

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7052

To amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that child support for unborn children is collected and distributed under the child support enforcement program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2024

Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. GUTHRIE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that child support for unborn children is collected and distributed under the child support enforcement program, 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 “Unborn Child Support  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ON BEHALF OF**  
2 **UNBORN CHILDREN.**

3 (a) STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—Section 454 of the  
4 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 654) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (4)(A)—

6 (A) in clause (i)—

7 (i) by inserting “, including an unborn  
8 child,” after “child”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-  
10 colon; and

11 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including  
12 an unborn child” after “other child”;

13 (2) in paragraph (33), by striking “and” after  
14 the semicolon;

15 (3) in paragraph (34), by striking the period  
16 and inserting “; and”;

17 (4) by inserting after paragraph (34), the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(35) provide that the State will establish and  
20 enforce child support obligations of the biological fa-  
21 ther of an unborn child (and subsequent to the birth  
22 of the child) to the mother of such child provided  
23 that—

24 “(A) the mother has requested payment of  
25 such child support obligations;

1           “(B) the start date for such obligations  
2           may begin with the first month in which the  
3           child was conceived, as determined by a physi-  
4           cian (and shall begin with that month if the  
5           mother so requests);

6           “(C) payments for such obligations may be  
7           retroactively collected or awarded, including in  
8           the case where paternity is established subse-  
9           quent to the birth of the child;

10          “(D) the payment amount for such obliga-  
11          tions shall be determined by a court, in con-  
12          sultation with the mother, taking into account  
13          the best interests of the mother and child;

14          “(E) any measure to establish the pater-  
15          nity of a child (born or unborn) shall not be re-  
16          quired without the consent of the mother; and

17          “(F) any measure to establish the pater-  
18          nity of an unborn child shall not be taken if the  
19          measure poses any risk of harm to the child if  
20          unborn.”; and

21          (5) by adding at the end the following: “For  
22          purposes of paragraphs (4) and (35), the term ‘un-  
23          born child’ means a member of the species homo  
24          sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried  
25          in the womb.”.

1 (b) LIMITATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section  
2 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding  
5 paragraph (1), by striking “In the case of” and in-  
6 serting “Except as provided in subsection (c), in the  
7 case of”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter pre-  
9 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “In the case  
10 of” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection  
11 (c), in the case of”; and

12 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
13 following:

14 “(c) No experimental, pilot, or demonstration project  
15 undertaken under subsection (a) to assist in promoting the  
16 objectives of part D of title IV, may permit modifications  
17 of paragraphs (4)(A)(ii) and (35) of section 454 to estab-  
18 lish and enforce child support obligations of the biological  
19 father of an unborn child. For purposes of the preceding  
20 sentence, the term ‘unborn child’ means a member of the  
21 species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who  
22 is carried in the womb.”.

23 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
24 this section shall take effect on the date that is 2 years  
25 after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply

1 to payments under part D of title IV of the Social Security  
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) for calendar quarters begin-  
3 ning on or after such date.

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