

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2018

To authorize States to use funds provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to support infant safe haven programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2001

Ms. HART (for herself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PITTS, Mr. STEARNS, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. GREENWOOD, and Mr. RYUN of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize States to use funds provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to support infant safe haven programs.

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 “Safe Havens Support
5 Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. TANF FUNDS AUTHORIZED TO BE USED FOR IN-**
2 **FANT SAFE HAVEN PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 404(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 604(a)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph
6 (1);

7 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
8 graph (2) and inserting “; or”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(3) to support an infant safe haven program.”.

11 (b) **INFANT SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM DEFINED.**—Sec-
12 tion 419 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 619) is amended by add-
13 ing at the end the following:

14 “(6) **INFANT SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM.**—

15 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘infant safe
16 haven program’ means any program or activity
17 which—

18 “(i) provides a way for a parent to
19 safely relinquish a newborn infant at a safe
20 haven designated pursuant to a State law,
21 or an agreement approved by a local pros-
22 ecutor, which—

23 “(I) prescribes, or under which
24 are prescribed, procedures for lawfully
25 relinquishing such an infant; and

1 “(II) provides that a parent who
2 lawfully relinquishes such an infant
3 shall be immune from prosecution for
4 child abandonment based on such con-
5 duct, or shall be entitled to raise such
6 conduct as an affirmative defense in
7 such a prosecution;

8 “(ii) provides a designated toll-free in-
9 formation line for the purpose of directing
10 individuals to locations that are authorized
11 to accept newborn infants relinquished
12 pursuant to such a law or agreement and
13 to provide information about infant relin-
14 quishment laws or agreements;

15 “(iii) provides for the education and
16 training of individuals who are authorized
17 to accept newborn infants relinquished
18 pursuant to such a law or agreement, to
19 familiarize the individuals with the proce-
20 dures prescribed by or under the law or
21 agreement for accepting, and caring for a
22 parent who is relinquishing, such an in-
23 fant; or

24 “(iv) recruits and trains health and
25 social services personnel to work with relin-

1 quished or abandoned infants, their fami-
2 lies, and prospective adoptive families.

3 “(B) SUPPORT.—The term ‘support’
4 means, with respect to an infant safe haven
5 program, to develop, carry out, or inform any
6 segment of the public about such a program.

7 “(C) RELATED TERMS.—In subparagraph
8 (A):

9 “(i) NEWBORN INFANT.—The term
10 ‘newborn infant’ means a child who is not
11 more than 30 days old.

12 “(ii) RELINQUISH.—The term ‘relin-
13 quish’ means to surrender physical cus-
14 tody.”.

15 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF INFANTS WHO ARE ABANDONED, RELIN-**
16 **QUISHED, OR DECEASED.**

17 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human
18 Services shall conduct a study to determine—

19 (1) an estimate of the annual number of infants
20 who are relinquished, abandoned, or found dead in
21 the United States within 1 year after their birth;

22 (2) an estimate of the annual number of such
23 infants who are victims of homicide; and

1 (3) characteristics and demographics of parents
2 who have abandoned an infant in the United States
3 within 1 year after its birth.

4 (b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
5 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
6 annually during the next 2 years, the Secretary of Health
7 and Human Services shall submit to the Congress a writ-
8 ten report that describes the findings of the study required
9 by subsection (a), and contains such recommendations as
10 the Secretary deems appropriate.

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