

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2607

To improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts and the quality and availability of training for judges, attorneys, and volunteers working in such courts, and for other purposes consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. CHAFEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts and the quality and availability of training for judges, attorneys, and volunteers working in such courts, and for other purposes consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

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 the “Strengthening Abuse  
5 and Neglect Courts Act of 1998”.

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1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Under both Federal and State law, the  
4 courts play a crucial and essential role in the Na-  
5 tion's child welfare system and in ensuring safety,  
6 stability, and permanence for abused and neglected  
7 children under the supervision of that system.

8 (2) The Adoption and Safe Families Act of  
9 1997 (Public Law 105–89; 111 Stat. 2115) estab-  
10 lishes for the first time in Federal law that a child's  
11 health and safety must be the paramount consider-  
12 ation when any decision is made regarding a child  
13 in the Nation's child welfare system.

14 (3) The Adoption and Safe Families Act of  
15 1997 promotes stability and permanence for abused  
16 and neglected children by requiring timely decision-  
17 making in proceedings to determine whether children  
18 can safely return to their families or whether they  
19 should be moved into safe and stable adoptive homes  
20 or other permanent family arrangements outside the  
21 foster care system.

22 (4) To avoid unnecessary and lengthy stays in  
23 the foster care system, the Adoption and Safe Fami-  
24 lies Act of 1997 specifically requires, among other  
25 things, that States move to terminate the parental

1 rights of the parents of those children who have  
2 been in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months.

3 (5) While essential to protect children and to  
4 carry out the general purposes of the Adoption and  
5 Safe Families Act of 1997, the accelerated timelines  
6 for the termination of parental rights and the other  
7 requirements imposed under that Act increase the  
8 pressure on the Nation's already overburdened abuse  
9 and neglect courts.

10 (6) The administrative efficiency and effective-  
11 ness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts would  
12 be substantially improved by the acquisition and im-  
13 plementation of computerized case tracking systems  
14 to identify and eliminate existing backlogs, to move  
15 abuse and neglect caseloads forward in a timely  
16 manner, and to move children into safe and stable  
17 families. Such systems could also be used to evaluate  
18 the effectiveness of such courts in meeting the pur-  
19 poses of the amendments made by, and provisions  
20 of, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

21 (7) The administrative efficiency and effective-  
22 ness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts would  
23 also be improved by the identification and implemen-  
24 tation of projects designed to eliminate the backlog  
25 of abuse and neglect cases, including the temporary

1 hiring of additional judges, extension of court hours,  
2 and other projects designed to reduce existing case-  
3 loads.

4 (8) The administrative efficiency and effective-  
5 ness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts would  
6 be further strengthened by improving the quality  
7 and availability of training for judges, court person-  
8 nel, agency attorneys, guardians ad litem, and attor-  
9 neys who represent the children and the parents of  
10 children in abuse and neglect proceedings.

11 (9) While recognizing that abuse and neglect  
12 courts in this country are already committed to the  
13 quality administration of justice, the performance of  
14 such courts would be even further enhanced by the  
15 development of models and educational opportunities  
16 that reinforce court projects that have already been  
17 developed, including models for case-flow procedures,  
18 case management, representation of children, auto-  
19 mated interagency interfaces, and "best practices"  
20 standards.

21 (10) Volunteers who participate in court-ap-  
22 pointed special advocate (CASA) programs play a  
23 vital role as the eyes and ears of abuse and neglect  
24 courts in proceedings conducted by, or under the su-  
25 pervision of, such courts and also bring increased

1 public scrutiny of the abuse and neglect court sys-  
2 tem. The Nation’s abuse and neglect courts would  
3 benefit from an expansion of this program to cur-  
4 rently underserved communities.

