

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2901

To establish a program of formula grants to the States for programs to provide pregnant women with alternatives to abortion, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mrs. BONO, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. NORTHUP, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. DELAY, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GARY MILLER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To establish a program of formula grants to the States for programs to provide pregnant women with alternatives to abortion, 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 “Women and Children’s
5 Resources Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Women confronted with unplanned or crisis
2 pregnancy often are left with the impression that
3 abortion is the only choice that they have in dealing
4 with their difficult circumstances.

5 (2) Women often lack accurate information,
6 supportive counseling and other assistance regarding
7 adoption and parenting alternatives to abortion.

8 (3) Organizations that provide accurate infor-
9 mation, supportive counseling and other assistance
10 regarding adoption and parenting alternatives to
11 abortion often lack sufficient resources to reach
12 women in need of their services and to provide for
13 their needs.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is—

15 (1) to promote childbirth as a viable and posi-
16 tive alternative to abortion and to empower those
17 facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies to choose
18 childbirth rather than abortion;

19 (2) to carry out paragraph (1) by supporting
20 entities and projects that provide information, coun-
21 seling, and support services that assist women to
22 choose childbirth and to make informed decisions re-
23 garding the choice of adoption or parenting with re-
24 spect to their children; and

1 (3) to maximize the effectiveness of this Act by
2 providing funds only to those entities and projects
3 that have a stated policy of actively promoting child-
4 birth instead of abortion and that have experience in
5 providing alternative-to-abortion services.

6 **SEC. 3. FORMULA GRANTS TO STATES FOR ALTERNATIVE-**
7 **TO-ABORTION SERVICES PROGRAMS.**

8 In the case of each State that in accordance with sec-
9 tion 6 submits to the Secretary of Health and Human
10 Services an application for a fiscal year, the Secretary
11 shall make a grant to the State for the year for carrying
12 out the purposes authorized in section 4(a) (subject to
13 amounts being appropriated under section 11 for the
14 year). The grant shall consist of the allotment determined
15 for the State under section 7.

16 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF STATE PRO-**
17 **GRAMS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE-TO-ABOR-**
18 **TION SERVICES; ADMINISTRATION OF PRO-**
19 **GRAMS THROUGH CONTRACTS WITH ENTI-**
20 **TIES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds provided under this
22 Act may be expended only for purposes of the establish-
23 ment and operation of a State program (carried out pursu-
24 ant to contracts under subsection (c)) designed to provide

1 alternative-to-abortion services (as defined in section 9) to
2 eligible individuals as described in subsection (b).

3 (b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an
5 individual is an eligible individual for purposes of
6 subsection (a) if—

7 (A) the individual is pregnant (or has rea-
8 sonable grounds to believe she may be preg-
9 nant);

10 (B) the individual (male or female) is the
11 parent or legal guardian of an infant under 12
12 months of age; or

13 (C) the individual is the spouse or other
14 partner of an individual described in subpara-
15 graph (A) or (B).

16 (2) PRIORITY FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVID-
17 UALS.—Grant funds provided under this Act shall be
18 awarded only to States that submit a grant applica-
19 tion that assures that the State program—

20 (A) will give priority to serving eligible in-
21 dividuals who are from low-income families; and

22 (B) will not impose a charge on any eligi-
23 ble individual from a low-income family except
24 to the extent that payment will be made by a
25 third party (including a government agency)

1 that is authorized or is under legal obligation to
2 pay such charge.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS THROUGH CON-
4 TRACTS WITH EXPERIENCED ENTITIES AND SERVICE
5 PROVIDERS.—Grant funds provided under this Act shall
6 be awarded only to States that submit a grant application
7 that assures that the State program will be established
8 and operated in accordance with the following:

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF PRO-
10 GRAM.—

11 (A) PRIME CONTRACTOR.—The State shall
12 enter into a contract with a nonprofit private
13 entity that, under the contract, shall be des-
14 ignated as the “prime contractor” and shall
15 have the principal responsibility for admin-
16 istering the State program, including subcon-
17 tracting with service providers.

