116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for better protections for children raised in kinship families outside of the foster care system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for better protections for children raised in kinship families outside of the foster care system.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Help Grandfamilies Prevent Child Abuse Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) More than 2,600,000 children are being raised in kinship families by relatives or close family
friends without their parents in the home, and the 
vast majority of such children are raised outside of 
the foster care system.

(2) The majority of kinship caregivers are 
grandparents, and such families are commonly re-
ferred to as “grandfamilies”.

(3) For every child in foster care living with rel-
atives, there are 19 being raised by relatives outside 
of the foster care system.

(4) More than one-third of all children placed 
in foster care because of parental drug or alcohol 
use are placed with relatives.

(5) Children who have been exposed to sub-
stance misuse in the home may also experience 
abuse and neglect, and research indicates that chil-
dren in family foster care because of substance use 
are more likely to be placed with relatives than with 
nonrelatives.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO CAPTA.

(a) ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE AND NE-
GLECT.—Section 102(c) of the Child Abuse Prevention 
and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102(c)) is amended— 

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and” and 
inserting a semicolon;
(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(15) organizations providing services to kinship families; and
“(16) birth parents, kinship caregivers, and foster care alumni.”.

(b) National Clearinghouse for Information Relating to Child Abuse.—Section 103(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104(b)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (8)(B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(10) maintain and disseminate information about best practices used to support children being raised in kinship families within, or outside of, the child welfare system.”.

(c) Grants to States, Indian Tribes or Tribal Organizations, and Public or Private Agencies and Organizations.—Section 105(a)(4) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing: “Such procedures used by recipients of a grant pursuant to this paragraph shall reflect equity for children placed with kin, recognize their unique circumstance, and include plans for prioritizing placement with kin as the first placement, identifying and engaging kin as supports for children throughout the child’s involvement with the child welfare system, making it a priority to license kin as foster parents, supporting permanent families for children placed with kin, and creating a strong community network to support kin families.”.

(d) GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a)—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by inserting “, and for how kinship placements will be prioritized” before the semicolon; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(v), by inserting “kinship navigators,” after “substance abuse treatment agencies,”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;
(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the number that did not receive services during the year under the State program funded under this section or an equivalent State program because the child was diverted from the child welfare system to live with kin outside of the foster care system;”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking “families” and inserting “parents”.

(e) Community-based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.—

(1) Purpose.—Section 201(b)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116(b)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking “;” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) support the unique needs of kinship families raising children inside or outside the foster care system;”.

(2) LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Section 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and to parents who are adult former victims of domestic violence or child abuse or neglect” and inserting “to parents who are adult former victims of domestic violence or child abuse or neglect, and to families where children are being raised by kin because their parents cannot raise them”; 

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(i) in clause (viii), by striking “and”; 

(ii) in clause (ix), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and 

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) training to meet the specific needs of kinship caregivers, including training on caring for children with behavioral or mental health challenges and how to access services for which such caregivers may be eligible; and
“(xi) training on understanding substance use disorders and the impact of trauma on children.”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, kinship caregivers, and foster care alumni” after “parents”.