

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2969

To expand adoption opportunities.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 3, 2019

Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To expand adoption opportunities.

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 “Adoption Opportuni-  
5       ties Reauthorization Act of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF**  
7                               **PURPOSE.**

8       Section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
9       Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.  
10      5111) is amended—

1 (1) in the section, heading, by striking “**AND**  
2 **DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**” and inserting “,  
3 **DECLARATION OF PURPOSE, AND DEFINITION**”;

4 (2) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2009,  
6 some 424,000” and inserting “2018, some  
7 437,000”;

8 (B) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) by striking subparagraphs (A)  
10 through (D); and

11 (ii) by striking “services because the  
12 children entering foster care—” and in-  
13 serting “services;”;

14 (C) in paragraph (6)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
16 “2009, there were 115,000” and inserting  
17 “2018, there were 125,000”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

19 (I) in clause (i), by striking  
20 “2009” and inserting “2018”; and

21 (II) in clause (ii), by striking  
22 “more than 8” and inserting “less  
23 than 8”; and

24 (iii) in subparagraph (D)—

25 (I) in clause (i)—

1 (aa) by striking “25 per-  
2 cent” and inserting “17 per-  
3 cent”; and

4 (bb) by striking “2009” and  
5 inserting “2018”; and

6 (II) in clause (ii)—

7 (aa) by striking “30 per-  
8 cent” and inserting “22 per-  
9 cent”; and

10 (bb) by striking “2009” and  
11 inserting “2018”; and

12 (D) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking “or  
13 institutions”;

14 (3) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph  
16 (1)—

17 (i) by inserting “children with disabil-  
18 ities, underserved or overrepresented chil-  
19 dren and youth in the child welfare sys-  
20 tem,” after “minority children,”; and

21 (ii) by striking “including disabled in-  
22 fants with life-threatening conditions,”;

23 (B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “;  
24 and” and inserting a semicolon;

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
 2 riod and inserting “; and”; and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) support the development and implementa-  
 5 tion of evidence-based and evidence-informed post-  
 6 legal adoption services for families that adopt chil-  
 7 dren in order to increase permanency.”; and

8 (4) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(c) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term ‘child with  
 10 special needs’ means a child with special needs as defined  
 11 in section 473(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 12 673(c)).”.

13 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION AND SERVICES.**

14 Section 203 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
 15 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.  
 16 5113) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) by striking “such purposes, including  
 19 services” and all that follows through the period  
 20 at the end and inserting the following: “such  
 21 purposes, including—

22 “(1) services to facilitate the adoption of older  
 23 children, minority children, children with disabilities,  
 24 underserved or overrepresented children and youth

1 in the child welfare system, and children with special  
2 needs;

3 “(2) services to families considering adoption of  
4 children with special needs; and

5 “(3) post-legal adoption services for families to  
6 provide permanent and caring home environments  
7 for children who would benefit from adoption.”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by striking “on adoption, and” and  
11 inserting “on adoption, including the eval-  
12 uation of training and accessible education  
13 materials;”; and

14 (ii) by inserting “; and update such  
15 training and education materials, as appro-  
16 priate” before the semicolon;

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “chil-  
18 dren with disabilities, underserved or overrepre-  
19 sented children and youth in the child welfare  
20 system,” after “minority children,”;

21 (C) in paragraph (7), by inserting “chil-  
22 dren with disabilities, underserved or overrepre-  
23 sented children and youth in the child welfare  
24 system,” after “minority children,”;

25 (D) in paragraph (9)(D)—

1 (i) by inserting “and disseminate”  
2 after “identify”; and

3 (ii) by striking “termination” and in-  
4 serting “dissolution, and increase perma-  
5 nency, including related to pre- and post-  
6 legal adoption services”;

7 (E) in paragraph (10)(A)—

8 (i) by redesignating clauses (iii)  
9 through (ix) as clauses (iv) through (x), re-  
10 spectively;

11 (ii) in clause (ii)—

12 (I) by inserting “, and finding  
13 such family and relatives willing to  
14 adopt such child to improve perma-  
15 nency” before the semicolon; and

