

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1780

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for studies and reports relating to the impact of legislation on spending on children, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2019

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CASEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for studies and reports relating to the impact of legislation on spending on children, and for other purposes.

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 “Focus on Children
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDIES AND REPORTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL**
2 **BUDGET OFFICE RELATING TO THE IMPACT**
3 **OF LEGISLATION ON SPENDING ON CHIL-**
4 **DREN.**

5 Section 202(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of
6 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(g)) is amended—

7 (1) in the heading, by inserting “AND REPORTS
8 TO CONGRESS” after “STUDIES”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(3) SPENDING ON CHILDREN STUDIES AND
11 REPORTS.—

12 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

13 “(i) the term ‘budget of the President’
14 means the budget of the President sub-
15 mitted to Congress under section 1105(a)
16 of title 31, United States Code;

17 “(ii) the term ‘child’ means an indi-
18 vidual under 19 years of age;

19 “(iii) the term ‘key indicator’ includes
20 information relating to the outlays de-
21 scribed in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV)
22 of clause (iv); and

23 “(iv) the term ‘spending on children’
24 includes—

25 “(I) outlays under an entitlement
26 authority that go directly to children;

1 “(II) outlays for a Federal pro-
2 gram or initiative that, consistent
3 with the mission of the program or
4 initiative, delivers services exclusively
5 to children;

6 “(III) outlays for a Federal pro-
7 gram or initiative that, while not serv-
8 ing children directly, has as a core
9 mission goal the improvement of the
10 health, education, welfare, or general
11 well-being of children; and

12 “(IV) for a Federal program or
13 initiative that delivers services to both
14 children and adults, the portion of
15 outlays under the program or initia-
16 tive attributable to providing benefits
17 for children, based on the best avail-
18 able data.

19 “(B) STUDIES.—At the request of the
20 Chairman or Ranking Member of a committee
21 of the Senate or the House of Representatives,
22 the Director shall, to the extent practicable,
23 conduct a study of a bill, joint resolution,
24 amendment, amendment between the Houses,

1 or conference report containing changes in
2 spending on children.

3 “(C) ANNUAL REPORTS ON SPENDING.—

4 Not later than 15 days after the last day of
5 each fiscal year, the Director shall submit to
6 Congress a report that includes—

7 “(i) information and data regarding
8 spending on children under appropriation
9 Acts, including Acts making supplemental
10 appropriations and continuing resolutions,
11 for that fiscal year;

12 “(ii) information and data regarding
13 spending on children under an entitlement
14 authority for that fiscal year;

15 “(iii) the share of Federal spending
16 that constitutes spending on children
17 under appropriation Acts, including Acts
18 making supplemental appropriations and
19 continuing resolutions, for that fiscal year;
20 and

21 “(iv) the share of Federal spending
22 that constitutes spending on children
23 under an entitlement authority for that fis-
24 cal year.

1 “(D) ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE BUDGET
2 OF THE PRESIDENT.—Not later than 15 days
3 after the date on which the President submits
4 to Congress the budget of the President for a
5 fiscal year, the Director shall submit to Con-
6 gress a report on the budget of the President
7 that includes, for the prior fiscal year, the cur-
8 rent fiscal year, the fiscal year for which the
9 budget of the President is submitted, and the
10 ensuing fiscal year—

11 “(i) a summary of the total amount of
12 the appropriations or new obligational au-
13 thority and outlays requested for spending
14 on children;

15 “(ii) an estimate of the level of spend-
16 ing on children;

17 “(iii) an estimate of the share of Fed-
18 eral spending that constitutes spending on
19 children; and

20 “(iv) an estimate of the date on which
21 Federal spending on children will be less
22 than outlays for interest on the public
23 debt.

24 “(E) WARNING REPORTS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion
2 of the Director, the Director may provide
3 a warning report to Congress regarding a
4 fiscal year in which outlays for interest on
5 the public debt will exceed spending on
6 children.

7 “(ii) CONTENTS OF WARNING RE-
8 PORTS.—The Director may include in a re-
9 port issued under clause (i) a list of pos-
10 sible budgetary options, including, if ap-
11 propriate, the inclusion of reconciliation di-
12 rectives under section 310 in the concur-
13 rent resolution on the budget for a fiscal
14 year, that may be used by Congress in
15 order to prevent such an imbalance be-
16 tween outlays for interest on the public
17 debt and spending on children.

18 “(F) OPEN DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
20 publish all of the reports and studies re-
21 quired under this paragraph in a publicly
22 accessible format, including through—

23 “(I) the dashboard described in
24 clause (ii); and

1 “(II) the open data portal de-
2 scribed in clause (iii).

3 “(ii) DASHBOARD.—The Director
4 shall develop and maintain on an internet
5 website available to the public a tool (com-
6 monly referred to as a ‘dashboard’) that—

7 “(I) highlights the key indicators
8 identified in the reports and studies
9 required under this paragraph; and

10 “(II) uses visualization tools to
11 assist the public in understanding
12 trends in spending on children over
13 periods of time.

14 “(iii) OPEN DATA PORTAL.—The Di-
15 rector shall develop and maintain an inter-
16 net website available to the public that—

17 “(I) provides raw quantitative
18 data relating to spending on children
19 contained in reports and studies re-
20 quired under this paragraph;

21 “(II) provides that data in a
22 widely accessible file format that al-
23 lows the public to analyze the data;
24 and

1 “(III) categorizes that data by
2 budget account.”.

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