

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-287) on the resolution (H. Res. 286) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2779

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 2779.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES AMENDMENTS OF 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2873) to extend and amend the program entitled Promoting Safe and Stable Families under title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Social Security Act, and to provide new authority to support programs for mentoring children of incarcerated parents; to amend the Foster Care Independent Living program under title IV-E of that act to provide for educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 2973

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 "Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.

TITLE I—PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Subtitle A—Grants to States for Promoting Safe and Stable Families

- Sec. 101. Findings and purpose.
- Sec. 102. Definition of family support services.
- Sec. 103. Reallocments.
- Sec. 104. Payments to States.
- Sec. 105. Evaluations, research, and technical assistance.
- Sec. 106. Authorization of appropriations; reservation of certain amounts.
- Sec. 107. State court improvements.

Subtitle B—Mentoring Children of Prisoners
Sec. 121. Program authorized.

TITLE II—FOSTER CARE AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

- Sec. 201. Educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care.
- Sec. 202. Reallocation and extension of funds.

TITLE III—EFFECTIVE DATE

- Sec. 301. Effective date.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise specified in this Act, an amendment made by this Act to a section or other provision shall be considered an amendment to the section or other provision of the Social Security Act.

TITLE I—PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Subtitle A—Grants to States for Promoting Safe and Stable Families

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

Section 430 (42 U.S.C. 629) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 430. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

"(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that there is a continuing urgent need to protect children and to strengthen families as demonstrated by the following:

"(1) Family support programs directed at specific vulnerable populations have had positive effects on parents, children, or both. The vulnerable populations for which programs have been shown to be effective include teenage mothers with very young children and families that have children with special needs.

"(2) Family preservation programs have been shown to provide extensive and intensive services to families in crisis.

"(3) The time lines established by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 have made the prompt availability of services to address family problems (and in particular the prompt availability of appropriate services and treatment addressing substance abuse) an important factor in successful family reunification.

"(4) The rapid increases in the annual number of adoptions since the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 have created a growing need for postadoption services and for service providers with the particular knowledge and skills required to address the unique issues adoptive families and children may face.

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this program is to enable States to develop and establish, or expand, and to operate coordinated programs of community-based family support services, family preservation services, time-limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services to accomplish the following objectives:

"(1) To prevent child maltreatment among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services.

"(2) To assure children's safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been maltreated, when the family's problems can be addressed effectively.

"(3) To address the problems of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and stable manner in accordance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

"(4) To support adoptive families by providing support services as necessary so that they can make a lifetime commitment to their children."

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

(a) INCLUSION OF INFANT SAFE HAVEN PROGRAMS AMONG FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES.—Section 431(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (D);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) infant safe haven programs to provide a way for a parent to safely relinquish a newborn infant at a safe haven designated pursuant to a State law."

(b) FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.—Section 431(a)(2) (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(2)) is amended by inserting "to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages," after "environment,".

SEC. 103. REALLOTMENTS.

Section 433 (42 U.S.C. 629c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) REALLOTMENTS.—The amount of any allotment to a State under this section for any fiscal year that the State certifies to the Secretary will not be required for carrying out the State plan under section 432 shall be available for reallocation using the allotment methodology specified in this section. Any amount so reallocated to a State is deemed part of the allotment of the State under the preceding provisions of this section."

SEC. 104. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 434(a) (42 U.S.C. 629d(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by striking all that precedes subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(a) ENTITLEMENT.—Each State that has a plan approved under section 432 shall be entitled to payment of the lesser of—"; and

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and by indenting the provisions 2 ems to the left.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 434(b) (42 U.S.C. 629d(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "paragraph (1) or (2)(B) of"; and

(B) by striking "described in this subpart" and inserting "under the State plan under section 432"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "subsection (a)(1)" and inserting "subsection (a)".

SEC. 105. EVALUATIONS, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 435 (42 U.S.C. 629e) is amended—

(1) by striking all that precedes "the effectiveness" in paragraph (1) of subsection (a), including the heading for section 435 and the caption for subsection (a), and inserting the following:

"SEC. 435. EVALUATIONS; RESEARCH; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

"(a) EVALUATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall evaluate and report to the Congress biennially on";

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (a) the following:

"(3) TIMING OF REPORT.—Beginning in 2003, the Secretary shall submit the biennial report required by this subsection not later than April 1 of every other year, and shall include in each such report the funding level, the status of ongoing evaluations, findings to date, and the nature of any technical assistance provided to States under subsection (d)."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:
"(c) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall give priority consideration to the following topics for research and evaluation under this subsection, using rigorous evaluation methodologies where feasible:

"(1) Promising program models in the service categories specified in section 430(b), particularly time-limited reunification services and postadoption services.

"(2) Multi-disciplinary service models designed to address parental substance abuse and to reduce its impacts on children.