

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4475

To provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to increase the availability of menstrual products for individuals with limited access to such products.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 6, 2023

Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. MENG, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to increase the availability of menstrual products for individuals with limited access to such products.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Period PROUD (Pro-
3 viding Resources for Our Underserved and Disadvan-
4 tagged) Act of 2023”.

5 **SEC. 2. TARGETED FUNDING FOR MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS**
6 **THROUGH THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
9 BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amount specified in
11 subsection (c) of section 2003 of the Social Security
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b) for purposes of subsections
13 (a) and (b) of such section is deemed to be
14 \$1,900,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
15 through 2028, of which the amount equal to
16 \$200,000,000, reduced by the amounts reserved
17 under paragraph (2)(B) for each such fiscal year,
18 shall be obligated by States in accordance with sub-
19 section (b).

20 (2) APPROPRIATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in
22 the Treasury of the United States not otherwise
23 appropriated, there is appropriated
24 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
25 through 2028, to carry out this section.

26 (B) RESERVATIONS.—

1 (i) PURPOSES.—The Secretary shall
2 reserve, from the amount appropriated
3 under subparagraph (A) to carry out this
4 section—

5 (I) for each of fiscal years 2025
6 through 2028, not more than 2 per-
7 cent of the amount appropriated for
8 the fiscal year for purposes of enter-
9 ing into an agreement with an eligible
10 entity described in subparagraph (C)
11 to assist in providing technical assist-
12 ance and training, to support effective
13 policy, practice, research, and cross-
14 system collaboration among grantees
15 and subgrantees, and to assist in the
16 administration of the program de-
17 scribed in this section; and

18 (II) for fiscal year 2025, an
19 amount, not to exceed \$2,000,000, for
20 purposes of conducting an evaluation
21 under subsection (d).

22 (ii) NO STATE ENTITLEMENT TO RE-
23 SERVED FUNDS.—The State entitlement
24 under section 2002(a) of the Social Secu-
25 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397a(a)) shall not

1 apply to the amounts reserved under clause
2 (i).

3 (C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DESCRIBED.—An el-
4 igible entity described in this subparagraph is a
5 nonprofit organization described in section
6 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
7 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)
8 of such Code, that—

9 (i) has experience in more than 1
10 State in the area of community distribu-
11 tions of basic need services, including expe-
12 rience collecting, warehousing, and distrib-
13 uting basic necessities such as menstrual
14 products;

15 (ii) demonstrates competency to im-
16 plement a project, provide fiscal account-
17 ability, collect data, and prepare reports
18 and other necessary documentation; and

19 (iii) demonstrates a willingness to
20 share information with researchers, practi-
21 tioners, and other interested parties.

22 (b) RULES GOVERNING USE OF ADDITIONAL
23 FUNDS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds are used in accord-
25 ance with this subsection if—

1 (A) the State, in consultation with relevant
2 stakeholders, including agencies, professional
3 associations, and nonprofit organizations, dis-
4 tributes the funds to eligible entities to—

5 (i) decrease the unmet need for men-
6 strual products by low-income menstru-
7 ating individuals through—

8 (I) the distribution of free men-
9 strual products;

10 (II) community outreach to assist
11 in participation in existing menstrual
12 product distribution programs; or

13 (III) improving access to men-
14 strual products among low-income in-
15 dividuals; and

16 (ii) increase the ability of communities
17 and low-income families in such commu-
18 nities to provide for the need for menstrual
19 products of low-income adults; and

20 (B) the funds are used subject to the limi-
21 tations in section 2005 of the Social Security
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397d).

23 (2) ALLOWABLE USES BY ELIGIBLE ENTI-
24 TIES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity re-
2 ceiving funds made available under subsection
3 (a) shall use the funds for any of the following:

4 (i) To pay for the purchase and dis-
5 tribution of menstrual products among
6 low-income individuals.

7 (ii) To integrate activities carried out
8 under subparagraph (A) with other basic
9 needs assistance programs serving low-in-
10 come families, including the following:

11 (I) Programs funded by the tem-
12 porary assistance for needy families
13 program under part A of title IV of
14 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
15 601 et seq.), including the State
16 maintenance of effort provisions of
17 such program.