18 (B) SUBCONTRACTS WITH SERVICE PRO-
19 VIDERS.—The prime contractor shall enter into
20 subcontracts with service providers for reim-
21 bursement of alternative-to-abortion services
22 provided to eligible individuals on a fee-for-serv-
23 ice basis, as provided in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

24 (C) EXPENDITURES OF GRANT.—The
25 prime contractor shall be authorized to expend

1 funds to administer the State program, reim-
2burse service providers, and to provide addi-
3tional supportive services to assist such pro-
4viders in providing alternative-to-abortion serv-
5ices to eligible individuals consistent with the
6purposes of this Act, including but not limited
7to providing for a toll-free referral system, ad-
8vertising of alternative-to-abortion services, pur-
9chase of educational materials, and grants for
10new sites and new project development.

11 (D) REQUIREMENT FOR PRIME CONTRAC-
12TORS.—An entity may not become a prime con-
13tractor unless, consistent with the overall pur-
14pose of this Act, it has a stated policy of ac-
15tively promoting childbirth instead of abortion.

16 (E) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR
17PRIME CONTRACTORS.—An entity may not be-
18come a prime contractor unless—

19 (i) for the five-year period preceding
20the date on which the entity applies to re-
21ceive the contract, it has been engaged pri-
22marily in the provision of core services or
23it has operated a project that provides
24such services;

1 (ii) it already serves as a prime con-
2 tractor pursuant to a State appropriation
3 designed to fund alternative-to-abortion
4 services; or

5 (iii) it is a subsidiary of an entity that
6 meets the criteria under clause (i) or (ii).

7 (F) REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBCONTRAC-
8 TORS.—An entity may not become a service
9 provider unless—

10 (i) it operates a service provider
11 project that has a stated policy of actively
12 promoting childbirth instead of abortion;

13 (ii) its project has been providing al-
14 ternative-to-abortion services to clients for
15 at least one year; and

16 (iii) its project is physically and finan-
17 cially separate from any entity that advo-
18 cates, performs, counsels for or refers for
19 abortion.

20 (G) RESTRICTION.—No prime contractor
21 or service provider project may perform abor-
22 tion, counsel for or refer for abortion, or advo-
23 cate abortion.

24 (2) EXPENDITURES UNDER THE PROGRAM.—

1 (A) EXPENDITURES FOR START-UP
2 COSTS.—For the first full fiscal year in which
3 a State program has received grant funds pur-
4 suant to this Act, the State shall disburse grant
5 funds to the prime contractor for start-up costs,
6 not to exceed 10 percent of the amount of the
7 total grant made to the State for that fiscal
8 year.

9 (B) EXPENDITURES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
10 COSTS.—For the first full fiscal year in which
11 a State program has received grant funds pur-
12 suant to this Act and for the two subsequent
13 fiscal years, the State shall disburse grant
14 funds to the prime contractor for administrative
15 costs, not to exceed 20 percent of the amount
16 of the total grant made to the State for those
17 fiscal years. For all other fiscal years, the State
18 shall disburse grant funds for administrative
19 costs, not to exceed 15 percent of the total
20 grant made to the State for the fiscal year.

21 (C) EXPENDITURES FOR SERVICE
22 COSTS.—

23 (i) DISBURSEMENT TO PRIME CON-
24 TRACTOR FOR SERVICE COSTS.—For each
25 fiscal year, the State shall disburse to the

1 prime contractor for service costs all re-
2 maining grant funds not expended on per-
3 missible administrative or start-up costs.

4 (ii) SERVICE PROVIDER REIMBURSE-
5 MENT RATES.—The prime contractor shall
6 reimburse service providers for alternative-
7 to-abortion services provided to eligible in-
8 dividuals at the following fee-for-service
9 rates: \$10 for every 10 minutes of coun-
10 seling for eligible individuals; \$10 for every
11 10 minutes of referral time spent; \$20 per
12 individual per hour of class instruction
13 provided; \$10 for each self-administered
14 pregnancy test kit provided; and \$10 for
15 every pantry visit. For fiscal year 2001
16 and subsequent fiscal years, each of the
17 dollar amounts specified in the preceding
18 sentence shall be adjusted to offset the ef-
19 fects of inflation occurring after the begin-
20 ning of fiscal year 2000.

