

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

1 primary caretaker of their grandchildren. Experts
2 report that such numbers are increasing as the
3 opioid epidemic expands.

4 (2) Grandparents' lives are enhanced by caring
5 for their grandchildren; the overwhelming majority
6 of grandparents report experiencing significant bene-
7 fits in serving as their grandchildren's primary care-
8 givers.

9 (3) Providing full-time care to their grand-
10 children may increase grandparents' likelihood of ex-
11periencing physical illness and mental health prob-
12lems and decrease their ability to save for retire-
13ment.

14 (4) Grandparents raising grandchildren may
15 face difficulty enrolling their grandchildren in school,
16 medical care, and Federal assistance services.

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

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

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.

3 (2) LEAD AGENCY.—The Department of Health
4 and Human Services shall be the lead agency for the
5 Task Force.

6 (3) REQUIREMENT.—Each member of the Task
7 Force shall be an officer or employee of the Federal
8 Government.

9 (c) DUTIES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—

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

23 (B) NATIVE AMERICANS.—In carrying out
24 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-
24 tion described in subparagraph (A).

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.

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