

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7210

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, 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 “Find and Protect Fos-
5 ter Youth Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATING OBSTACLES TO IDENTIFYING AND RE-**
2 **SPONDING TO CHILDREN MISSING FROM**
3 **FOSTER CARE AND OTHER VULNERABLE FOS-**
4 **TER YOUTH.**

5 Section 476 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 676) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(f) EVALUATION OF PROTOCOLS RELATING TO
8 CHILDREN MISSING FROM FOSTER CARE AND OTHER
9 VULNERABLE YOUTH; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
11 duct an evaluation of the protocols established by
12 States in accordance with the requirements of sec-
13 tion 471(a)(35) and to the extent applicable, by In-
14 dian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in sec-
15 tion 479B(a)) or tribal consortia with a plan ap-
16 proved under section 471 in accordance with section
17 479B.

18 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The evaluation shall in-
19 clude the following:

20 “(A) A review of relevant aspects of re-
21 ports submitted by States, Indian tribes, tribal
22 organizations, and tribal consortia under this
23 part and part B, and data and other informa-
24 tion reported pursuant to the system estab-
25 lished under section 479.

1 “(B) Analysis of the extent to which
2 States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and
3 tribal consortia comply with, and enforce, the
4 protocols required by section 471(a)(35).

5 “(C) Analysis of the effectiveness of such
6 protocols.

7 “(D) Identification of obstacles for States,
8 Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal
9 consortia to identifying and responding to chil-
10 dren missing from foster care and other vulner-
11 able foster youth.

12 “(E) Identification of best practices for
13 identifying such children and youth and inter-
14 vening with effective services.

15 “(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary,
16 through the capacity building services initiative of
17 the Children’s Bureau of the Office of the Adminis-
18 tration for Children & Families, shall provide States,
19 Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal con-
20 sortia with information, advice, educational mate-
21 rials, and technical assistance relating to eliminating
22 identified obstacles to identifying and responding to
23 children missing from foster care and other vulner-
24 able foster youth and providing such children and

1 youth with effective services. Such assistance may
2 include, but is not limited to, dissemination of—

3 “(A) processes and tools to identify and
4 examine risk factors and potential trends re-
5 lated to children who go missing from foster
6 care and other vulnerable youth;

7 “(B) best practices for ‘runaway’ tracking
8 and recovery; and

9 “(C) guidelines for intervention, including
10 with respect to services, types of providers, and
11 placement settings.

12 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
13 date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary
14 shall submit a report to Congress on the results of
15 the evaluation conducted under this subsection and
16 the technical assistance provided in accordance with
17 paragraph (3).

18 “(5) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in
19 this subsection shall be construed as authorizing the
20 Secretary to establish new or additional require-
21 ments for States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations,
22 and tribal consortia relating to eliminating identified
23 obstacles to identifying and responding to children
24 missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster

- 1 youth and providing such children and youth with
- 2 effective services.”.

