

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for alternative pathways of addressing child abuse and neglect.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. LUJÁN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for alternative pathways of addressing child abuse and neglect.

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 “Alternative Pathways  
5 to Child Abuse Prevention Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Section 2 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-  
8 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended—

9            (1) in paragraph (11), by inserting “trauma-in-  
10        formed,” after “child-centered,”;

1           (2) in paragraphs (12) and (14), by inserting “,  
2           Indian Tribes,” after “States” each place such term  
3           appears; and

4           (3) in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph  
5           (15), by inserting “and Indian Tribes” after  
6           “States” each place such term appears.

7 **SEC. 3. ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

8           Section 102 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
9           Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102) is amended—

10           (1) in subsection (c)—

11                 (A) in paragraph (13), by striking “and”;

12                 (B) in paragraph (14), by striking the pe-  
13                 riod and inserting “; and”; and

14                 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15                 “(15) domestic violence advocates and ex-  
16                 perts.”; and

17           (2) in subsection (f)—

18                 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”;

19                 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
20                 riod and inserting “; and”; and

21                 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22                 “(4) recommendations for actions Federal,  
23                 State, Tribal, and local public agencies can take to  
24                 safely reduce the number of families referred to  
25                 child protective services and direct such families to

1 alternative pathways of preventive, family-centered  
2 services for support.”.

3 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION**  
4 **RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.**

5 Section 103 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
6 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “relating  
9 to differential response;” and inserting “relat-  
10 ing to—

11 “(A) differential response; and

12 “(B) the use of alternative pathways that  
13 connect families experiencing difficulty meeting  
14 basic needs or other risk factors associated with  
15 child abuse and neglect, such as parental stress,  
16 family violence, and isolation, to community-  
17 based systems and programs that strengthen  
18 families seeking support instead of to the child  
19 protection system, such as—

20 “(i) State, Tribal, or local helplines  
21 that provide information or assistance and  
22 connect families to voluntary community-  
23 based support services; and

24 “(ii) alternative pathways for man-  
25 dated reporters and other concerned adults

1 to use to refer families for voluntary sup-  
2 ports outside of the child protection sys-  
3 tem;”;

4 (B) in paragraph (8), by striking subpara-  
5 graph (B) and inserting the following:

6 “(B) appropriate State, Tribal, and local  
7 officials to assist in training law enforcement,  
8 legal, judicial, medical, physical, behavioral and  
9 mental health, education, child welfare, sub-  
10 stance use disorder treatment services, and do-  
11 mestic violence services personnel, including  
12 training on—

13 “(i) the role of the child protective  
14 services system to identify children at risk  
15 of serious harm; and

16 “(ii) how to direct families in need to  
17 alternative pathways to community-based  
18 systems and programs that strengthen  
19 such families in order to safely reduce the  
20 number of families unnecessarily referred  
21 to child protective services; and”;

22 (C) in paragraph (9), by inserting “for  
23 both victims and people who use violence” be-  
24 fore the period; and

25 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

1 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and  
2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (B) in clause (iv), by inserting “and” after  
4 the semicolon; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(v) information on the presence of  
7 domestic violence in advance of a child  
8 death;”.

9 **SEC. 5. RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.**

10 Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
11 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (L), by inserting  
14 “and the use of alternative pathways that con-  
15 nect families to community-based prevention  
16 services where possible instead of system in-  
17 volvement” after “differential response”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (O)—

19 (i) in clause (ix), by inserting “pres-  
20 ence of domestic violence,” after “size);”;

21 (ii) in clause (x), by striking “; and”  
22 and inserting a semicolon;

23 (iii) in clause (xi), by striking the pe-  
24 riod and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(xii) the prevalence of domestic vio-  
4 lence in child abuse and neglect reports  
5 and open cases.”;

6 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “;  
8 and” and inserting a semicolon;

9 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the  
10 period and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(E) ways to safely decrease the number of  
13 families being referred to child protective serv-  
14 ices and instead provide them with alternative  
15 pathways to community-based child abuse pre-  
16 vention services that strengthen families.”; and

17 (3) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “and for  
18 demonstration projects that focus on building re-  
19 search-based protective factors in community organi-  
20 zations, health care, and schools for adult and child  
21 survivors of domestic violence as a strategy for keep-  
22 ing children out of the child protective services sys-  
23 tem” before the period.

