

Calendar No. 343

115TH CONGRESS
2D 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, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. NELSON, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SCOTT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

MARCH 12, 2018

Reported by Mr. ALEXANDER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) More than 80 percent of Americans over the
4 age of 65 are grandparents and more than
5 2,500,000 grandparents in the United States are the
6 primary caretaker of their grandchildren. Experts
7 report that such numbers are increasing as the
8 opioid epidemic expands.

9 (2) Grandparents' lives are enhanced by caring
10 for their grandchildren; the overwhelming majority
11 of grandparents report experiencing significant bene-
12 fits in serving as their grandchildren's primary care-
13 givers.

14 (3) Providing full-time care to their grand-
15 children may increase grandparents' likelihood of ex-
16periencing physical illness and mental health prob-
17lems and decrease their ability to save for retire-
18ment.

19 (4) Grandparents raising grandchildren may
20 face difficulty enrolling their grandchildren in school,
21 medical care, and Federal assistance services.

22 (5) The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
23 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) includes services that support
24 grandfamilies, including the National Family Care-
25 giver Support Program.

1 (6) Grandparents would benefit from better co-
 2 ordination and information about resources available
 3 to support them in their caregiving responsibilities.

4 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL TASK FORCE TO SUPPORT GRAND-**
 5 **PARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.**

6 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a Fed-
 7 eral Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grand-
 8 children (referred to in this section as the “Task Force”).

9 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Task Force shall be
 11 composed of the following members, or their des-
 12 ignee:

13 (A) The Secretary of Health and Human
 14 Services.

15 (B) The Attorney General.

16 (C) The Administrator of the Administra-
 17 tion for Community Living.

18 (D) The Director of the Centers for Dis-
 19 ease Control and Prevention.

20 (E) The Assistant Secretary for Mental
 21 Health and Substance Use.

22 (F) The Assistant Secretary for the Ad-
 23 ministration for Children and Families.

24 (G) The head of each Federal department,
 25 agency, or other governmental entity identified

1 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
2 as having responsibilities, or administering pro-
3 grams, relating to current issues affecting
4 grandparents or other relatives raising children
5 in their care.

6 ~~(2) LEAD AGENCY.~~—The Department of Health
7 and Human Services shall be the lead agency for the
8 Task Force.

9 ~~(3) REQUIREMENT.~~—Each member of the Task
10 Force shall be an officer or employee of the Federal
11 Government.

12 ~~(c) DUTIES.~~—

13 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.~~—

14 ~~(A) INFORMATION.~~—The Task Force shall
15 identify, promote, coordinate, and disseminate
16 information publicly about Federal information,
17 resources, and best practices available, on the
18 date of the determination, to help grandparents
19 or other relatives raising children in their care
20 meet the health, educational, nutritional, and
21 other needs of the children in their care as well
22 as maintain their own physical and mental
23 health and emotional well-being, including those
24 raising children in their care as a result of the
25 opioid epidemic.

1 (B) NATIVE AMERICANS.—In carrying out
2 the duties described in subparagraph (A), the
3 Task Force shall ensure that the needs of mem-
4 bers of Native American tribes are addressed.

5 (2) REPORT.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
7 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
8 the Task Force shall submit a report to the
9 Special Committee on Aging and the Committee
10 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
11 the Senate that includes—

12 (i) best practices, resources, and other
13 useful information for grandparents and
14 other relatives raising children in their
15 care; and

16 (ii) an identification of the gaps in
17 needs of grandparents and other relatives
18 raising children in their care.

19 (B) FOLLOW-UP REPORT.—Not later than
20 the date that is 2 years after the date the re-
21 port under subparagraph (A) is submitted, the
22 Task Force shall submit a follow-up report to
23 the Special Committee on Aging and the Com-
24 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-

1 sions of the Senate that includes the informa-
2 tion described in subparagraph (A).

3 ~~(3) PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT.—The Task~~
4 Force shall establish a process for public input to in-
5 form the development of, and updates to, the best
6 practices, resources, and other useful information
7 and the gaps in needs described in paragraph (2),
8 including a process for the public to submit rec-
9 ommendations to the Task Force and an opportunity
10 for public comment.

11 ~~(d) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the~~
12 date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this
13 Act.

14 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

15 *This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Grand-*
16 *parents Raising Grandchildren Act”.*

17 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL TASK FORCE TO SUPPORT GRAND-**
18 **PARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.**

19 ~~(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Federal~~
20 Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grand-
21 children (referred to in this section as the “Task Force”).

