

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5406

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a clearinghouse of ZIP-Code based information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LATTA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BOST, Mr. OGLES, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. YAKYM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a clearinghouse of ZIP-Code based information to expecting mothers, 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 “Life.Gov Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. LIFE.GOV.**

6 The Public Health Service Act is amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

1 **“TITLE XXXIV—LIFE.GOV**

2 **“SEC. 3401. WEBSITE.**

3 “(a) WEBSITE.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish
5 a public website entitled ‘life.gov’. The Secretary may not
6 delegate implementation or administration of this website
7 below the level of the Office of the Secretary. Such website
8 shall include the following:

9 “(1) A clearinghouse of relevant resources
10 available for pregnant women.

11 “(2) A series of questions through which a user
12 is able to generate a list of relevant resources of in-
13 terest within the user’s zip code.

14 “(3) A means to direct the user to identify
15 whether to list the relevant resources of interest that
16 are available online or within 1, 5, 10, 50, and 100
17 miles of the user.

18 “(4) A mechanism to provide for the submission
19 of feedback on how user-friendly and helpful the
20 website was in providing the tailored information the
21 user was seeking.

22 “(5) A mechanism for users to take an assess-
23 ment through the portal and provide consent to use
24 the user’s contact information which the Secretary
25 may use to conduct outreach via phone or email to

1 follow up with users on additional resources that
2 would be helpful for the users to review.

3 “(b) RESOURCE LIST AGGREGATION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall invite
5 States to provide recommendations of relevant re-
6 sources referred to in subsection (a)(3).

7 “(2) CRITERIA FOR MAKING RECOMMENDA-
8 TIONS.—The Secretary shall develop criteria to pro-
9 vide to the States to determine whether resources
10 recommended as described in paragraph (1) should
11 appear on the website. Such criteria shall include the
12 requirement that the relevant resource is not a pro-
13 hibited entity and the requirement that the relevant
14 resource has been engaged in providing services for
15 a minimum of 3 consecutive years.

16 “(3) GRANT PROGRAM.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 provide grants to States to establish or support
19 a system that—

20 “(i) aggregates relevant resources re-
21 ferred to in subsection (a)(3), in accord-
22 ance with the criteria developed under
23 paragraph (2); and

24 “(ii) may be coordinated, to the extent
25 determined appropriate by the State, by a

1 statewide, regionally-based, or community-
2 based public or private entity.

3 “(B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
4 ceive a grant under subparagraph (A), a State
5 shall submit an application to the Secretary at
6 such time, in such manner, and containing such
7 information as the Secretary may require, in-
8 cluding a plan for outreach and awareness ac-
9 tivities, and a list of relevant resources that
10 would be included in the State system sup-
11 ported by the grant.

12 “(c) PROHIBITION REGARDING CERTAIN ENTI-
13 TIES.—Relevant resources listed on the website estab-
14 lished under this section, and any additional resources
15 promoted by the Secretary, may not include any resource
16 offered by a prohibited entity. No prohibited entity may
17 receive a grant provided under subsection (b)(3).

18 “(d) SERVICES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.—The
19 Secretary shall ensure that the website under this section
20 provides the widest possible access to services for families
21 who speak languages other than English.

22 “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
24 after the date on which the website is established

1 under this section, the Secretary shall submit to
2 Congress a report on—

3 “(A) the traffic of the website;

4 “(B) user feedback on the accessibility and
5 helpfulness of the website in tailoring to the
6 user’s needs;

7 “(C) insights on gaps in relevant resources
8 with respect to services for pregnant and
9 postpartum women;

10 “(D) suggestions on how to improve user
11 experience and accessibility based on user feed-
12 back and missing resources that would be help-
13 ful to include in future updates; and

14 “(E) certification that no prohibited enti-
15 ties are listed as a relevant resource or are in
16 receipt of a grant under subsection (b)(3).

