

H.R. 1475: HOSPITAL ADOPTION EDUCATION ACT

Congressman Smucker (R-PA) & Congressman Davis (D-NC-1)



FAMILY to FAMILY
SUPPORT NETWORK

What does H.R.1475 do?

Convenes national experts to establish best practice for infant adoption in hospitals.

Currently, there is no standard curriculum for healthcare professionals.



Standardizes referral systems and protects families pursuing adoption from corrupt, unlicensed adoption professionals.



The adoption landscape is currently overrun with opportunistic, unlicensed entities that take advantage of adoptive parents and expectant parents. Healthcare should have a standard referral process to protect their patients and ensure the resources they are referring patients to have been vetted.

Protects nurses by giving them education when case management is not available.

Few hospitals have OB-specific case management available 24/7. Coverage is often floating from other units such as the ICU. Nurses equipped with knowledge can navigate unique situations with confidence and focus on providing excellent care.



Ensures patients are treated with respectful, neutral compassionate care.

All patients and families should be treated with respectful care regardless of their story.



Educates nurse travelers in state-specific adoption laws.

Every state has different adoption laws and healthcare professionals should be aware of ethical and legal infant adoption practices. Some hospitals have as many as 30% nurse travelers on-site at any time. This can lead to confusion regarding the hospital's policies and protocol for adoption.



Trains hospitals on state-specific Safe Haven laws on policies and protocols.

Safe Haven laws exist in every state, these laws allow a parent to anonymously surrender their unharmed infant to a designated Safe Haven provider. Many hospitals don't know what the procedure should be for a safe and legal surrender.



For more information about supporting H.R.1475, Contact Juliana Dauchness in Congressman Smucker's Office or Jonathan Miller in Congressman Davis' Office.

If you have questions about adoption sensitive care in hospitals, contact Rebecca Vahle: rvahle@familytofamilysupport.org