21 (d) ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS REGARDING EX-
22 PENDITURE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A State applying for re-
23 ceipt of a grant under this Act must provide assurances,
24 in its grant application, as follows:

1 (1) No grant funds will be expended for any of
2 the following:

3 (A) Performing abortion, counseling for or
4 referring for abortion, or advocating abortion.

5 (B) Providing, referring for, or advocating
6 the use of contraceptive services, drugs, or de-
7 vices.

8 (2) Grant funds may not be expended to make
9 payment for a service that is provided to an eligible
10 individual if payment for such service has already
11 been made, or can reasonably be expected to be
12 made—

13 (A) under any State compensation pro-
14 gram, under an insurance policy, or under any
15 Federal or State health benefits program; or

16 (B) by an entity that provides health serv-
17 ices on a prepaid basis.

18 (3) Grant funds may not be expended—

19 (A) to provide inpatient hospital services;

20 (B) to make cash payments to intended re-
21 cipients of services;

22 (C) to purchase or improve land, purchase,
23 construct, or permanently improve (other than
24 minor remodeling) any building or other facil-
25 ity; or

1 (D) to satisfy any requirement that non-
2 Federal funds be expended as a precondition of
3 the receipt of Federal funds.

4 **SEC. 5. SERVICES PROVIDED BY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZA-**
5 **TIONS.**

6 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to allow
7 States to contract with religious organizations pursuant
8 to section 4(c) on the same basis as any other nongovern-
9 mental provider without impairing the religious character
10 of such organizations, and without diminishing the reli-
11 gious freedom of eligible individuals served under the
12 State program.

13 (b) **NONDISCRIMINATION AGAINST RELIGIOUS ORGA-**
14 **NIZATIONS.**—Religious organizations are eligible, on the
15 same basis as any other nongovernmental organization, as
16 contractors to provide services under a State program de-
17 scribed in section 4(c) so long as the program is imple-
18 mented consistent with the Establishment Clause of the
19 United States Constitution. Neither the Federal Govern-
20 ment nor a State receiving a grant under this Act shall
21 discriminate against an organization which is or applies
22 to be a contractor under section 4(c) on the basis that
23 the organization has a religious character.

24 (c) **RELIGIOUS CHARACTER AND FREEDOM.**—

1 (1) RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.—A religious
2 organization receiving a contract under section 4(c)
3 shall retain its independence from Federal, State,
4 and local governments, including such organization’s
5 control over the definition, development, practice,
6 and expression of its religious beliefs.

7 (2) ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS.—Neither the
8 Federal Government nor a State receiving a grant
9 under section 2 shall require a religious organization
10 to—

11 (A) alter its form of internal governance;

12 or

13 (B) remove religious art, icons, scripture,
14 or other symbols;

15 in order to be eligible for a contract under section
16 4(c).

17 (d) EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.—

18 (1) TENETS AND TEACHINGS.—A religious or-
19 ganization that provides services under a program
20 described in section 4(c) may require that its em-
21 ployees providing assistance under such program ad-
22 here to the religious tenets and teachings of such or-
23 ganization, and such organization may require that
24 those employees adhere to rules forbidding the use
25 of drugs or alcohol.

1 (2) TITLE VII EXEMPTION.—A religious organi-
2 zation’s exemption provided under section 702 of the
3 Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–1,
4 2000e–2(e)(2)) regarding employment practices shall
5 not be affected by the receipt of a contract under
6 section 4(c).

7 (e) RIGHTS OF BENEFICIARIES OF ASSISTANCE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible individual has
9 an objection to the religious character of the organi-
10 zation from which the individual receives, or would
11 receive, alternative-to-abortion services, the State
12 shall provide such individual within a reasonable pe-
13 riod of time after the date of such objection with the
14 names and addresses of alternative service providers
15 that offer a range of services similar to those offered
16 by the original service provider.

17 (2) NOTICE.—A State receiving a grant under
18 this Act shall ensure that notice is provided to indi-
19 viduals described in paragraph (1) of the rights of
20 such individuals under this section.

