

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6531

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, 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 “Targeting Resources
5 to Communities in Need Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
9 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
10 gress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
2 Committee on the Budget, the Committee on
3 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and
4 the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
5 ernmental Affairs of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
7 Committee on the Budget, the Committee on
8 Energy and Commerce, the Committee on
9 Transportation and Infrastructure, and the
10 Committee on Oversight and Reform of the
11 House of Representatives; and

12 (C) any other committee of Congress that
13 has jurisdiction over a department or agency
14 with a role developing or implementing meas-
15 ures under section 4(a).

16 (2) AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY.—The term
17 “area of persistent poverty” means an area that is
18 a high-poverty census tract or a persistent poverty
19 county.

20 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
21 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
22 et.

23 (4) HIGH-POVERTY CENSUS TRACT.—The term
24 “high-poverty census tract” means a census tract
25 that has a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent

1 in the most recent American Community Survey 5-
2 year survey by the Bureau of the Census.

3 (5) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.—The term
4 “persistent poverty county” means—

5 (A) a county, parish, or other equivalent
6 county division (as determined by the Bureau of
7 the Census) with a poverty rate of not less than
8 20 percent in the Small Area Income and Pov-
9 erty Estimates by the Bureau of the Census for
10 1997, 2007, 2017, and the most recent year for
11 which the estimates are available; or

12 (B) any territory or possession of the
13 United States.

14 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF LIST OF AREAS OF PERSISTENT**
15 **POVERTY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of the Census
18 shall publish a list of all areas of persistent poverty.

19 (b) UPDATE.—The Bureau of the Census shall up-
20 date annually the list published under subsection (a).

21 **SEC. 4. INCREASING SHARE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO**
22 **AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY AND OTHER**
23 **HIGH-POVERTY AREAS.**

24 (a) GUIDANCE AND MEASURES TO INCREASE FED-
25 ERAL INVESTMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the

1 date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation
2 with Federal agencies, shall develop and implement guid-
3 ance and measures to increase the share of Federal invest-
4 ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty and other
5 areas with high and persistent poverty (including any
6 other areas that the Director, in consultation with Federal
7 agencies, determines to be appropriate areas to target).

8 (b) GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES.—Not later than 120
9 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director
10 shall issue guidance to agencies regarding—

11 (1) identifying the scope of programs subject to
12 increased targeted investment described in sub-
13 section (a);

14 (2) identifying the manner and share of tar-
15 geted investment described in subsection (a); and

16 (3) outlining measures to track increased in-
17 vestment in areas of persistent poverty and other
18 areas with high and persistent poverty over time.

19 (c) INVESTMENT AMOUNT.—In developing the guid-
20 ance and measures under subsection (a), the Director shall
21 include a minimum goal that Federal investments targeted
22 to areas of persistent poverty or other areas with high and
23 persistent poverty be in an amount that is greater than
24 the amount that is proportional to the population of such

1 areas in the United States relative to the population of
2 the United States as a whole.

3 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall
4 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an an-
5 nual report that includes—

6 (1) a list of the programs, by agency, that are
7 included in the effort to increase the share of Fed-
8 eral investments targeted to areas of persistent pov-
9 erty and other areas with high and persistent pov-
10 erty; and

11 (2) for each program listed under paragraph
12 (1)—

13 (A) the amount of funds that were directed
14 under the program toward an area of persistent
15 poverty or other area with high and persistent
16 poverty during the previous fiscal year;

17 (B) the percentage change from the fiscal
18 year before the previous fiscal year in the
19 amount of funds that were directed under the
20 program toward an area of persistent poverty
21 or other area with high and persistent poverty;
22 and

23 (C) to the extent practicable, an assess-
24 ment of the economic impact of the program,
25 including data on impacted individuals,

1 disaggregated by household income, race, gen-
2 der, age, national origin, disability status, and
3 whether the individuals live in an urban area,
4 suburban area, or rural area.

5 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORTS.**

6 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
7 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller Gen-
8 eral of the United States shall report to the appropriate
9 committees of Congress on the effectiveness of the meas-
10 ures implemented pursuant to section 4(a), including an
11 assessment regarding the impact of the measures on in-
12 creasing Federal funds spent in areas of persistent poverty
13 and other areas with high and persistent poverty.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
16 2023, \$5,000,000 for salaries and expenses (including for
17 entering contracts with non-Federal persons) to carry out
18 this Act.

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