY OF ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PHASE-IN.

Section 473(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673(e)(1)) is amended—
(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “fiscal year” each place it appears and inserting “period”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding the table, by striking “fiscal year” and inserting “period”; and

(B) in the table—

(ix) by striking “2017” and inserting “April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020”; and

(x) by striking “2018” and inserting “April 1, 2020,.”

SEC. 602. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE REINVESTMENT OF SAVINGS RESULTING FROM INCREASE IN ADOPTION ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall study the extent to which States are complying with the requirements of section 473(a)(8) of the Social Security Act relating to the effects of phasing out the AFDC income eligibility requirements for adoption assistance payments under section 473 of the Social Security Act, as enacted by section 402 of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–351; 122 Stat. 3975) and amended by section 206 of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113–183; 128 Stat. 1919). In particular, the Comptroller General shall analyze the extent to which States are complying with the following requirements under section 473(a)(8)(D) of the Social Security Act:

(1) The requirement to spend an amount equal to the amount of the savings (if any) in State ex-
penditures under part E of title IV of the Social Security resulting from phasing out the AFDC income eligibility requirements for adoption assistance payments under section 473 of such Act to provide to children of families any service that may be provided under part B or E of title IV of such Act.

(2) The requirement that a State shall spend not less than 30 percent of the amount of any savings described in subparagraph (A) on post-adoption services, post-guardianship services, and services to support and sustain positive permanent outcomes for children who otherwise might enter into foster care under the responsibility of the State, with at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the spending by the State to comply with the 30-percent requirement being spent on post-adoption and post-guardianship services.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report that contains the results of the study required by subsection (a), including recommendations to ensure compliance with laws referred to in subsection (a).