

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4201

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to States under the Maternal and Child Health Care Program for purposes of establishing Baby Box Programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 20, 2019

Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Mr. ALLRED) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to States under the Maternal and Child Health Care Program for purposes of establishing Baby Box Programs.

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 “Baby Box and Mater-
5 nal Assistance Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF BABY BOX PROGRAMS.**

2 Section 501 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
3 701) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), insert “and including
5 by providing such grants to States for the establish-
6 ment of Baby Box Programs described in subsection
7 (d)” after “services development”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 section:

10 “(d)(1) For purposes of subsection (a)(2), a Baby
11 Box Program described in this subsection is a program
12 under which a State—

13 “(A) provides to eligible individuals and to a
14 partner chosen by such an individual, at no cost to
15 such individuals and such partners—

16 “(i) training with respect to prenatal, new-
17 born, and postpartum care (as defined by the
18 State), including evidence-based training with
19 respect to safe sleeping practices for newborns
20 and smoking cessation practices for parents;

21 “(ii) baby boxes to such individuals who
22 have completed an amount of such training de-
23 termined appropriate by the State; and

24 “(iii) doula services or midwife services,
25 furnished by doulas or midwives who meet such

1 standards as specified by the State, for such in-
2 dividuals who have so completed such training;

3 “(B) makes available, using funds other than
4 funds made available through grants awarded under
5 subsection (a)(2), training and boxes described in
6 clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, of subparagraph (A)
7 to all individuals residing in such State at an afford-
8 able cost determined appropriate by such State; and

9 “(C) provides funding for the recruitment and
10 training of doulas or midwives from diverse back-
11 grounds.

12 “(2) For purposes of this subsection:

13 “(A) The term ‘baby box’ means a package that
14 contains such items with respect to newborn and
15 postpartum care as the State determines appro-
16 priate.

17 “(B) The term ‘eligible individual’ means—

18 “(i) a low-income (as defined in subsection
19 (b)(2)) woman; or

20 “(ii) a woman eligible to enroll under the
21 State plan (or waiver of such plan) under title
22 XIX of the State in which such woman resides.

23 “(C) The term—

1 “(i) ‘doula’ means an individual trained to
2 provide pre and postpartum care with respect to
3 pregnant women; and

4 “(ii) ‘doula services’ means such care fur-
5 nished by such an individual.”.

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