1 **SEC. 6. GRANTS TO STATES, INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL OR-**  
2 **GANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**  
3 **AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

4 Section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “and case  
7 management” after “through referral”;

8 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “for survivors  
9 or people who use violence” after “violence service  
10 agencies”;

11 (3) in paragraph (6), by inserting “account-  
12 ability and meaningful pathways to change for the  
13 person using violence,” after “parent involved and  
14 children,”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(8) **ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY-**  
17 **BASED FAMILY-STRENGTHENING SERVICES AND**  
18 **PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary may award grants to  
19 collaborations of State, Tribal, and local child wel-  
20 fare agencies with community-based providers to  
21 support the development and implementation of al-  
22 ternative pathways and systems and supports that  
23 connect families experiencing difficulty meeting basic  
24 needs or risk factors associated with child abuse and  
25 neglect to community-based systems and programs

1 that assist families seeking support as an alternative  
2 to the child protection system, such as supporting—

3 “(A) the development and implementation  
4 of—

5 “(i) local or State helplines, websites,  
6 or mobile applications that provide infor-  
7 mation or assistance and connect families  
8 to voluntary community-based support  
9 services, including local programs sup-  
10 ported under title II;

11 “(ii) a continuum of preventive serv-  
12 ices that strengthen families and promote  
13 child, parent, and family well-being; and

14 “(iii) alternative pathways for manda-  
15 tory reporters and other concerned adults  
16 to use to connect families to voluntary sup-  
17 ports outside of child protection systems  
18 and educating adults about such pathways;  
19 and

20 “(B) the hiring of personnel to help con-  
21 nect families to voluntary supports outside of  
22 child protection systems, navigate barriers to  
23 accessing these services, and ensure services  
24 exist where families live and work.”.



1 **SEC. 7. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NE-**  
2 **GLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PRO-**  
3 **GRAMS.**

4 Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (13)(B), by striking “;  
8 or” and inserting a semicolon;

9 (B) in paragraph (14)(B), by striking the  
10 period and inserting “; or”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(15) improving the child protective system to  
13 focus on children at most serious risk of harm and  
14 safely reduce the number of families investigated for  
15 child abuse and neglect by increasing the number of  
16 families connected to voluntary, community-based  
17 systems and programs that assist families in need of  
18 supports and services, including by developing, im-  
19 plementing, and expanding—

20 “(A) local or State helplines, websites, and  
21 mobile applications that connect families to vol-  
22 untary community-based resources, including  
23 local programs funded under title II;

24 “(B) a continuum of preventive services  
25 that strengthen families and promote child, par-  
26 ent, and family well-being;

1           “(C) alternative pathways for mandatory  
2 reporters and other concerned adults to use to  
3 refer families for voluntary supports outside of  
4 child protection systems and educating adults  
5 about such systems; and

6           “(D) personnel to help connect families to  
7 voluntary supports outside of child protection  
8 systems, navigate barriers to accessing these  
9 services, and ensure services exist where fami-  
10 lies live and work.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(D)—

12           (A) in clause (v), by striking “; and” and  
13 inserting a semicolon;

14           (B) in clause (vi), by adding “and” after  
15 the semicolon; and

16           (C) by adding at the end the following:

17           “(vii) changes in policies and proce-  
18 dures of State and local child welfare agen-  
19 cies that—

20           “(I) reduce the number of fami-  
21 lies referred to such agencies for inci-  
22 dents that are not child abuse or ne-  
23 glect, such as families referred to the  
24 child protective system solely based on  
25 circumstances related to poverty;

1                   “(II) develop, implement, and  
2                   scale systems of alternative pathways  
3                   (in coordination with the lead entity  
4                   and local programs supported by title  
5                   II) that connect such families to vol-  
6                   untary community-based support to  
7                   build protective factors that reduce  
8                   the likelihood of child abuse and ne-  
9                   glect, or that reduce harm as a result  
10                  of domestic violence, including efforts  
11                  to educate mandatory reporters and  
12                  other concerned adults about such  
13                  systems to refer families for voluntary  
14                  supports outside of child protection  
15                  systems; and

16                  “(III) increase supports for fami-  
17                  lies in navigating and accessing vol-  
18                  untary community-based support to  
19                  reduce the likelihood of child abuse  
20                  and neglect or that reduce harm as a  
21                  result of domestic violence, including  
22                  personnel and casework.”.

1 **SEC. 8. GRANTS TO STATES FOR PROGRAMS RELATING TO**  
2 **THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF**  
3 **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES.**

4 Section 107(c)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106c(e)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “; and”  
7 and inserting a semicolon;

8 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period  
9 and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(K) domestic violence and sexual violence  
12 prevention and treatment advocates.”.

13 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 (a) TITLE I.—Section 112(a)(1) of the Child Abuse  
15 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106h(a)(1))  
16 is amended by striking “\$120,000,000 for fiscal year 2010  
17 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal  
18 years 2011 through 2015” and inserting “\$500,000,000  
19 for fiscal year 2024 and such sums as may be necessary  
20 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

21 (b) TITLE II.—Section 209 of the Child Abuse Pre-  
22 vention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116i) is amended  
23 by striking “\$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such  
24 sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2011  
25 through 2015” and inserting “\$1,000,000,000 for fiscal

1 year 2024 and such sums as may be necessary for each  
2 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.