

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5830

To provide for competitive grants for the establishment and expansion of programs that use networks of public, private, and faith-based organizations to recruit and train foster and adoptive parents and provide support services to foster children and their families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2010

Mr. COOPER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide for competitive grants for the establishment and expansion of programs that use networks of public, private, and faith-based organizations to recruit and train foster and adoptive parents and provide support services to foster children and their families.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “One Church, One Child
5 Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Many States are facing serious shortages of
2 qualified foster parents and qualified adoptive par-
3 ents.

4 (2) Though family foster care remains the pre-
5 ferred placement setting for most children in foster
6 care, numerous studies have documented States' in-
7 ability to effectively recruit and retain qualified fos-
8 ter families. In 2008, almost 30 percent of children
9 in foster care were placed in a non-family placement
10 setting.

11 (3) The shortage of adoptive parents is equally
12 dire—while 55,000 children were adopted out of fos-
13 ter care in 2008, as many as 123,000 were awaiting
14 adoption. On average, these waiting children had
15 been in continuous foster care for 38 months.

16 (4) The costs of not finding adoptive homes for
17 foster children awaiting adoption are great. Youth
18 who “age out” of the foster care system—almost
19 30,000 youth in 2008—are at higher risk of becom-
20 ing pregnant, homeless, unemployed, and incarcer-
21 ated than their peers.

22 (5) A 2005 study found that “a strong personal
23 connection” does more to attract adoptive parents to
24 foster care adoption than the media and other cost-
25 lier recruitment strategies.

1 (6) The rapid increase in the annual number of
2 adoptions from foster care since the enactment of
3 the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 has cre-
4 ated a growing need for post-adoption services and
5 for service providers with the knowledge and skills
6 required to address the unique issues adoptive fami-
7 lies and children may face.

8 (7) One Church, One Child is a national faith-
9 and community-based foster care and adoption min-
10 istry established in Chicago, Illinois, in 1980 by Fa-
11 ther George Clements, whose mission is to provide
12 comprehensive services that promote the well-being
13 of at-risk children and the strengthening and em-
14 powerment of adoptive, foster, and kinship families.
15 Since its formation, the organization and programs
16 based on its model have successfully placed more
17 than 140,000 children in adoptive families nation-
18 wide.

19 (8) Despite its success as a model for providing
20 recruitment, training, and support services for cer-
21 tified foster and adoptive parents, One Church, One
22 Child programs and programs based on this concept
23 have received limited Federal funding.

24 (9) The creation of a federally funded grant
25 program to support the establishment and expansion

1 of programs for the recruitment of foster parents
2 and adoptive parents which are modeled on the One
3 Church, One Child concept will benefit the Nation’s
4 abused and neglected children by increasing the pool
5 of qualified adoptive parents and qualified foster
6 parents.

7 **SEC. 3. ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD GRANTS.**

8 Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
9 U.S.C. 670–679c) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 **“SEC. 479C. ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD GRANTS.**

12 “(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES
13 TO CONDUCT ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD FOSTER PAR-
14 ENT AND ADOPTION PARENT RECRUITMENT PRO-
15 GRAMS.—

16 “(1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
19 entities to support the establishment or expan-
20 sion of programs that use networks of public,
21 private and faith-based organizations to recruit
22 and train qualified foster parents and qualified
23 adoptive parents and provide support services to
24 adoptive and foster children and their families.

1 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section,
2 the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State or local
3 government, local public agency, community-
4 based or nonprofit organization, or private enti-
5 ty, including any charitable or faith-based orga-
6 nization, that submits to the Secretary, at such
7 time, in such form, and in such manner as the
8 Secretary may require, an application that con-
9 tains such information as the Secretary may re-
10 quire and the following:

11 “(i) PROJECT DESCRIPTION.—A de-
12 scription of the programs or activities the
13 entity intends to carry out with funds pro-
14 vided under this section, including an esti-
15 mate of the number of children to be
16 served under such programs or activities
17 and a description of the services to be pro-
18 vided to prospective adoptive and foster
19 parents, including post-placement sup-
20 portive services.

21 “(ii) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS.—A
22 description of how the entity will coordi-
23 nate and cooperate with State and local
24 entities responsible for carrying out pro-
25 grams related to the recruitment of foster

1 parents and adoptive parents, and with the
2 national clearinghouse established under
3 section 479D.

4 “(iii) RECORDS, REPORTS, AND AU-
5 DITS.—An agreement to maintain such
6 records, submit such reports, and cooper-
7 ate with such reviews and audits as the
8 Secretary finds necessary for purposes of
9 oversight.

10 “(2) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section,
11 the term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the
12 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto
13 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,
14 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the
15 Northern Mariana Islands.

16 “(3) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
17 PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are
18 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not
19 more than \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011
20 through 2015.

21 “(4) 3-YEAR AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS.—
22 An eligible entity to which a grant is made under
23 this section for a fiscal year shall remit to the Sec-
24 retary any part of the grant that is not expended by
25 the end of the second succeeding fiscal year, to-

1 gether with any earnings on such unexpended
2 amount.

