

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1091

To establish a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 10, 2017

Ms. Collins (for herself and Mr. Casey) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

- 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 "Supporting Grand-
- 5 parents Raising Grandchildren Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) More than 80 percent of Americans over the
- 9 age of 65 are grandparents and more than
- 10 2,500,000 grandparents in the United States are the

- primary caretaker of their grandchildren. Experts report that such numbers are increasing as the opioid epidemic expands.
 - (2) Grandparents' lives are enhanced by caring for their grandchildren; the overwhelming majority of grandparents report experiencing significant benefits in serving as their grandchildren's primary caregivers.
 - (3) Providing full-time care to their grandchildren may increase grandparents' likelihood of experiencing physical illness and mental health problems and decrease their ability to save for retirement.
 - (4) Grandparents raising grandchildren may face difficulty enrolling their grandchildren in school, medical care, and Federal assistance services.
 - (5) The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) includes services that support grandfamilies, including the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
 - (6) Grandparents would benefit from better coordination and information about resources available to support them in their caregiving responsibilities.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1	SEC. 3. FEDERAL TASK FORCE TO SUPPORT GRAND-
2	PARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.
3	(a) Establishment.—There is established a Fed-
4	eral Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grand-
5	children (referred to in this section as the "Task Force").
6	(b) Membership.—
7	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be
8	composed of the following members, or their des-
9	ignee:
10	(A) The Secretary of Health and Human
11	Services.
12	(B) The Attorney General.
13	(C) The Administrator of the Administra-
14	tion for Community Living.
15	(D) The Director of the Centers for Dis-
16	ease Control and Prevention.
17	(E) The Assistant Secretary for Mental
18	Health and Substance Use.
19	(F) The Assistant Secretary for the Ad-
20	ministration for Children and Families.
21	(G) The head of each Federal department,
22	agency, or other governmental entity identified
23	by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
24	as having responsibilities, or administering pro-
25	grams, relating to current issues affecting

1	grandparents	or	other	relatives	raising	children
2	in their care.					

- (2) Lead agency.—The Department of Health and Human Services shall be the lead agency for the Task Force.
- (3) Requirement.—Each member of the Task Force shall be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) Duties.—

(1) In General.—

- (A) Information.—The Task Force shall identify, promote, coordinate, and disseminate information publicly about Federal information, resources, and best practices available, on the date of the determination, to help grandparents or other relatives raising children in their care meet the health, educational, nutritional, and other needs of the children in their care as well as maintain their own physical and mental health and emotional well-being, including those raising children in their care as a result of the opioid epidemic.
- (B) Native americans.—In carrying out the duties described in subparagraph (A), the

1	Task Force shall ensure that the needs of mem-
2	bers of Native American tribes are addressed.
3	(2) Report.—
4	(A) In General.—Not later than 180
5	days after the date of enactment of this Act,
6	the Task Force shall submit a report to the
7	Special Committee on Aging and the Committee
8	on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
9	the Senate that includes—
10	(i) best practices, resources, and other
11	useful information for grandparents and
12	other relatives raising children in their
13	care; and
14	(ii) an identification of the gaps in
15	needs of grandparents and other relatives
16	raising children in their care.
17	(B) FOLLOW-UP REPORT.—Not later than
18	the date that is 2 years after the date the re-
19	port under subparagraph (A) is submitted, the
20	Task Force shall submit a follow-up report to
21	the Special Committee on Aging and the Com-
22	mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
23	sions of the Senate that includes the informa-

tion described in subparagraph (A).

24

1	(3) Process for public input.—The Task
2	Force shall establish a process for public input to in-
3	form the development of, and updates to, the best
4	practices, resources, and other useful information
5	and the gaps in needs described in paragraph (2),
6	including a process for the public to submit rec-
7	ommendations to the Task Force and an opportunity
8	for public comment.
9	(d) Sunset.—The Task Force shall terminate on the
10	date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this
11	Act.

 \bigcirc