

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 886

To provide funds through the Social Services Block Grant program for diaper assistance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 5, 2021

Ms. Lee of California (for herself, Mr. Rush, Mr. Carson, Ms. Meng, Mr. Sires, and Mrs. Hayes) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide funds through the Social Services Block Grant program for diaper assistance.

- 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 "COVID-19 Diaper As-
- 5 sistance Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) Infants need between 6 to 12 diapers a day.
- 9 Infants and toddlers lacking access to clean diapers

- have a greater risk for health complications, which
 require costly and difficult to access medical care.
 - (2) Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, surveys indicated that 1 in 3 families in the United States with young children could not afford an adequate supply of diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy.
 - (3) Low-income families pay an even higher than average price for diapers because they do not have access to money saving alternatives such as bulk buying or online shopping that can reduce costs. Low-income families spend about 14 percent of their income on diapers.
 - (4) Clean diaper access presents a financial and stressful burden on families' dependent on child care services. Research indicates that when diaper need is a barrier to child care, parents miss an average of 4 workdays a month.
 - (5) The COVID-19 pandemic has further raised demand for diapers and strained diaper banks' ability to meet low-income families' needs. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nonprofit diaper bank distribution only met 5 to 6 percent of diaper need. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, diaper banks around the country have experienced

- 1 double, triple, or greater increase in demand for dia-2 pers due to the pandemic and economic shutdown. 3 Nonprofits alone cannot fully address this public health crisis that impacts 1 in 3 families in the 4 5 United States. SEC. 3. TARGETED FUNDING FOR STATES FOR DIAPER AS-7 SISTANCE THROUGH THE SOCIAL SERVICES 8 BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM. 9 (a) Increase in Funding for Social Services BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.— 10 11 (1) In General.—The amount specified in 12 subsection (c) of section 2003 of the Social Security 13 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b) for purposes of subsections 14 (a) and (b) of such section is deemed to be 15 \$1,900,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which 16 \$200,000,000 shall be obligated by States in accord-17 ance with subsection (b).
 - (2) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated \$200,000,000, which shall be available for payments under section 2002 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397a), which shall remain available for expenditure through December 31, 2022.

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- (3)DEADLINE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall distribute the funds made available by this subsection, which shall be made available to States on an emergency basis for imme-diate obligation and expenditure.
 - (4) Submission of Revised Pre-Expenditure receives funds made available by this subsection, the State shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a revised pre-expenditure report pursuant to subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq..) that describes how the State plans to administer the funds in accordance with subsection (b).
 - (5) DEADLINE FOR OBLIGATION OF FUNDS BY STATES.—A State to which funds made available by this subsection are distributed shall obligate the funds not later than December 31, 2021.
 - (6) DEADLINE FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—A grantee to which a State provides funds made available by this subsection (or a subgrantee of such a grantee) shall expend the funds not later than December 31, 2022.

1	(b) Rules Governing Use of Additional
2	Funds are used in accordance with this sub-
3	section if—
4	(1) the funds are used to provide through social
5	service agencies or other nonprofit organizations,
6	diapers and diapering supplies (including diaper
7	wipes and diaper cream, necessary to ensure that a
8	child using a diaper is properly cleaned and pro-
9	tected from diaper rash) to families in need;
10	(2) the funds are used subject to the limitations
11	in section 2005 of the Social Security Act (42
12	U.S.C. 1397d);
13	(3) the funds are used to supplement, not sup-
14	plant, State general revenue funds provided for the
15	purposes described in paragraph (1); and
16	(4) the funds are not used for costs that are re-
17	imbursable by the Federal Emergency Management
18	Agency, under a contract for insurance, or by self-
19	insurance.
20	(e) Reports.—
21	(1) Grantees and subgrantees.—Not later
22	than December 31, 2022, each grantee to which a
23	State provides funds made available by subsection
24	(a) (or a subgrantee of such a grantee) shall submit

a report to the State on the use of the funds so provided.

(2) SSBG ANNUAL REPORT.—A State shall include in the annual report required under section 2006 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397e) covering fiscal year 2023, information detailing how grantees and subgrantees used funds made available under subsection (a) to distribute diapers and diapering supplies to families in need.

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