21 (f) NONDISCRIMINATION AGAINST BENEFICIARIES.—

22 A religious organization shall not discriminate against an
23 eligible individual in regard to providing alternative-to-
24 abortion services on the basis of religion, a religious belief,
25 or refusal to actively participate in a religious practice.

1 (g) FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
3 graph (2), any religious organization receiving a con-
4 tract under section 4(c) shall be subject to the same
5 regulations as other contractors to account in accord
6 with generally accepted accounting principles for the
7 use of such funds under this Act.

8 (2) LIMITED AUDIT.—If such organization seg-
9 regates funds received under this Act into separate
10 accounts, then only such funds shall be subject to
11 audit by the government.

12 (h) COMPLIANCE.—Any party which seeks to enforce
13 its rights under this section may assert a civil action for
14 injunctive relief exclusively in an appropriate State court
15 against the entity or agency that allegedly commits such
16 violation.

17 (i) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN
18 PURPOSES.—No grant funds obtained pursuant to this
19 Act shall be expended for sectarian worship, instruction,
20 or proselytization.

21 (j) PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
22 construed to preempt any provision of a State constitution
23 or State statute that prohibits or restricts the expenditure
24 of State funds in or by religious organizations.

1 (k) TREATMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS.—This sec-
2 tion applies to awards under section 4(c) made by prime
3 contractors to service providers to the same extent and
4 in the same manner as this section applies to awards
5 under such section by States to prime contractors.

6 **SEC. 6. STATE APPLICATION FOR GRANT.**

7 An application for a grant under this Act is in accord-
8 ance with this section if—

9 (1) the State submits the application not later
10 than the date specified by the Secretary;

11 (2) the application demonstrates that the State
12 program for which grant funds are sought will be es-
13 tablished and operated in compliance with all of the
14 requirements of this Act; and

15 (3) the application is in such form, is made in
16 such manner, and contains such agreements, assur-
17 ances, and information as the Secretary determines
18 are necessary to carry out this Act.

19 **SEC. 7. DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF STATE ALLOT-**
20 **MENT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The allotment of funds to be
22 granted to each State for a fiscal year is to be the State-
23 calculated percentage of the total amount available under
24 section 11 for the fiscal year.

1 (b) STATE-CALCULATED PERCENTAGE.—The State-
2 calculated percentage shall be determined by dividing—

3 (1) the number of children born in the State to
4 women who were not married at the time of the
5 birth plus the number of abortions performed in the
6 State; by

7 (2) the number of children born in all States to
8 women who were not married at the time of the
9 birth plus the number of abortions performed in all
10 States as last reported by the Centers for Disease
11 Control and Prevention.

12 (c) UNALLOTTED FUNDS FOR FIRST THREE FISCAL
13 YEARS.—For the first three fiscal years, if excess funds
14 are available due to the failure of any State to apply for
15 grant funds under this Act, additional funds shall be allot-
16 ted to participating States in an amount equal to a per-
17 centage of the excess funds determined by dividing—

18 (1) the number of children born in the partici-
19 pating State to women who were not married at the
20 time of the birth plus the number of abortions per-
21 formed in the participating State; by

22 (2) the number of children born in all partici-
23 pating States to women who were not married at the
24 time of the birth plus the number of abortions per-

1 formed in all participating States as last reported by
2 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

3 (d) UNALLOTTED FUNDS FOR SUBSEQUENT FISCAL
4 YEARS.—For years subsequent to the first three fiscal
5 years, if excess funds are available due to the failure of
6 any State to apply for grant funds under this Act, addi-
7 tional funds shall be allotted to participating States in an
8 amount equal to a percentage of the total excess funds
9 determined by dividing—

10 (1) the amount of service costs expended by an
11 individual participating State under this Act during
12 the previous calendar year; by

13 (2) the total amount of service costs expended
14 by all participating States under this Act during the
15 previous calendar year.

16 **SEC. 8. BIENNIAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

17 The Secretary shall submit to the Congress periodic
18 reports on the State programs carried out pursuant to this
19 Act. The first report shall be submitted not later than
20 February 1, 2001, and subsequent reports shall be sub-
21 mitted biennially thereafter.