5 (11) Improved computerized case-tracking sys-  
6 tems, comprehensive training, and development of,  
7 and education on, model abuse and neglect court  
8 systems, particularly with respect to underserved  
9 areas, would significantly further the purposes of the  
10 Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 by reducing  
11 the average length of an abused and neglected  
12 child’s stay in foster care, improving the quality of  
13 decision-making and court services provided to chil-  
14 dren and families, and increasing the number of  
15 adoptions.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (a) ABUSE AND NEGLECT COURTS.—The term  
19 “abuse and neglect courts” means the State and local  
20 courts that carry out State or local laws requiring proceed-  
21 ings (conducted by or under the supervision of the  
22 courts)—

23 (1) that implement part B and part E of title  
24 IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 620 et seq.;

1 670 et seq.) (including preliminary disposition of  
2 such proceedings);

3 (2) that determine whether a child was abused  
4 or neglected;

5 (3) that determine the advisability or appro-  
6 priateness of foster care placement; or

7 (4) that determine any other legal disposition of  
8 a child in the abuse and neglect court system.

9 (b) AGENCY ATTORNEY.—The term “agency attor-  
10 ney” means an agency attorney or agency representative  
11 including any government attorney, district attorney, at-  
12 torney general, State attorney, city solicitor or attorney,  
13 corporation counsel, or privately retained special prosecu-  
14 tor who represents the petitioner or moving party in a pro-  
15 ceeding conducted by, or under the supervision of, an  
16 abuse and neglect court, including a proceeding for termi-  
17 nation of parental rights.

18 (c) ATTORNEY REPRESENTING A CHILD.—The term  
19 “attorney representing a child” means an attorney or a  
20 guardian ad litem who represents a child in a proceeding  
21 conducted by, or under the supervision of, an abuse and  
22 neglect court.

23 (d) ATTORNEY REPRESENTING A PARENT.—The  
24 term “attorney representing a parent” means an attorney  
25 who represents a parent who is an official party to a pro-

1 ceeding conducted by, or under the supervision of, an  
2 abuse and neglect court.

3 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATE COURTS AND LOCAL COURTS TO**  
4 **AUTOMATE THE DATA COLLECTION AND**  
5 **TRACKING OF PROCEEDINGS IN ABUSE AND**  
6 **NEGLECT COURTS.**

7 (a) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
9 the Attorney General, acting through the Office of  
10 Justice Programs, shall award grants in accordance  
11 with this section to State courts and local courts for  
12 the purposes of—

13 (A) enabling such courts to develop and  
14 implement automated data collection and case-  
15 tracking systems for proceedings conducted by,  
16 or under the supervision of, an abuse and ne-  
17 glect court;

18 (B) encouraging the replication of such  
19 systems in abuse and neglect courts in other ju-  
20 risdictions; and

21 (C) requiring the use of such systems to  
22 evaluate a court's performance in complying  
23 with the requirements of part B and part E of  
24 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 620 et seq.; 670 et seq.).

1 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

2 (A) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Not less than  
3 30 or more than 50 grants may be awarded  
4 under this section.

5 (B) PER STATE LIMITATION.—Not more  
6 than 2 grants authorized under this section  
7 may be awarded per State.

8 (C) USE OF GRANTS.—Funds provided  
9 under a grant made under this section may only  
10 be used for the purpose of developing, imple-  
11 menting, or enhancing automated data collec-  
12 tion and case-tracking systems for proceedings  
13 conducted by, or under the supervision of, an  
14 abuse and neglect court.

15 (b) APPLICATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State court or local court  
17 may submit an application for a grant authorized  
18 under this section at such time and in such manner  
19 as the Attorney General may determine.

20 (2) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—An application  
21 for a grant authorized under this section shall con-  
22 tain the following:

23 (A) A description of a proposed plan for  
24 the development, implementation, and mainte-  
25 nance of an automated data collection and case-

1 tracking system for proceedings conducted by,  
2 or under the supervision of, an abuse and ne-  
3 glect court, including a proposed budget for the  
4 plan and a request for a specific funding  
5 amount.

6 (B) A description of the extent to which  
7 such plan and system are able to be replicated  
8 in abuse and neglect courts of other jurisdic-  
9 tions.

