

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3437

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to establish grant programs for the development and implementation of model undergraduate and graduate curricula on child abuse and neglect at institutions of higher education throughout the United States and to assist States in developing forensic interview training programs, to establish regional training centers and other resources for State and local child protection professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 27 (legislative day, MAY 26), 2010

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Child Protec-
3 tion Training Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Studies indicate that the majority of child
7 protection professionals, including child protection
8 workers, child protection attorneys, medical and
9 mental health professionals, law enforcement offi-
10 cers, forensic interviewers, and other professionals
11 who work directly with maltreated children, are in-
12 adequately prepared through undergraduate and
13 graduate programs to recognize and respond to
14 cases of child maltreatment.

15 (2) Studies indicate that individuals mandated
16 to report child maltreatment often fail to recognize
17 instances of maltreatment, and that such failure to
18 recognize maltreatment is attributable, in part, to
19 inadequate training in undergraduate and graduate
20 programs.

21 (3) Child protection professionals often find it
22 difficult to access quality training on investigating,
23 or otherwise responding to, cases of child maltreat-
24 ment, and many programs, such as forensic inter-
25 view training programs, that require intensive train-
26 ing and small class sizes could reach more profes-

1 sionals if such programs were developed at the
2 State, rather than the national, level.

3 (4) Child protection professionals should be
4 trained not only to respond to cases of child mal-
5 treatment after such maltreatment has occurred, but
6 also to take a leadership role in implementing evi-
7 dence-based community prevention programs.

8 (5) The National Child Protection Training
9 Center has taken a leadership role in implementing
10 model undergraduate and graduate curricula on
11 child abuse and neglect, in assisting States in devel-
12 oping forensic interview training programs, and in
13 providing ongoing training, technical assistance, and
14 publications to child protection professionals. Spe-
15 cifically, the National Child Protection Training
16 Center has—

17 (A) assisted the States of Arkansas, Con-
18 necticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana,
19 Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, New
20 Jersey, Oklahoma, Ohio, South Carolina, Vir-
21 ginia, and West Virginia in developing and sus-
22 taining forensic interview training programs;

23 (B) developed and implemented model un-
24 dergraduate and graduate curricula on child
25 maltreatment in 13 universities and colleges in

1 8 States and the District of Columbia, and has
 2 worked with dozens of additional universities to
 3 implement model curricula; and

4 (C) provided training, technical assistance,
 5 and other services to more than 40,000 child
 6 protection professionals throughout the United
 7 States.

8 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS**
 9 **AND GRANT PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Child Abuse Prevention and
 11 Treatment Act is amended by inserting after section 109
 12 (42 U.S.C. 5106e) the following:

13 **“SEC. 109A. REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS AND GRANT**
 14 **PROGRAMS.**

15 “(a) REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS.—The Secretary
 16 of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section
 17 as the ‘Secretary’) shall enter into an agreement with the
 18 National Child Protection Training Center to establish
 19 and sustain within the Center regional training centers in
 20 the midwestern, northeastern, southern, and western re-
 21 gions of the United States, which shall be called ‘Regional
 22 Training Centers’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Cen-
 23 ters’). The Centers shall—

24 “(1) provide child protection professionals (in-
 25 cluding child protection workers, child protection at-

1 torneys, medical and mental health professionals,
2 law enforcement officers, forensic interviewers, and
3 other professionals who work directly with mal-
4 treated children) in the field with low-cost, high-
5 quality training, technical assistance, and publica-
6 tions;

7 “(2) provide child protection professionals ongo-
8 ing training and assistance in developing evidence-
9 based community prevention programs;

10 “(3) develop model undergraduate and graduate
11 curricula on child maltreatment and, after approval
12 by the Secretary, disseminate the curricula to com-
13 munity colleges, colleges, universities, law schools,
14 medical schools, and other institutions of higher edu-
15 cation; and

16 “(4) assist States in developing and maintain-
17 ing forensic interview training programs.

18 “(b) GRANT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, in accord-
19 ance with agreements entered into with the National Child
20 Protection Training Center, shall establish the following
21 grant programs:

22 “(1) FORENSIC INTERVIEW TRAINING PRO-
23 GRAMS.—The National Child Protection Training
24 Center, in accordance with an agreement between
25 such center and the Secretary under this paragraph,

1 shall award grants to State and local governments
2 and other nonprofit entities to—

3 “(A) assist State and local child protection
4 professionals described in subsection (a) in de-
5 veloping statewide forensic interview training
6 programs; or

7 “(B) expand forensic interview training
8 programs to provide for additional, advanced fo-
9 rensic interview training courses.

10 “(2) MODEL CURRICULA.—The National Child
11 Protection Training Center, in accordance with an
12 agreement between such center and the Secretary
13 under this paragraph, shall award grants to State
14 and local governments and other nonprofit entities
15 to—

16 “(A) defray the expenses of institutions of
17 higher education in implementing model under-
18 graduate or graduate curricula on child abuse
19 and neglect; or

20 “(B) assist institutions of higher education
21 in expanding model undergraduate or graduate
22 curricula on child abuse and neglect.

23 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

24 “(1) REGIONAL CENTERS.—To carry out sub-
25 section (a), there is authorized to be appropriated

1 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through
2 2014.

3 “(2) GRANT PROGRAMS.—To carry out sub-
4 section (b), there is authorized to be appropriated
5 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through
6 2014, of which—

7 “(A) \$1,000,000 per fiscal year shall be al-
8 located to the program under paragraph (1) of
9 such subsection; and

10 “(B) \$1,000,000 per fiscal year shall be al-
11 located to the program under paragraph (2) of
12 such subsection.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Child Abuse Pre-
14 vention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in section 1(b), by inserting after the item
17 relating to section 109 the following new item:

“109A. Regional training centers and grant programs.”;

18 and

19 (2) in section 112—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting

22 “(except section 109A)” after “this title”;

23 and

1 (ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting
2 “(except for activities under section
3 109A)” after “this title”; and
4 (B) in subsection (b), by inserting “(except
5 for funds appropriated under section 109A)”
6 after “this title”.

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