18 (II) Programs designed to sup-
19 port the health of eligible children,
20 such as the Children’s Health Insur-
21 ance Program under title XXI of the
22 Social Security Act, the Medicaid pro-
23 gram under title XIX of such Act, or
24 State funded health care programs.

1 (III) Programs funded through
2 the special supplemental nutrition
3 program for women, infants, and chil-
4 dren under section 17 of the Child
5 Nutrition Act of 1966.

6 (IV) Programs that offer early
7 home visiting services, including the
8 maternal, infant, and early childhood
9 home visiting program (including the
10 Tribal home visiting program) under
11 section 511 of the Social Security Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 711).

13 (iii) To provide training or technical
14 assistance in carrying out activities under
15 this section.

16 (iv) To cover administrative costs.

17 (B) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR
18 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity re-
19 ceiving funds made available under this section
20 shall not use more than 9 percent of the funds
21 for administrative costs incurred pursuant to
22 this section.

23 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

24 (A) FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO ELIGIBLE
25 ENTITIES.—Funds made available under sub-

1 section (a) that are distributed to an eligible en-
2 tity by a State for a fiscal year may be ex-
3 pended by the eligible entity only in such fiscal
4 year or the succeeding fiscal year.

5 (B) EVALUATION.—Funds reserved under
6 subsection (a)(2)(B)(i)(II) to carry out the eval-
7 uation under subsection (d) shall be available
8 for expenditure through September 30, 2028.

9 (4) NO EFFECT ON OTHER PROGRAMS.—Any
10 assistance or benefits received by a family through
11 funds made available under subsection (a) shall be
12 disregarded for purposes of determining the family’s
13 eligibility for, or amount of, benefits under any other
14 Federal needs-based programs.

15 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 2004 of the Social
16 Security Act shall apply with respect to payments made
17 to a State under this section in the same way it applies
18 with respect to payments made to a State under section
19 2002 of such Act.

20 (d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in consultation
21 with States and the eligible entities described in subsection
22 (a)(2)(C) receiving funds made available under this sec-
23 tion, shall—

24 (1) not later than December 30, 2030, complete
25 an evaluation of the effectiveness of the assistance

1 program carried out pursuant to this section, such
2 as the effect of activities carried out under this Act
3 on mitigating the health risks of unmet menstrual
4 products need among individuals in low-income fami-
5 lies;

6 (2) not later than March 31, 2031, submit to
7 the Committees on Energy and Commerce and on
8 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives
9 and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a re-
10 port on the results of the evaluation; and

11 (3) not later than April 30, 2031, publish the
12 results of the evaluation on the internet website of
13 the Department of Health and Human Services.

14 (e) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue
16 guidance regarding how the provisions of this section
17 should be carried out, including information regarding eli-
18 gible entities, allowable use of funds, and reporting re-
19 quirements.

20 (f) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services, in cooperation with the Secretary of
22 Education, shall develop best practices for school officials
23 to use in discussing menstruation with students, and shall
24 publish this information on the internet website of the De-
25 partment of Health and Human Services.

1 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.—The term “men-
3 strual products” means menstrual cups, menstrual
4 discs, menstrual underwear, and sanitary napkins
5 and tampons, that conform to applicable industry
6 standards.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term “eligible
8 entity” means a State or local governmental entity,
9 an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as defined in
10 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
11 cation Assistance Act), or a nonprofit organization
12 described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
13 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
14 section 501(a) of such Code that—

15 (A) has experience in the area of commu-
16 nity distributions of basic need services, includ-
17 ing experience collecting, warehousing, and dis-
18 tributing basic necessities such as diapers, food,
19 or menstrual products;

20 (B) demonstrates competency to implement
21 a project, provide fiscal accountability, collect
22 data, and prepare reports and other necessary
23 documentation; and

1 (C) demonstrates a willingness to share in-
2 formation with researchers, practitioners, and
3 other interested parties.

4 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
5 ing given in section 1101(a)(1) of the Social Secu-
6 rity Act for purposes of title XX of such Act.

7 (h) LIMITATION ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
8 TIONS.—For the administration of this section, there are
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
10 and Human Services not more than \$6,000,000 for fiscal
11 years 2025 through 2028.

12 (i) EXEMPTION FROM SEQUESTRATION.—Funds
13 made available to carry out this section shall be exempt
14 from reduction under any order issued under the Balanced
15 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

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