

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1475

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about sensitivities regarding adoption in the health care industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about sensitivities regarding adoption in the health care industry, and for other purposes.

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 “Hospital Adoption
5 Education Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) 24 percent of Americans say that they have
2 considered adopting a child.

3 (2) 81 percent of birth parents report that easy
4 access to objective information is important to them
5 when making the decision to choose adoption.

6 (3) 93 percent of Americans consider hospitals
7 and health care facilities to be trustworthy sources
8 of information about adoption.

9 (4) 98.2 percent of nurses have no professional
10 development in the sensitivities around adoption.

11 (5) Only 4 percent of women with unintended
12 pregnancies place their children through adoption.

13 **SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF ADOPTION**
14 **RESOURCES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
16 Human Services—

17 (1) shall develop and nationally disseminate ac-
18 curate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote
19 understanding about—

20 (A) the sensitivities regarding adoption in
21 the health care industry; and

22 (B) best practices when interacting with
23 prospective birth mothers and adoptive families;
24 and

25 (2) in carrying out paragraph (1)—

1 (A) shall include digital resources; and

2 (B) may include other types of resources,
3 such as print resources.

4 (b) ONLINE ADOPTION RESOURCES FOR HEALTH
5 CARE WORKERS.—The Secretary shall maintain on the
6 public website of the Administration for Children and
7 Families a webpage on adoption resources for health care
8 workers to improve the awareness and understanding of
9 such workers regarding adoption.

10 (c) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.—

11 (1) COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall develop
12 the resources required by subsections (a) and (b)
13 through a committee of adoption experts.

14 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the
15 committee referred to in paragraph (1) shall in-
16 clude—

17 (A) representatives of organizations in-
18 volved in adoption education;

19 (B) maternal health experts;

20 (C) child welfare experts;

21 (D) licensed social workers;

22 (E) hospital case managers; and

23 (F) adoption attorneys.

1 **SEC. 4. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
2 **FOR CARE PROVIDERS REGARDING PATIENT**
3 **CARE FOR FAMILIES PURSUING ADOPTION,**
4 **INCLUDING PROSPECTIVE BIRTH MOTHERS**
5 **AND POTENTIAL ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
7 Administration for Children and Families, directly or
8 through grants or contracts in accordance with subsection
9 (b), shall—

10 (1) provide to care providers at hospitals and
11 birthing centers education and professional develop-
12 ment regarding patient care for families pursuing
13 adoption, including prospective birth mothers and
14 potential adoptive families; and

15 (2) provide consultation services to hospitals
16 and birthing centers employing care providers on
17 standardized policies, guidelines, and procedures re-
18 garding such education and professional development
19 for such care providers

20 (b) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS.—If the Secretary choos-
21 es to provide education, professional development, or con-
22 sultation services under subsection (a) through the award
23 of a grant or contract, the following provisions shall apply:

24 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for such an
25 award, an entity—

1 (A) shall be a health care-based education
2 organization that focuses on adoption; and

3 (B) shall not—

4 (i) be a child-placing agency; or

5 (ii) provide or refer for abortions.

6 (2) APPLICATION.—To seek such an award, an
7 eligible entity shall submit an application to the Sec-
8 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing
9 such information and assurances as the Secretary
10 may require.

11 (3) PERIOD.—The period of such an award
12 shall not exceed 3 fiscal years.

13 (4) REPORTS.—As a condition on receipt of
14 such an award, an eligible entity shall agree to sub-
15 mit to the Secretary each fiscal year a report on the
16 activities carried out through the award. Each such
17 report shall include such information as the Sec-
18 retary determines is necessary to provide an accu-
19 rate description of such activities.

20 (5) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Activities
21 carried out using funds made available through such
22 an award shall supplement, and not supplant, activi-
23 ties carried out using other funds made available
24 from the Federal Government or other sources.

1 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; COORDINATION.—The
2 Secretary shall—

3 (1) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
4 ties regarding activities carried out through an
5 award under this section; and

6 (2) as appropriate, coordinate the provision of
7 education, professional development, and consulta-
8 tion services under subsection (a) with other adop-
9 tion-related research, professional development, serv-
10 ices, and assistance activities carried out by the De-
11 partment of Health and Human Services.

12 (d) EVALUATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall evaluate
14 the implementation and effectiveness of the activities
15 carried out (directly or through grants or contracts)
16 under this section, including by calculating—

17 (A) the number of hospitals and birthing
18 centers that implement adoption-sensitive pro-
19 gramming and education and professional devel-
20 opment as a result of the activities under this
21 section; and

22 (B) the number of care providers who re-
23 ceive adoption education or professional devel-
24 opment as a result of the activities under this
25 section.

1 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3
2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
3 Secretary shall complete the evaluation under para-
4 graph (1) and submit to the Congress a report that
5 contains the results of such evaluation, including the
6 calculations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
7 paragraph (1).

8 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) The term “birth mother” means a woman
11 who places her baby with the adoptive parents and
12 terminates parental rights.

13 (2) The term “care provider” includes any
14 health care personnel (including bedside staff) and
15 ancillary staff who have contact in a hospital or
16 birthing center with expectant mothers, birth moth-
17 ers, and potential adoptive families.

18 (3) The term “child-placing agency” means a
19 business or service conducted, maintained, or oper-
20 ated by a person engaged in finding homes for new-
21 born infants by placing, or arranging for the place-
22 ment of, such newborn infants for adoption or foster
23 care.

1 (4) The term “potential adoptive family” means
2 one or more individuals who are actively seeking to
3 adopt a child.

4 (5) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
5 of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 To carry out this Act, there is authorized to be appro-
8 priated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services
9 \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2023 through
10 2026.

○