10 (C) In the case of an application submitted  
11 by a local court, a description of how the plan  
12 to implement the proposed system was devel-  
13 oped in consultation with related State courts,  
14 particularly with regard to a State court im-  
15 provement plan funded under section 13712 of  
16 the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993  
17 (42 U.S.C. 670 note) if there is such a plan in  
18 the State.

19 (D) In the case of an application that is  
20 submitted by a State court, a description of  
21 how the proposed system will integrate with a  
22 State court improvement plan funded under  
23 such section if there is such a plan in the State.

24 (E) After consultation with the State agen-  
25 cy responsible for the administration of part B

1 and part E of title IV of the Social Security Act  
2 (42 U.S.C. 620 et seq.; 670 et seq.), an assess-  
3 ment of the feasibility of future coordination of  
4 the proposed system with other child welfare  
5 data collection systems, including the Statewide  
6 automated child welfare information system and  
7 the adoption and foster care analysis and re-  
8 porting system (AFCARS) established pursuant  
9 to section 479 of the Social Security Act (42  
10 U.S.C. 679).

11 (F) Identification of an independent third  
12 party that will conduct ongoing evaluations of  
13 the feasibility and implementation of the plan  
14 and system and a description of the plan for  
15 conducting such evaluations.

16 (G) A description or identification of a  
17 proposed funding source for completion of the  
18 plan (if applicable) and maintenance of the sys-  
19 tem after the conclusion of the period for which  
20 the grant is to be awarded.

21 (H) An assurance that any contract en-  
22 tered into between the State court or local court  
23 and any other entity that is to provide services  
24 for the development, implementation, or mainte-  
25 nance of the system under the proposed plan

1 will require the entity to agree to allow for rep-  
2 lication of the services provided, the plan, and  
3 the system, and to refrain from asserting any  
4 proprietary interest in such services for pur-  
5 poses of allowing the plan and system to be rep-  
6 licated in another jurisdiction.

7 (I) An assurance that the system estab-  
8 lished under the plan will provide data that al-  
9 lows for evaluation (at least on an annual basis)  
10 of the following:

11 (i) The total number of cases that are  
12 filed in the abuse and neglect court.

13 (ii) The number of cases assigned to  
14 each judge who presides over the abuse  
15 and neglect court.

16 (iii) The average length of stay of  
17 children in foster care.

18 (iv) With respect to each child under  
19 the jurisdiction of the court—

20 (aa) the number of episodes of  
21 placement in foster care;

22 (bb) the number of days placed  
23 in foster care;

24 (cc) the number of days of in-  
25 home supervision; and

1 (dd) the number of separate fos-  
2 ter care placements.

3 (v) The number of adoptions,  
4 guardianships, or other permanent dispo-  
5 sitions finalized.

6 (vi) The number of terminations of  
7 parental rights.

8 (vii) The number of child abuse and  
9 neglect proceedings closed that had been  
10 pending for 2 or more years.

11 (viii) With respect to each proceeding  
12 conducted by, or under the supervision of,  
13 an abuse and neglect court—

14 (aa) the timeliness of each stage  
15 of the proceeding from initial filing  
16 through legal finalization of a perma-  
17 nency plan (for both contested and  
18 uncontested hearings);

19 (bb) the number of adjourn-  
20 ments, delays, and continuances oc-  
21 ccurring during the proceeding, includ-  
22 ing identification of the party request-  
23 ing each adjournment, delay, or con-  
24 tinuance and the reasons given for the  
25 request;

1 (cc) the number of courts that  
2 conduct or supervise the proceeding  
3 for the duration of the abuse and ne-  
4 glect case;

5 (dd) the number of judges as-  
6 signed to the proceeding for the dura-  
7 tion of the abuse and neglect case;  
8 and

9 (ee) the number of agency attor-  
10 neys, children's attorneys, and par-  
11 ent's attorneys assigned to the pro-  
12 ceeding during the duration of the  
13 abuse and neglect case.

14 (J) A description of how the proposed sys-  
15 tem will reduce the need for paper files, tie into  
16 national and regional adoption exchanges, and  
17 public and private adoption services.

18 (K) An assurance that the data collected in  
19 accordance with subparagraph (I) will be made  
20 available to relevant Federal, State, and local  
21 government agencies and to the public.

