

# S. 9

To reduce child poverty in the United States, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Mr. HERSEY introduced the following bill;

---

## A BILL

To reduce child poverty in the United States, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2023”.

### **SEC. 2. CHILD POVERTY GOAL AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

Title IV of the Social Security Act ([42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.](#)) is amended by inserting after part B the following:

#### **“PART C—CHILD POVERTY ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE**

##### **“SEC. 441. NATIONAL GOAL TO CUT CHILD POVERTY BY HALF.**

“(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the United States by half in 5 years.

“(b) **SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that an effort to reach the goal described in subsection (a) shall include reducing the number of children in deep poverty as well as reducing child poverty among racial or ethnic groups with disparate poverty rates.

##### **“SEC. 442. ESTABLISHMENT OF ANNUAL REPORTING.**

“(a) ANCHORED SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Bureau of the Census to report an anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure for individuals who have not attained 18 years of age, annually beginning with calendar year 2023. Beginning with the report for calendar year 2024, the report shall be based on poverty thresholds which are adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for all-urban consumers (as published by the Department of Labor). This subsection shall not be interpreted to require or authorize the replacement of any other calculation or measure reported by the Bureau of the Census.

“(b) TIMING OF RELEASE OF CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT MICRODATA.—The Bureau of the Census shall release the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement microdata for each year as a single file containing the anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure and any other poverty rates the Bureau of the Census reports. The file shall be released at the same time as the Bureau of the Census report on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States. That report, or companion reports, should include poverty statistics and thresholds for the anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure and any other measures the Bureau of the Census reports.

“(c) REPORTING IN RELATION TO THE TERRITORIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Bureau of the Census to develop data to report an anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure for Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, as part of the annual report required by subsection (a), not later than the close of fiscal year 2025.

“(2) REPORT REQUIRED IF COMPLIANCE IS NOT FEASIBLE.—If the Secretary determines that it will not be feasible to comply with all or part of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Congress, not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, a report that explains what is not feasible, why it is not feasible, and includes details on what, if anything, would be needed to enable such compliance and by what date compliance could be achieved.

“(3) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary a total of not more than \$2,000,000 for fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

“(d) IMPROVING INCOME DATA FOR USE IN ANNUAL REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Bureau of the Census to develop income data with corrections for under-reporting of income data for calculating an anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure as part of the annual report required by subsection (a), not later than the close of fiscal year 2025.

“(2) REPORT REQUIRED IF COMPLIANCE IS NOT FEASIBLE.—If the Secretary determines that it will not be feasible to comply with all or part of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Congress, not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, a report that explains what is not feasible, why it is not feasible, and includes details on what, if anything, would be needed to enable such compliance and by what date compliance could be achieved.

#### **“SEC. 443. CHILD POVERTY REPORTS.**

“(a) ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE EFFECT OF FEDERAL POLICIES ON CHILD POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES.—Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to submit to the Congress annual reports providing an evidence-based, non-partisan analysis of how Federal policies or programs have contributed to meeting the goal set forth in section 441(a), based on their effect on the anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure for children as reported by the Bureau of the Census pursuant to section 442.

“(b) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each such report—

“(A) shall analyze how, and the extent to which, Federal policies and programs contribute to meeting the goal referred to in subsection (a) of this section;

“(B) shall take into account the number of children in deep poverty and child poverty among racial or ethnic groups with disparate poverty rates;

“(C) shall attempt to ascertain whether each studied policy or program reduces or increases the number of children living in poverty, why the policy or program does so, and the extent to which the policy or program does so; and

“(D) shall include, to the extent feasible, projections on how such policies or programs would affect the number of children living in poverty in future years,

which shall be made on the basis of previously released Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, and adjusted periodically as new estimates from the Bureau of the Census become available.

“(2) DATA CORRECTIONS.—Where feasible, each such report shall correct the underlying Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, for under-reporting of income and in-kind benefits and shall include estimates using both uncorrected and corrected income data. Because available information with which to produce corrected income data is currently limited and not timely, each such report shall indicate the year to which the corrected income data pertain and other limitations of the data. As soon as corrected income data from the Census Bureau become available under section 442(d), each such report shall use those data.

“(c) FEASIBILITY REVIEW OF STATE AND LOCAL EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES.—The 1st report under subsection (a) shall include a review of the feasibility of including consideration of State and local evidence-based policies or programs in subsequent such reports, and if the review determines that including the consideration is feasible, then each such report shall include an analysis of the additional policies.

“(d) TIMING.—Each report for a year under subsection (a) shall be made after the report of the United States Census Bureau on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States for the year is released, and—

“(1) in the case of the 1st such report, before the beginning of the 1st calendar year that begins more than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section; or

“(2) in the case of each subsequent such report, before the end of the year.

“(e) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than—

“(1) \$1,200,000 for fiscal year 2024; and

“(2) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2033.

#### **“SEC. 444. CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY CLEARINGHOUSE.**

“The Secretary shall establish, and annually update, on a website of the Department of Health and Human Services, an online collection of resources related to the national child poverty reduction goal established in section 441 of this Act, including—

“(1) the anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure published under section 442 of this Act;

“(2) the reports required by section 443 of this Act;

“(3) the report required by section 3 of the Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2023;

“(4) the report required by section 4 of the Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2023; and

“(5) links to other relevant Federal reports, analyses, evaluations, and resources related to child poverty as determined by the Secretary.

#### **“SEC. 445. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this part:

“(1) **ANCHORED.**—The term ‘anchored’ means fixed at a given point in time, and annually adjusted by a measure reflecting only changes in prices.

“(2) **POVERTY.**—The term ‘poverty’ means, with respect to an individual or family, that the individual or family has a total annual income that is less than the anchored Supplemental Poverty threshold for the individual or family, as provided in the Bureau of the Census report under section 442.

“(3) **DEEP POVERTY.**—The term ‘deep poverty’ means, with respect to an individual or family, that the individual or family has a total annual income that is less than 50 percent of the anchored Supplemental Poverty threshold for the individual or family, as provided in the Bureau of the Census report under section 442.”.

#### **SEC. 3. UPDATE OF “A ROADMAP TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY”.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to revise and update the National Academies' report entitled “A Roadmap to Reduce Child Poverty” within 24 months after the date of entry into the agreement.

(b) **LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry out subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,200,000.

#### **SEC. 4. REPORT ON REDUCING LONG-TERM, INTERGENERATIONAL CHILD POVERTY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to publish, within 36 months after the date of entry into the agreement, a report on evidence-based policies to reduce long-term, intergenerational child poverty, which report shall build on the National Academies' report entitled “A Roadmap to Reduce Child Poverty”.

(b) **LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry out subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,200,000.