22 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

23 For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
24 have these meanings:

1 “Administrative costs”. Expenditures for costs
2 associated with administration of the State program
3 by the prime contractor, including salaries of admin-
4 istrative office staff, taxes, employee benefits, job
5 placement costs, postage and shipping costs, travel
6 and lodging for administrative staff, office rent, tele-
7 phone and fax costs, insurance and office supplies,
8 professional development for administrative staff
9 and ongoing legal, accounting, and computer con-
10 sulting for the program. Such term does not include
11 expenditures for start-up costs or service costs.

12 “Alternative-to-abortion services.” Core services
13 and support services as defined in this section.

14 “Core services.” The provision of information
15 and counseling that promotes childbirth instead of
16 abortion and assists pregnant women in making an
17 informed decision regarding the alternatives of adop-
18 tion or parenting with respect to their child.

19 “Low-income family.” Such term has the mean-
20 ing given such term under section 1006(c) of the
21 Public Health Service Act.

22 “Support services.” Additional services and as-
23 sistance designed to assist eligible individuals to
24 carry their child to term and to support eligible indi-
25 viduals in their parenting or adoption decision.

1 These support services include the provision of (A)
2 self-administered pregnancy testing; (B) baby food,
3 maternity and baby clothing, and baby furniture; (C)
4 information and education, including classes, regard-
5 ing prenatal care, childbirth, adoption, parenting,
6 chastity (or abstinence); and (D) referrals for serv-
7 ices consistent with the purposes of this Act.

8 “Pantry visit.” A visit by an eligible individual
9 to a service provider during which baby food, mater-
10 nity or baby clothing, and/or baby furniture are
11 made available to the individual free of charge.

12 “Referral time.” The time taken to research
13 and set up an appointment on behalf of an eligible
14 individual to secure support through a referral.

15 “Referrals.” Action taken on behalf of an eligi-
16 ble individual to secure additional support from a so-
17 cial service agency or other entity. Referral may be
18 for services, items and assistance regarding physical
19 and mental health (prenatal, postnatal, and
20 postpartum), food, clothing, housing, education, vo-
21 cational training, and for other services designed to
22 assist pregnant women and infants in need.

23 “Secretary.” The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services.

1 “Service costs.” Expenditures for costs incurred
2 by the prime contractor to provide support for serv-
3 ice provider projects, including salaries for technical
4 support staff, taxes, employee benefits, job place-
5 ment costs, professional development and ongoing
6 training, educational and informational material for
7 eligible individuals and counselors, advertising costs,
8 operation of a toll-free referral system, travel for
9 technical support staff, billing and database com-
10 puter consulting, seminars for counseling training,
11 meetings regarding program compliance require-
12 ments, minor equipment purchases for service pro-
13 vider projects, new project development, and service
14 provider reimbursements for alternative-to-abortion
15 services.

16 “Service provider.” A nongovernmental entity
17 that operates a service provider project and which
18 enters into a subcontract with the prime contractor
19 that provides for the reimbursement for alternative-
20 to-abortion services provided to eligible individuals.

21 “Service provider project.” A project or pro-
22 gram operated by a service provider that provides al-
23 ternative-to-abortion services. All service provider
24 projects must provide core services and may also
25 provide support services.

1 “Start-up costs.” Expenditures associated with
2 the initial establishment of the State program, in-
3 cluding the cost of obtaining furniture, computers
4 and accessories, copy machines, consulting services,
5 telephones, and other office equipment and supplies.

6 “State.” Each of the several States, the Dis-
7 trict of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto
8 Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth
9 of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands,
10 and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

11 **SEC. 10. DATE CERTAIN FOR INITIAL GRANTS.**

12 The Secretary shall begin making grants under this
13 Act not later than 180 days after the date on which
14 amounts are first appropriated under section 11, subject
15 to the receipt of State applications in accordance with sec-
16 tion 6.

17 **SEC. 11. FUNDING.**

18 For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there is au-
19 thorized to be appropriated \$85,000,000 for each of the
20 fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

21 **SEC. 12. OFFSET.**

22 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that
23 overall funding for the Department of Health and Human
24 Services should not be increased under this Act.

○