22 (L) An assurance that the proposed system  
23 is consistent with other civil and criminal infor-  
24 mation requirements of the Federal govern-  
25 ment.

1 (c) CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF APPLICA-  
2 TIONS.—

3 (1) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—A State court or local  
5 court awarded a grant under this section shall  
6 expend \$1 for every \$3 awarded under the  
7 grant to carry out the development, implemen-  
8 tation, and maintenance of the automated data  
9 collection and case-tracking system under the  
10 proposed plan.

11 (B) WAIVER FOR HARDSHIP.—The Attor-  
12 ney General may waive or modify the matching  
13 requirement described in subparagraph (A) in  
14 the case of any State court or local court that  
15 the Attorney General determines would suffer  
16 undue hardship as a result of being subject to  
17 the requirement.

18 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating an appli-  
19 cation for a grant under this section the Attorney  
20 General shall consider the following:

21 (A) The extent to which the system pro-  
22 posed in the application may be replicated in  
23 other jurisdictions.

24 (B) The extent to which the proposed sys-  
25 tem is consistent with the provisions of, and

1 amendments made by, the Adoption and Safe  
2 Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–89; 111  
3 Stat. 2115), and part B and part E of title IV  
4 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 620 et  
5 seq.; 670 et seq.).

6 (C) The extent to which the proposed sys-  
7 tem is feasible and likely to achieve the pur-  
8 poses described in subsection (a)(1).

9 (3) DIVERSITY OF AWARDS.—The Attorney  
10 General shall award grants under this section in a  
11 manner that results in a reasonable balance among  
12 grants awarded to State courts and grants awarded  
13 to local courts, grants awarded to courts located in  
14 urban areas and courts located in rural areas, and  
15 grants awarded in diverse geographical locations.

16 (d) LENGTH OF AWARDS.—No grant may be award-  
17 ed under this section for a period of more than 5 years.

18 (e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds provided to a  
19 State court or local court under a grant awarded under  
20 this section shall remain available until expended without  
21 fiscal year limitation.

22 (f) REPORTS.—

23 (1) ANNUAL REPORT FROM GRANTEEES.—Each  
24 State court or local court that is awarded a grant

1 under this section shall submit an annual report to  
2 the Attorney General that contains—

3 (A) a description of the ongoing results of  
4 the independent evaluation of the plan for, and  
5 implementation of, the automated data collec-  
6 tion and case-tracking system funded under the  
7 grant; and

8 (B) the information described in subsection  
9 (b)(2)(I).

10 (2) INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS FROM AT-  
11 TORNEY GENERAL.—

12 (A) INTERIM REPORTS.—Beginning 2  
13 years after the date of enactment of this Act,  
14 and biannually thereafter until a final report is  
15 submitted in accordance with subparagraph  
16 (B), the Attorney General shall submit to Con-  
17 gress interim reports on the grants made under  
18 this section.

19 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90  
20 days after the termination of all grants awarded  
21 under this section, the Attorney General shall  
22 submit to Congress a final report evaluating the  
23 automated data collection and case-tracking  
24 systems funded under such grants and identify-  
25 ing successful models of such systems that are

1 suitable for replication in other jurisdictions.  
2 The Attorney General shall ensure that a copy  
3 of such final report is transmitted to the high-  
4 est State court in each State.

5 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
7 \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 1999 through  
8 2003.

9 **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO REDUCE PENDING BACKLOGS OF**  
10 **ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES.**

11 (a) INCREASE IN APPROPRIATED AMOUNT.—Section  
12 430(b)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629(b)(6))  
13 is amended by striking “\$275,000,000” and inserting  
14 “\$285,000,000”.

