

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1786

To encourage the placement of children in foster care with siblings.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2013

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To encourage the placement of children in foster care with  
siblings.

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 “Sibling Connections  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENCOURAGING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN**  
7 **FOSTER CARE WITH SIBLINGS.**

8 (a) STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—

9 (1) NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OF SIBLINGS.—

10 Section 471(a)(29) of the Social Security Act (42  
11 U.S.C. 671(a)(29)) is amended by striking “all adult

1 grandparents” and inserting “the following relatives:  
2 all adult grandparents, all parents of a sibling of the  
3 child, where such parent has legal custody of such  
4 sibling,”.

5 (2) SIBLING DEFINED.—Section 475 of the So-  
6 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended by  
7 adding at the end the following:

8 “(9) The term ‘sibling’ means an individual  
9 who satisfies at least one of the following conditions  
10 with respect to a child:

11 “(A) The individual is considered by State  
12 law to be a sibling of the child.

13 “(B) The individual would have been con-  
14 sidered a sibling of the child under State law  
15 but for a termination or other disruption of pa-  
16 rental rights, such as the death of a parent.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
19 this section shall take effect on the date of enact-  
20 ment of this Act.

21 (2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION  
22 REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan approved  
23 under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act  
24 which the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
25 determines requires State legislation (other than leg-

1 islation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to  
2 meet the additional requirements imposed by this  
3 Act, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing  
4 to comply with the requirements of such part solely  
5 on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such  
6 additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st  
7 calendar quarter beginning after the close of the 1st  
8 regular session of the State legislature that ends  
9 after the 1-year period beginning with the date of  
10 enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preceding  
11 sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year  
12 legislative session, each year of the session is deemed  
13 to be a separate regular session of the State legisla-  
14 ture.

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