

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8745

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve the monthly caseworker visits program so States can invest in the child welfare workforce ensuring that children in care have access to quality and timely care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve the monthly caseworker visits program so States can invest in the child welfare workforce ensuring that children in care have access to quality and timely care.

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 “Child Welfare Work-
5 force Development Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

2 (a) MODIFICATION OF PAYMENT REDUCTION

3 RULES.—Section 424(f) of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 624(f)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “(1)(A)”; and

7 (B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

8 (2) by striking paragraph (2).

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 436(b)(4)(B)(i) of such
10 Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)(4)(B)(i)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “emphasis on” and all that fol-
12 lows and inserting “emphasis on—”; and

13 (2) by adding after and below the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(I) reducing caseload ratios and
16 the administrative burden on case-
17 workers, to improve caseworker deci-
18 sion making on the safety, perma-
19 nency, and well-being of foster chil-
20 dren and on activities designed to in-
21 crease retention, recruitment, and
22 training of caseworkers;

23 “(II) implementing technology
24 solutions to streamline caseworker du-
25 ties and modernize systems, ensuring

1 improved efficiency and effectiveness
2 in child welfare services;

3 “(III) technologies designed to
4 enhance caseworker safety;

5 “(IV) developing and imple-
6 menting mentoring or coaching pro-
7 grams that address work-related
8 stress and offer frontline workers sup-
9 port; and

10 “(V) recruitment campaigns
11 aimed at attracting qualified case-
12 worker candidates.”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2026,
16 and shall apply to payments under part B of title IV
17 of the Social Security Act for calendar quarters be-
18 ginning on or after such date.

19 (2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION
20 REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human
21 Services determines that State legislation (other
22 than legislation appropriating funds) is required in
23 order for a State plan developed pursuant to part B
24 of title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the ad-
25 ditional requirements imposed by the amendments

1 made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded
2 as failing to meet any of the additional requirements
3 before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter begin-
4 ning after the first regular session of the State legis-
5 lature that begins after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if
7 the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year
8 of the session is deemed to be a separate regular
9 session of the State legislature.

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