22 ~~(b) OLDER RELATIVE CAREGIVER.—In this section,~~
23 the term “older relative caregiver” has the meaning given
24 the term under section 372(a)(3) of the National Family
25 Caregiver Support (42 U.S.C. 3030s(a)(3)).

1 (c) *MEMBERSHIP.*—

2 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Task Force shall be com-*
 3 *posed of the following members, or their designee:*

4 (A) *The Secretary of Health and Human*
 5 *Services.*

6 (B) *The Attorney General.*

7 (C) *The Administrator of the Administra-*
 8 *tion for Community Living.*

9 (D) *The Director of the Centers for Disease*
 10 *Control and Prevention.*

11 (E) *The Assistant Secretary for Mental*
 12 *Health and Substance Use.*

13 (F) *The Assistant Secretary for the Admin-*
 14 *istration for Children and Families.*

15 (G) *The Director of the Indian Health Serv-*
 16 *ice.*

17 (H) *The Administrator of the Centers for*
 18 *Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

19 (I) *The head of each Federal department,*
 20 *agency, or other governmental entity identified*
 21 *by the Secretary of Health and Human Services*
 22 *as having responsibilities, or administering pro-*
 23 *grams, relating to the current health, edu-*
 24 *cational, nutritional, and other needs and cur-*
 25 *rent issues affecting older relative caregivers, in-*

1 *cluding grandparents, raising children in their*
 2 *care.*

3 *(J) A grandparent raising a grandchild or*
 4 *grandchildren as well as another older relative*
 5 *caregiver of children.*

6 *(2) LEAD AGENCY.—The Department of Health*
 7 *and Human Services shall be the lead agency for the*
 8 *Task Force.*

9 *(d) DUTIES.—*

10 *(1) IN GENERAL.—*

11 *(A) INFORMATION.—The Task Force shall*
 12 *identify, coordinate, and disseminate informa-*
 13 *tion publicly about Federal information, re-*
 14 *sources, and best practices available, on the date*
 15 *of the determination, to help older relative care-*
 16 *givers, including grandparents, raising children*
 17 *in their care, including those raising children in*
 18 *their care as a result of the opioid crisis, meet*
 19 *the health, educational, nutritional, and other*
 20 *needs of the children in their care as well as*
 21 *maintain their own physical and mental health*
 22 *and emotional well-being.*

23 *(B) NATIVE AMERICANS.—In carrying out*
 24 *the duties described in subparagraph (A), the*
 25 *Task Force shall ensure that the needs of Native*

1 *Americans (as defined in section 102 of the*
 2 *Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002))*
 3 *are considered.*

4 (2) *REPORT.—*

5 (A) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days*
 6 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task*
 7 *Force shall submit a report to the Special Com-*
 8 *mittee on Aging, the Committee on Health, Edu-*
 9 *cation, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee*
 10 *on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on*
 11 *Education and the Workforce, the Committee on*
 12 *Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on*
 13 *Ways and Means of the House of Representatives*
 14 *that includes—*

15 (i) *best practices, resources, and other*
 16 *useful information for older relative care-*
 17 *givers, including grandparents, raising chil-*
 18 *dren in their care; and*

19 (ii) *an identification of the gaps in*
 20 *needs of older relative caregivers, including*
 21 *grandparents, raising children in their care.*

22 (B) *FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years*
 23 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task*
 24 *Force shall submit a final report to the Special*
 25 *Committee on Aging, the Committee on Health,*

1 *Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Com-*
2 *mittee on Finance of the Senate and the Com-*
3 *mittee on Education and the Workforce, the*
4 *Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the*
5 *Committee on Ways and Means of the House of*
6 *Representatives that includes the final findings*
7 *of the Task Force, recommendations for future*
8 *actions to address issues faced by older relative*
9 *caregivers, including grandparents, raising chil-*
10 *dren in their care, and any other useful informa-*
11 *tion.*

12 (3) *PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT.—The Task*
13 *Force shall establish a process for public input to in-*
14 *form the identification of, and updates to, the best*
15 *practices, resources, and other useful information and*
16 *the gaps in needs described in paragraph (2), includ-*
17 *ing a process for the public to submit recommenda-*
18 *tions to the Task Force and an opportunity for public*
19 *comment.*

20 (e) *SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the*
21 *date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.*

22 (f) *NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advi-*
23 *sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the*
24 *Task Force.*

1 (g) *FUNDING.*—*No additional funds are authorized to*
2 *be appropriated to carry out this section. The Task Force*
3 *shall be carried out with funds otherwise appropriated.*

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