

# Help Grandfamilies Prevent Child Abuse Act

*Led by Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Susan Collins (R-ME)*

The bipartisan Help Grandfamilies Prevent Child Abuse Act seeks to better support kinship caregivers – the vast majority of whom are grandparents – who have taken over as primary caregivers for children exposed to substance misuse or other trauma.

## The Problem:

More than 2,400,000 children are being raised by a kinship caregiver, in most cases outside of the foster care system.<sup>1</sup> The vast majority of these families are “grandfamilies” – families where a grandparent is the primary caregiver to their grandchild or grandchildren. The U.S. Government Accountability Office has found that more support is needed for kinship families to provide the level of care that they need.<sup>2</sup>

## The Solution:

This bipartisan legislation seeks to help address the unique challenges facing grandfamilies and all kinship families, including ensuring that they are eligible for services under the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974* (P.L. 93-247) (CAPTA), which provides funding to every state for the purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect.

## The Help Grandfamilies Prevent Child Abuse Act seeks to:

- Increase access to specialized training to help kinship caregivers navigate the complicated supports and services they may be eligible for through CAPTA.
- Promote community support networks for kinship caregivers and training on understanding substance use disorders, the impact of trauma on children, and how to care for children with behavioral or mental health challenges.
- Improve the safe and stable placement of children with kinship caregivers.
- Ensure the National Clearinghouse for Information Relating to Child Abuse coordinates with the National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families, which Congress created in the American Rescue Plan to disseminate information on best practices used to support children being raised in kinship families within, or outside of, the child welfare system.
- Add birth parents, kinship caregivers, foster care alumni, and organizations providing services to kinship families to the Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect.

**Endorsements:** National Center on Grandfamilies at Generations United, Prevent Child Abuse America, Children’s Defense Fund, First Focus Campaign for Children, The Children’s Trust Fund Alliance, Voice for Adoption, Foster Kinship, New Hampshire Children’s Trust

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<sup>1</sup> [Analysis](#) by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of U.S. Census Bureau Data.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office. [GAO-20-434](#), a report to the Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate. July 2020.