17 “(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The report under
18 paragraph (1) shall not include any personal identi-
19 fying information regarding individuals who have
20 used the website.

21 “(f) FUNDING.—

22 “(1) WEBSITE.—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (2), this section shall be carried out using
24 amounts available under the heading ‘General De-
25 partmental Management–Office of the Secretary–De-

1 department of Health and Human Services’ under the
2 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services,
3 and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations
4 Act.

5 “(2) GRANT PROGRAM.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b)(3)
7 shall be carried out using amounts available
8 for—

9 “(i) the State Personal Responsibility
10 Education Program under section 513 of
11 the Social Security Act;

12 “(ii) title X of the Public Health Serv-
13 ice Act; or

14 “(iii) the provisions of law specified in
15 clauses (i) and (ii).

16 “(B) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT.—Of the
17 amounts specified in subparagraph (A), the
18 Secretary may use not more than \$50,000,000
19 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through
20 2028.

21 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
22 this section may be construed as prohibiting the ap-
23 propriation of funds to carry out this Act.

24 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) ABORTION.—The term ‘abortion’ means
2 the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine,
3 drug, or other substance or device to intentionally—

4 “(A) kill the unborn child of a woman
5 known to be pregnant; or

6 “(B) prematurely terminate the pregnancy
7 of a woman known to be pregnant, with an in-
8 tention other than to—

9 “(i) increase the probability of a live
10 birth or of preserving the life or health of
11 the child after live birth; or

12 “(ii) remove a dead unborn child.

13 “(2) BORN ALIVE.—The term ‘born alive’ has
14 the meaning given such term in section 8(b) of title
15 1, United States Code.

16 “(3) PROHIBITED ENTITY.—The term ‘prohib-
17 ited entity’ means an entity, including its affiliates,
18 subsidiaries, successors, and clinics that performs,
19 induces, refers for, or counsels in favor of abortions,
20 or provides financial support to any other organiza-
21 tion that conducts such activities.

22 “(4) RELEVANT RESOURCES.—The term ‘rel-
23 evant resources’ means the Federal, State, local gov-
24 ernmental, and private resources in the categories of
25 the following topics:

1 “(A) Mentorship opportunities, including
2 pregnancy help and case management re-
3 sources.

4 “(B) Health and well-being services, in-
5 cluding women’s medical services such as ob-
6 stetrical and gynecological support services for
7 women, abortion pill reversal, breastfeeding,
8 general health services, primary care, and den-
9 tal care.

10 “(C) Financial assistance, work opportuni-
11 ties, nutrition assistance, childcare, and edu-
12 cation opportunities.

13 “(D) Material or legal support, including
14 transportation, food, nutrition, clothing, house-
15 hold goods, baby supplies, housing, shelters,
16 maternity homes, tax preparation, legal support
17 for child support, family leave, breastfeeding
18 protections, and custody issues.

19 “(E) Recovery and mental health services,
20 including services with respect to addiction or
21 suicide intervention, intimate partner violence,
22 sexual assault, rape, sex trafficking, and coun-
23 seling for women and families surrounding un-
24 expected loss of a child.

1 “(F) Prenatal diagnostic services, includ-
2 ing disability support organizations, medical
3 interventions for a baby, perinatal hospice re-
4 sources, pregnancy and infant loss support, and
5 literature on pregnancy wellness.

6 “(G) Healing and support services for
7 abortion survivors and their families.

8 “(H) Services providing care for children,
9 including family planning education, adoption,
10 foster care, and short-term care resources.

11 “(I) Comprehensive information on alter-
12 natives to abortion.

13 “(J) Information about abortion risks, in-
14 cluding complications and failures.

15 “(K) Links to information on child devel-
16 opment from moment of conception.

17 “(5) UNBORN CHILD.—The term ‘unborn child’
18 means an individual organism of the species homo
19 sapiens, beginning at fertilization, until the point of
20 being born alive.”.

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