

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7843

To amend the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payment Program to promote reunifying families, community-based care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2022

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payment Program to promote reunifying families, community-based care, 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 “Communities Advanc-
5 ing Reunification Efforts Act” or the “CARE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCENTIVE PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR INCREASING**
2 **SUCCESSFUL REUNIFICATIONS OF CHILDREN**
3 **WITH THEIR FAMILIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 473A(d)(1) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673b(d)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
7 graph (C);

8 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
9 paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(E) \$500, multiplied by the amount (if
12 any) by which—

13 “(i) the number of successful reunifi-
14 cations in the State during the fiscal year;
15 exceeds

16 “(ii) the number of successful reunifi-
17 cations in the State during the preceding
18 fiscal year.”.

19 (b) LIMITATION ON USE OF INCENTIVE PAYMENT.—
20 Section 473A(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 673b(f)) is
21 amended by striking “(including post-adoption services)
22 that may be provided under part B or E” and inserting
23 “that may be provided under part B or E (including post-
24 adoption services, and community-based, trauma-informed
25 services to assist in reuniting and strengthening fami-
26 lies)”.

1 (c) DEFINITION OF SUCCESSFUL REUNIFICATION.—
2 Section 473A(g) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 673b(g)) is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(13) SUCCESSFUL REUNIFICATION.—The term
5 ‘successful reunification’ means, with respect to a
6 State and a fiscal year, the number of qualified chil-
7 dren with respect to the State who—

8 “(A) in the preceding fiscal year, were re-
9 unified with their biological families in the
10 State within 1 year after removal; and

11 “(B) have remained with their biological
12 families, without re-entry into foster care, for at
13 least 1 year after reunification.

14 “(14) QUALIFIED CHILD.—The term ‘qualified
15 child’ means, with respect to a State, a child—

16 “(A) who is not ineligible for foster care
17 under the supervision of the State by reason of
18 age; and

19 “(B) the parental rights with respect to
20 whom have not been terminated.”.

21 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section shall take effect when the Secretary of Health
23 and Human Services determines that the information
24 needed to implement the amendments is available.

○