

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7812

To Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program to support the establishment of a national, toll-free telephone helpline to provide information and assistance to parents, caregivers, and youth to prevent child abuse and strengthen families.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. CHU, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program to support the establishment of a national, toll-free telephone helpline to provide information and assistance to parents, caregivers, and youth to prevent child abuse and strengthen families.

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 “National Parent and  
5 Youth Helpline Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) There are approximately 174,000,000 par-  
4 ents, caregivers, and youth in the United States.

5 (2) Many parents, caregivers, and youth often  
6 do not have immediate access to a caring and sup-  
7 portive person to help them address various personal  
8 challenges.

9 (3) Parents, caregivers, and youth could benefit  
10 from an effective helpline that fosters the strengths  
11 parents have, which would improve family and peer  
12 relationships, as well as community life and society  
13 overall.

14 (4) Congress recognizes that helpline prevention  
15 services will empower parents and caregivers to posi-  
16 tively address child development issues and help ad-  
17 dress child maltreatment, drug and alcohol prob-  
18 lems, mental health, and personal growth and devel-  
19 opment.

20 (5) Congress recognizes that helpline prevention  
21 services are trauma-informed by reducing risk fac-  
22 tors and increasing protective factors with weekly,  
23 evidence-based mutual support groups.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARENT AND**  
2 **YOUTH HELPLINE.**

3 Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after  
5 section 103 the following:

6 **“SEC. 103A. GRANT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARENT**  
7 **AND YOUTH HELPLINE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a  
9 grant to one nonprofit entity to—

10 “(1) provide for the establishment and ongoing  
11 operation of a national, toll-free telephone parent  
12 and youth helpline, as described in subsection (d), to  
13 provide emotional support and assistance to parents,  
14 caregivers, and youth to prevent child abuse and  
15 strengthen families through calls, texts, and live  
16 chats;

17 “(2) create and maintain a website with vital  
18 information and resources for parents, caregivers,  
19 and youth to address a broad spectrum of family  
20 issues related to emotional, social, behavioral, and  
21 educational well-being; and

22 “(3) develop and implement comprehensive out-  
23 reach strategies to reach diverse parents, caregivers,  
24 and youth nationwide.

25 “(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding the grant under this  
26 section, the Secretary shall give priority to an entity—

1           “(1) with experience in operating a national  
2           parent and youth helpline that provides emotional  
3           support to parents, caregivers, and youth; and

4           “(2) that operates weekly, evidence-based mu-  
5           tual support groups.

6           “(c) DURATION.—The grant under this section may  
7           be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

8           “(d) HELPLINE ACTIVITIES.—The entity that re-  
9           ceives the grant under this section shall use the grant to  
10          establish and operate a 24-hour, national, toll-free tele-  
11          phone helpline to provide (through calls, texts, and live  
12          chats)—

13           “(1) emotional support and assistance to di-  
14          verse parents, caregivers, and youth (including les-  
15          bian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer  
16          (LGBTQ) parents, caregivers, and youth) who are  
17          facing personal challenges, including emotional dis-  
18          tress, substance abuse, peer relationships, and edu-  
19          cational concerns related to their well-being;

20           “(2) weekly, evidence-based mutual support  
21          groups nationwide to build protective factors and  
22          strengthen families; and

23           “(3) comprehensive outreach strategies to reach  
24          diverse parents, caregivers, and youth nationwide,

1 distribute information and resources, and maintain a  
2 website.

3 “(e) PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The entity that re-  
4 ceives the grant under this section shall submit a perform-  
5 ance report to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,  
6 and containing such information as the Secretary may rea-  
7 sonably require. Such performance report shall include—

8 “(1) a description of the activities carried out  
9 with the grant;

10 “(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of such  
11 activities; and

12 “(3) such additional information as the Sec-  
13 retary determines appropriate.

14 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than three  
15 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
16 retary shall submit to Congress a report addressing the  
17 implementation and effectiveness of the national parent  
18 and youth helpline funded with the grant under this sec-  
19 tion.

20 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
21 are authoirzed to be appropriated to carry out this section  
22 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

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