15 (b) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—Section  
16 430(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 429(d)(2)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting  
19 the following:

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(B) GRANTS TO REDUCE BACKLOGS OF  
23 ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause

25 (ii), the Secretary shall reserve

1           \$10,000,000 of the amount described in  
2           subsection (b)(6) for fiscal year 1999 for  
3           making grants to the highest State courts  
4           in States participating in the program  
5           under part E for the purpose of enabling  
6           such courts to reduce existing backlogs of  
7           cases pending in abuse and neglect courts.  
8           Funds provided under a grant awarded  
9           under this subparagraph may be used for  
10          any purpose that the Secretary determines  
11          is likely to successfully reduce such back-  
12          logs, including for the purpose of tempo-  
13          rarily—

14                   “(aa) establishing night court  
15                   sessions for abuse and neglect courts;

16                   “(bb) hiring additional judges  
17                   and judicial personnel for such courts;  
18                   or

19                   “(cc) extending the operating  
20                   hours of such courts.

21                   “(ii) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Not less  
22                   than 15 nor more than 20 grants shall be  
23                   awarded under this subparagraph.

24                   “(iii) DEFINITION OF ABUSE AND NE-  
25                   GLECT COURT.—In this subparagraph, the

1 term ‘abuse and neglect court’ has the  
 2 meaning given that term in section 3(a) of  
 3 the Strengthening Abuse and Neglect  
 4 Courts Act of 1998.”.

5 **SEC. 6. TRAINING IN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PRO-**  
 6 **CEEDINGS AND STANDARDS FOR ATTORNEYS**  
 7 **REPRESENTING CLIENTS IN SUCH PROCEED-**  
 8 **INGS.**

9 (a) TRAINING.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 474(a)(3) of the So-  
 11 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(3)) is amend-  
 12 ed—

13 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C),  
 14 (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (D), (E), and  
 15 (F), respectively; and

16 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (B),  
 17 the following:

18 “(C) 75 percent of so much of such ex-  
 19 penditures as are for the training (including  
 20 cross-training with personnel employed by the  
 21 State or local agency administering the plan in  
 22 the political subdivision, training on topics rel-  
 23 evant to the legal representation of clients in  
 24 proceedings conducted by or under the super-  
 25 vision of an abuse and neglect court (as defined

1 in section 3(a) of the Strengthening Abuse and  
2 Neglect Courts Act of 1998), and training on  
3 related topics such as child development and  
4 the importance of developing a trusting rela-  
5 tionship with a child) of judges, judicial person-  
6 nel, law enforcement personnel, attorneys rep-  
7 resenting the State or local agency administer-  
8 ing the program under this part, attorneys rep-  
9 resenting parents in proceedings conducted by,  
10 or under the supervision of, an abuse and ne-  
11 glect court (as so defined), attorneys represent-  
12 ing children in such proceedings, and guardians  
13 ad litem, to the extent such training is related  
14 to provisions of, and amendments made by, the  
15 Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Pub-  
16 lic Law 105–89; 111 Stat. 2115),”.

17 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (A) Section 473(a)(6)(B) of such Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 673(a)(6)(B)) is amended by striking  
20 “474(a)(3)(E)” and inserting “474(a)(3)(F)”.

21 (B) Section 474(a)(3)(D) of such Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 674(a)(3)(D)) (as redesignated by para-  
23 graph (1)(A)) is amended by striking “subpara-  
24 graph (C)” and inserting “subparagraph (D)”.

1           (C) Section 474(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
2           674(c)) is amended by striking “subsection  
3           (a)(3)(C)” and inserting “subsection  
4           (a)(3)(D)”.

5           (b) STANDARDS, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
6 ANCE FOR ATTORNEYS.—

7           (1) FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE  
8 STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 471(a) of the  
9 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amend-  
10 ed—

11           (A) in paragraph (22), by striking “and”  
12 at the end;

13           (B) in paragraph (23), by striking the pe-  
14 riod and inserting “; and”; and

15           (C) by adding at the end the following:

16           “(24) provides that, not later than January 1,  
17 2001, the State shall develop and encourage the im-  
18 plementation of practice standards for all attorneys  
19 representing the State or local agency administering  
20 the program under this part, including standards re-  
21 garding the interaction of such attorneys with other  
22 attorneys who practice before an abuse and neglect  
23 court (as defined in section 3(a) of the Strengthen-  
24 ing Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 1998).”.

