

119th CONGRESS
2d Session

A BILL

To propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States defining marriage, to remove Federal penalties on marriage, to strengthen the married two-parent household, to compensate the care of children within the home as work, to restore parents displaced from their children by government action, to establish enforceable transparency in the Federal justice system and in federally funded child welfare, to establish a structured reintegration initiative for eligible Federal offenders, to authorize support to Federal immigration and border operations, to establish a permanent process for relief from Federal firearms disabilities, to provide for an orderly transition in Federal assistance to households with children, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the "Family Integrity and National Accountability Act of 2026".

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents. Sec. 2. Findings. Sec. 3. Purposes. Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Sec. 101. High-Profile Case Transparency Office. Sec. 102. Special Counsel appointment and reporting. Sec. 103. Statute of limitations.

TITLE II—FAMILY INTEGRITY

Subtitle A—Removing Federal Penalties on Marriage

Sec. 201. Elimination of marriage penalties in refundable credits. Sec. 202. Elimination of marriage penalties in means-tested programs.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Married Two-Parent Household

Sec. 211. Intact family tax credit. Sec. 212. Family formation bonus.

Subtitle C—Restoring Displaced Parents

Sec. 221. Diligent search and engagement of parents. Sec. 222. Parental placement preference. Sec. 223. Right to counsel. Sec. 224. Reinstatement of parental rights. Sec. 225. Parity in reunification services.

Subtitle D—Transparency in Federally Funded Child Welfare

Sec. 231. Parental decision-point reporting. Sec. 232. Custody determination reporting. Sec. 233. Separation of assessment from service provision. Sec. 234. Prevention funding parity.

Subtitle E—Marriage and Fatherhood Formation

Sec. 241. Expansion of healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood grants. Sec. 242. Family Integrity Fund.

TITLE III—REINTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY RESTORATION

Sec. 301. National Restoration Corps. Sec. 302. Eligibility and sentence reduction. Sec. 303. Conditions and revocation. Sec. 304. Support to Federal immigration and border operations. Sec. 305. Removal priority for trafficking and exploitation offenders. Sec. 306. Community Oversight Councils. Sec. 307. Permanent authorization for relief from Federal firearms disabilities.

TITLE IV—MARRIAGE AND THE WORK OF RAISING CHILDREN

Sec. 401. Proposal of constitutional amendment. Sec. 402. Definitions applicable to this title. Sec. 403. Household caregiver compensation. Sec. 404. Credit for caregiving years. Sec. 405. Non-interference.

TITLE V—TRANSITION AND OFFSET

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TITLE VI—REPORTING, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Sec. 601. Annual report. Sec. 602. Severability. Sec. 603. Effective dates and sunset.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The stability and prosperity of the United States depend upon the strength of the family, and no institution has been shown to substitute for a child's married mother and father in the same household.
- (2) Family fragmentation is associated with increased poverty, reduced educational attainment, diminished economic mobility, and elevated involvement with the criminal justice and child welfare systems.
- (3) The obligation to form and sustain a family rests upon men and women equally. A man who fathers a child assumes a permanent obligation to that child and to the child's mother that does not terminate with the end of a romantic relationship.
- (4) Federal law presently penalizes marriage. Low- and moderate-income couples with children routinely lose thousands of dollars in refundable credits and means-tested benefits by marrying. No program promoting marriage can succeed while that penalty remains in effect.
- (5) The care of a child within the home is productive work. It has never been compensated as such, and the absence of any compensation for it has compelled both parents in most married households to sell their labor outside the home in order to meet basic needs.

- (6) Historical patterns of criminal justice enforcement and social welfare policy have contributed to the prolonged removal of men from their households, producing intergenerational instability.
- (7) A household statistic recording a father's absence cannot distinguish a father who abandoned his child from a father who was incarcerated, denied custody, excluded by court order, or displaced during a child welfare proceeding. No Federal agency presently publishes data sufficient to distinguish among these causes.
- (8) Federal child welfare funding flows most reliably after a family has come apart, and least reliably to the services that would have kept it together.
- (9) Federal assistance to households with children was structured without regard to household composition, and its incentives operate against household formation.
- (10) High-profile failures of institutional accountability in cases involving exploitation and abuse have eroded public trust in equal justice under law.
- (11) A permanent statutory disqualification from a constitutional right, imposed without individualized review of present dangerousness, is inconsistent with the reintegration of individuals who have completed their sentences and returned to the support of their families.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States defining marriage;
- (2) to eliminate Federal financial penalties on marriage;
- (3) to align Federal economic policy toward married two-parent households raising their own children;
- (4) to compensate the care of children within the home as productive work;
- (5) to restore to their children parents who have been displaced by government action without adequate process;
- (6) to require public reporting sufficient to determine whether mothers and fathers are treated equally at each decision point in federally funded child welfare systems;
- (7) to establish enforceable transparency and accountability mechanisms within the Federal justice system;
- (8) to establish a structured, lawful reintegration initiative returning eligible individuals to work and to their families;
- (9) to establish a permanent, individualized process for relief from Federal firearms disabilities; and
- (10) to provide for an orderly, multiyear transition in the structure of Federal assistance to households with children.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) **LEGAL PARENT.**—The term "legal parent" means a biological, adoptive, or otherwise legally established parent of a child, including a parent whose parentage has been established by acknowledgment of paternity, administrative order, or judicial order.
- (2) **MARRIED TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLD.**—The term "married two-parent household" means a household in which two individuals who are legally married to one another reside with one or more dependent children of whom at least one of them is a legal parent.
- (3) **DISPLACED PARENT.**—The term "displaced parent" means a legal parent who does not reside with the parent's child and who—
 - (A) has sought, or seeks, residential custody, legal custody, or enforceable parenting time; or
 - (B) has been denied, restricted, or terminated in parental rights by order of a State court or by action of a State agency.
- (4) **TITLE IV-E AGENCY.**—The term "title IV-E agency" has the meaning given that term in section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671).
- (5) **SECRETARY.**—Except as otherwise provided, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