3 “(5) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED GRANT
4 FUNDS.—The Secretary shall redistribute any funds
5 remitted under paragraph (4) among eligible entities
6 that the Secretary determines have a need for addi-
7 tional funds to carry out the programs and activities
8 referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(i).

9 “(b) PROVISIONS RELATING TO RELIGIOUS ORGANI-
10 ZATIONS.—

11 “(1) NONDISCRIMINATION.—For the purpose of
12 awarding grants under this section, the Secretary
13 shall consider religious organizations on the same
14 basis as other nongovernmental organizations, so
15 long as the grant is to be implemented in a manner
16 consistent with the Establishment Clause of the
17 First Amendment to the Constitution of the United
18 States. A State or local government receiving funds
19 under this section shall not discriminate against an
20 organization that seeks to participate in a program
21 funded under this section on the basis that the orga-
22 nization has a religious character.

23 “(2) NONINTERFERENCE.—Neither the Federal
24 Government nor a State or local government shall
25 require a religious organization—

1 “(A) to alter its form of internal govern-
2 ance; or

3 “(B) to remove from its premises religious
4 art, icons, scripture, or other symbols,
5 in order to be eligible to receive a grant under this
6 section or to participate in a program funded under
7 this section.

8 “(3) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.—Funds
9 provided directly to a religious organization to carry
10 out a program funded under this section shall not be
11 expended for sectarian worship, instruction, or pros-
12 elytization.

13 “(4) FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
15 paragraph (B), a religious organization receiv-
16 ing funds under this section shall be subject to
17 the same regulations as other nongovernmental
18 organizations to account in accord with gen-
19 erally accepted accounting principles for the use
20 of such funds.

21 “(B) SEPARATION OF FUNDS.—Such an
22 organization shall keep all funds provided under
23 this section in an account separate from all
24 other funds of the organization.”.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADOPTION PRO-**
2 **MOTION AND FOSTER PARENT PROGRAMS;**
3 **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
5 U.S.C. 670–679c) is further amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 **“SEC. 479D. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADOPTION**
8 **PROMOTION AND FOSTER PARENT RECRUIT-**
9 **MENT PROGRAMS; ANNUAL REPORT TO CON-**
10 **GRESS.**

11 “(a) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADOPTION
12 PROMOTION AND FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT PRO-
13 GRAMS.—

14 “(1) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
16 enter into a contract with a nationally recog-
17 nized, nonprofit adoption promotion and foster
18 parent recruitment organization described in
19 subparagraph (B) to—

20 “(i) assist State and local govern-
21 ments, local public agencies, community-
22 based organizations, nonprofit organiza-
23 tions, and private entities, including chari-
24 table and faith-based organizations in co-
25 ordinating their activities relating to re-
26 cruitment of foster parents and adoptive

1 parents and the provision of post-place-
2 ment support to foster families and adop-
3 tive families;

4 “(ii) design and provide technical as-
5 sistance and training for grantees and
6 identify and disseminate to grantees ‘best
7 practices’ for recruiting and training pro-
8 spective foster and adoptive parents and
9 providing post-placement support to foster
10 families and adoptive families;

11 “(iii) collect information on the effec-
12 tiveness of the programs funded under sec-
13 tion 479C, including the number of chil-
14 dren placed under the programs, the num-
15 ber of foster parents and adoptive parents
16 recruited under such programs, and such
17 other data as the Secretary requires for
18 evaluating the effectiveness of such pro-
19 grams; and

20 “(iv) assist the Secretary in the prep-
21 aration of the reports required by sub-
22 section (b).

23 “(B) NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, NON-
24 PROFIT ADOPTION PROMOTION AND FOSTER
25 PARENT RECRUITMENT ORGANIZATION DE-

1 SCRIBED.—The nationally recognized, nonprofit
2 adoption promotion and foster parent recruit-
3 ment organization described in this subpara-
4 graph is an organization, selected by the Sec-
5 retary on a competitive basis, that—

6 “(i) has demonstrated experience in
7 providing consultation and training to
8 faith-based and community organizations
9 interested in adoption promotion and fos-
10 ter parent recruitment;

11 “(ii) has an established national rep-
12 utation in working with faith-based and
13 community organizations to recruit and
14 train prospective foster and adoptive par-
15 ents; and

16 “(iii) has extensive experience in es-
17 tablishing and working with programs
18 based on the One Church, One Child
19 model.

20 “(2) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
21 PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there
22 are authorized to be appropriated not more than
23 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through
24 2015.

1 “(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date a grant is first made under section 479C and
3 annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and sub-
4 mit to the Congress a report that includes the following
5 with respect to the year involved:

6 “(1) A specification of the number of entities to
7 which grants have been made under section 479C.

8 “(2) A specification of the number of foster
9 parents and adoptive families recruited by the pro-
10 grams which have been supported with the grants.

11 “(3) A specification of the number of children
12 placed with such foster parents and adoptive fami-
13 lies, and the outcomes of such placements.

14 “(4) Any other information that the Secretary
15 determines is relevant to the evaluation of the pro-
16 gram under section 479C.”.

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