25           (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
2 Health and Human Services shall provide the  
3 technical assistance, training, and evaluations  
4 authorized under this paragraph through  
5 grants, contracts, or cooperative arrangements  
6 with other entities, including universities, and  
7 national, State, and local organizations that  
8 have not had a previous contractual relationship  
9 with the Department of Health and Human  
10 Services or another Federal agency for any  
11 such purpose.

12           (B) PURPOSE.—Technical assistance shall  
13 be provided under this paragraph for the pur-  
14 pose of supporting and assisting State and local  
15 courts that handle child abuse, neglect, and de-  
16 pendency matters to effectively carry out new  
17 responsibilities enacted as part of the Adoption  
18 and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law  
19 105–89; 111 Stat. 2115) and to speed the proc-  
20 ess of adoption of children and legal finalization  
21 of permanent families for children in foster care  
22 by improving practices of the courts involved in  
23 that process.

24           (C) TRAINING.—Technical assistance con-  
25 sistent with the purpose described in subpara-

1 graph (B) may be provided under this para-  
2 graph through the following:

3 (i) The dissemination of information  
4 and technical assistance to State and local  
5 courts that receive grants under section 4  
6 concerning the automated data collection  
7 and case-tracking systems and outcome  
8 measures required under that section.

9 (ii) The provision of specialized train-  
10 ing on child development that is appro-  
11 priate for judges, referees, nonjudicial deci-  
12 sion-makers, administrative, and other  
13 court-related personnel, and for attorneys  
14 involved in abuse and neglect courts who  
15 represent the State or a human services  
16 agency, children, guardians ad litem, or  
17 parents.

18 (iii) The provision of assistance and  
19 dissemination of information about best  
20 practices of abuse and neglect courts for  
21 effective case management strategies and  
22 techniques, including assessments of case-  
23 load and staffing levels, management of  
24 court dockets, timely decision-making at all  
25 stages of a proceeding conducted by, or

1 under the supervision of, an abuse and ne-  
 2 glect court, and the development of  
 3 streamlined case flow procedures, case  
 4 management models, early case resolution  
 5 programs, mechanisms for monitoring  
 6 compliance with the terms of court orders,  
 7 models for representation of children, auto-  
 8 mated interagency interfaces between data  
 9 bases, and court rules that facilitate timely  
 10 case processing.

11 (iv) The development of standards of  
 12 practice for attorneys representing the  
 13 State or a human services agency, chil-  
 14 dren, guardians ad litem, or parents in  
 15 such proceedings.

16 (D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
 17 TIONS.—There is authorized to carry out this  
 18 paragraph \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal  
 19 years 1999 through 2003.

20 **SEC. 7. GRANTS TO EXPAND THE COURT-APPOINTED SPE-**  
 21 **CIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM IN UNDERSERVED**  
 22 **AREAS.**

23 (a) GRANTS TO EXPAND CASA PROGRAMS IN UN-  
 24 DERSERVED AREAS.—The Administrator of the Office of  
 25 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the De-

1 partment of Justice shall make a grant to the National  
2 Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association for the pur-  
3 poses of—

4           (1) expanding the recruitment of, and building  
5           the capacity of, court-appointed special advocate  
6           programs located in the 15 largest urban areas;

7           (2) developing regional, multijurisdictional re-  
8           source centers for court-appointed special advocate  
9           programs serving rural areas; and

10           (3) providing training and supervision of volun-  
11           teers in court-appointed special advocate programs.

12           (b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDI-  
13           TURES.—Not more than 5 percent of the grant made  
14           under this subsection may be used for administrative ex-  
15           penditures.

16           (c) DETERMINATION OF URBAN AND RURAL  
17           AREAS.—For purposes of administering the grant author-  
18           ized under this subsection, the Administrator of the Office  
19           of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the De-  
20           partment of Justice shall determine whether an area is  
21           one of the 15 largest urban areas or a rural area in ac-  
22           cordance with the practices of, and statistical information  
23           compiled by, the Bureau of the Census.

1           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to make the grant author-  
3 ized under this section, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.

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