TITLE I—NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

SEC. 101. HIGH-PROFILE CASE TRANSPARENCY OFFICE.

(a) Establishment.—There is established within the Department of Justice an office to be known as the High-Profile Case Transparency Office (in this title referred to as the "Office"), headed by a Director appointed by the Attorney General.

(b) Duties.—The Office shall—

- (1) review the disposition of Federal investigations and prosecutions involving senior public officials, major financial institutions, and interstate or transnational networks engaged in human trafficking or the sexual exploitation of minors;
- (2) publish, not less than annually, summaries of the categories of evidence reviewed, charging and declination decisions, and case outcomes; and
- (3) submit an annual report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(c) Protection of Information.—The Office shall not publish information that—

- (1) is subject to rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure;
- (2) would identify a victim of a sexual offense or a minor;
- (3) is properly classified; or
- (4) would materially prejudice an ongoing investigation or prosecution.

(d) Declination Reporting.—Where a declination decision is withheld under subsection (c), the Office shall report the fact of the withholding and the statutory basis therefor to the committees described in subsection (b)(3), in classified annex if necessary.

SEC. 102. SPECIAL COUNSEL APPOINTMENT AND REPORTING.

(a) Trigger.—The Attorney General shall appoint a Special Counsel under part 600 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or shall report to Congress the reasons for declining to do so, whenever—

- (1) a criminal investigation presents a conflict of interest for the Department of Justice; or
- (2) credible evidence indicates the involvement of a senior public official in an organized trafficking or exploitation network.

(b) Reporting.—A declination under subsection (a) shall be reported in writing to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 30 days after the determination.

SEC. 103. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

(a) Extension.—Section 3283 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to extend the period for the prosecution of an offense involving human trafficking or the sexual exploitation of a minor to 25 years after the commission of the offense or 25 years after the victim attains 18 years of age, whichever is later.

(b) Prospective Application.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply only to an offense for which the applicable period of limitation has not expired as of the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—FAMILY INTEGRITY

Subtitle A—Removing Federal Penalties on Marriage

SEC. 201. ELIMINATION OF MARRIAGE PENALTIES IN REFUNDABLE CREDITS.

(a) **Earned Income Credit.**—Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended so that the phaseout threshold and credit amount applicable to a married couple filing a joint return is not less than the sum of the amounts that would apply to each spouse if each spouse filed as an unmarried individual.

(b) **Child Tax Credit.**—Section 24 of such Code is amended so that the phaseout threshold applicable to a joint return is not less than twice the threshold applicable to an unmarried individual.

(c) **Marriage Transition Hold Harmless.**—For the 3 taxable years beginning with the taxable year in which two legal parents of a common child marry one another, the credits under sections 32 and 24 of such Code shall be computed in the manner most favorable to the taxpayers, whether by reference to joint or separate computation.

SEC. 202. ELIMINATION OF MARRIAGE PENALTIES IN MEANS-TESTED PROGRAMS.

(a) **In General.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency administering a program described in subsection (b) shall issue regulations ensuring that the marriage of two legal parents of a common child does not, by reason of the marriage alone, reduce the aggregate assistance for which the household is eligible during the 24-month period beginning on the date of the marriage.

(b) **Programs Covered.**—The programs described in this subsection are—

(1) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(2) the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act;

(3) the premium tax credit under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and cost-sharing reductions under section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

(4) housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937; and

(5) child care assistance under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990.

(c) **Report.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report identifying each remaining Federal program in which marriage reduces household benefits, together with recommendations for the elimination of each such reduction.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Married Two-Parent Household

SEC. 211. INTACT FAMILY TAX CREDIT.