16 (II) by striking “such children,  
17 including developing” and inserting  
18 “such children;  
19 “(iii) developing”;

20 (iii) in clause (vi), as so redesignated,  
21 by inserting “, including such groups for  
22 individuals who may enter into kinship  
23 caregiver arrangements” before the semi-  
24 colon;

1 (iv) in clause (ix), as so redesignated,  
2 by inserting “, including such groups for  
3 kinship caregiver arrangements” before the  
4 semicolon; and

5 (v) in clause (x), as so redesignated,  
6 by striking “this Act” and inserting “this  
7 title”; and

8 (F) in paragraph (11)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
10 graph (A), by inserting “Tribes or Tribal  
11 organizations,” after “States,”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
13 “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
15 the period and inserting “; and”; and

16 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(D) procedures to identify and support  
19 potential kinship care arrangements.”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “post  
22 legal adoption” and inserting “post-legal adop-  
23 tion”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (2)(G), by inserting “,  
25 including such parents, children, and siblings in

1 kinship care arrangements” before the semi-  
2 colon;

3 (4) in subsection (d)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
5 “AND IMPROVING POST-LEGAL ADOPTION SUP-  
6 PORT SERVICES” after “CARE”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “includ-  
8 ing through the improvement of post-legal  
9 adoption services,” after “free for adoption,”;

10 (C) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “,  
13 including plans to assess the need for  
14 and provide, as appropriate, post-legal  
15 adoption services in order to improve  
16 permanency” before the semicolon;

17 (II) in clause (ii), by inserting  
18 “children with disabilities, under-  
19 served or overrepresented children and  
20 youth in the child welfare system,”  
21 after “minority children,”;

22 (III) in clause (iii), by striking  
23 “programs and methods” and insert-  
24 ing “programs supported under this  
25 subsection, including methods”; and



1 (IV) in clause (iv), by striking  
2 “section 473 of the Social Security  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 673)” and inserting  
4 “subpart B of part B of title IV of  
5 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 629 et seq.) and part E of such title  
7 IV (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.)”; and  
8 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) in clause (i), by inserting  
10 “children with disabilities, under-  
11 served or overrepresented children and  
12 youth in the child welfare system,”  
13 after “minority children,”; and

14 (II) in clause (ii), by striking  
15 “successful” and inserting “evidence-  
16 based and evidence-informed”; and

17 (D) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “Pay-  
18 ments under this subsection shall begin during  
19 fiscal year 1989.”; and

20 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting “, such as  
21 through the use of an electronic interstate case proc-  
22 essing system” before the period.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

2 The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and  
3 Adoption Reform Act of 1978 is amended by striking sec-  
4 tion 204 (42 U.S.C. 5114) and inserting the following:

5 **“SEC. 204. REPORTS.**

6 “(a) REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF INDIVIDUALS  
7 WHO WERE ADOPTED FROM FOSTER CARE.—Not later  
8 than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Adoption  
9 Opportunities Reauthorization Act of 2019, the Secretary  
10 shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education,  
11 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on  
12 Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a  
13 report on research regarding the outcomes of individuals  
14 who were adopted from foster care as children.

15 “(b) REPORT ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND DIS-  
16 SOLUTION.—No later than 18 months after the date of  
17 enactment of the Adoption Opportunities Reauthorization  
18 Act of 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
19 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate  
20 and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House  
21 of Representatives a report on children who enter into fos-  
22 ter care under the supervision of a State after prior final-  
23 ization of an adoption or legal guardianship, including  
24 cases involving adoption of foster youth. The Secretary  
25 shall include in such report information, to the extent that  
26 such information is available, regarding the incidence of

1 adoption disruption and dissolution and factors associated  
2 with such circumstances, including whether affected indi-  
3 viduals received pre- or post-legal adoption services.”.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 205 of the Child Abuse Prevention and  
6 Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C.  
7 5115) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking  
9 “\$40,000,000” and all that follows through “2015”  
10 and inserting “such sums as may be necessary for  
11 fiscal years 2020 through 2026”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “30 percent”  
13 and inserting “35 percent”.

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