(a) Allowance.—There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 an amount determined under subsection (b) in the case of a married two-parent household.

(b) Amount.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) shall be—

- (1) \$2,500 for the first qualifying child;
- (2) \$1,500 for each additional qualifying child; and
- (3) adjusted annually for inflation.

(c) Qualifying Child.—For purposes of this section, a qualifying child is a dependent child who resides with the household for more than one-half of the taxable year and of whom at least one spouse is a legal parent, including by adoption.

(d) Refundability.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) shall be refundable in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 per qualifying child.

(e) Income Limitation.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) shall phase out beginning at modified adjusted gross income of \$200,000 on a joint return.

SEC. 212. FAMILY FORMATION BONUS.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which a married two-parent household with modified adjusted gross income below \$75,000 receives an annual payment of \$1,200.

(b) Marriage-at-Birth Supplement.—An additional one-time payment of \$2,000 shall be made where the legal parents of a child were married to one another at the time of the child's birth.

(c) Coordination.—A household may receive benefits under both this section and section 211.

Subtitle C—Restoring Displaced Parents

SEC. 221. DILIGENT SEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS.

Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended to require that a State plan provide that, in the case of every child for whom the title IV-E agency opens a case—

- (1) the agency shall conduct and document a diligent search for each legal and putative parent not residing with the child, to be completed not later than 30 days after the date on which the case is opened;
- (2) the agency shall provide each located parent with written notice of the proceeding, of the parent's right to seek custody or placement, of the availability of counsel, and of the steps required to establish parentage;
- (3) the agency shall document each attempt at contact, the method used, and the outcome; and
- (4) any failure to comply with paragraph (1), (2), or (3) shall be recorded in the case record and included in the reporting required under section 231 of this Act.

SEC. 222. PARENTAL PLACEMENT PREFERENCE.

Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is further amended to require that, before a child is placed in a non-relative foster care setting, the title IV-E agency shall—

- (1) evaluate each legal parent not residing with the child for placement; and
- (2) where placement with such a parent is declined, document in writing the specific findings supporting the determination that placement would be contrary to the welfare of the child.

SEC. 223. RIGHT TO COUNSEL.

(a) Reimbursement.—Federal financial participation under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act shall be available for the cost of legal representation of a parent in any proceeding in which the State seeks removal, continued removal, or termination of parental rights.

(b) State Plan Requirement.—A State plan shall provide that counsel is appointed for any parent who is a party to a proceeding described in subsection (a) and who is financially unable to obtain representation.

SEC. 224. REINSTATEMENT OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.

A State plan shall provide a procedure under which a parent whose rights were terminated may petition for reinstatement of those rights, and under which such a petition may be granted where—

- (1) the child has not achieved permanency within 3 years after the date of the termination;
- (2) the child, if of sufficient age and maturity, consents; and
- (3) the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that reinstatement is in the best interest of the child and that the conditions leading to the termination have been remedied.

SEC. 225. PARITY IN REUNIFICATION SERVICES.

A State plan shall provide that reunification and case plan services offered to one legal parent shall be offered to each other legal parent on equivalent terms, and that any disparity in the services offered shall be documented together with the reasons therefor.

Subtitle D—Transparency in Federally Funded Child Welfare

SEC. 231. PARENTAL DECISION-POINT REPORTING.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall require each title IV-E agency to report annually, through the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, data disaggregated by sex of the parent, race, ethnicity, and county, stating—

- (1) whether each legal or putative parent was identified;
- (2) whether each such parent was located and interviewed;
- (3) whether parentage was legally established;

- (4) whether each such parent was evaluated for placement before non-relative foster care;
- (5) whether each such parent was offered a case plan and reunification services;
- (6) whether parenting time was granted, supervised, restricted, or denied;
- (7) the number of parents who sought custody and the number who obtained it;
- (8) with which parent or parents reunification occurred; and
- (9) rates of subsequent re-entry into care, by type of reunification.

(b) Publication.—The Secretary shall publish the data required under subsection (a) in machine-readable form, at the county level, not later than 12 months after the close of each reporting period.

(c) Aggregation.—A State may not satisfy subsection (a) by reporting parents in the aggregate without disaggregation by sex.

SEC. 232. CUSTODY DETERMINATION REPORTING.

As a condition of receiving funds under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act, a State shall report annually the number of orders entered in the courts of that State limiting the parental rights or parenting time of a mother and of a father respectively, the type of limitation imposed, and, where the State collects it, the race of the parent.

SEC. 233. SEPARATION OF ASSESSMENT FROM SERVICE PROVISION.

(a) Conflict of Interest.—No Federal funds under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act may be paid for an assessment of a family conducted by an entity that has a financial interest in the services that the assessment recommends, unless the State demonstrates that no qualified independent assessor is reasonably available.

(b) Disclosure.—Where the exception under subsection (a) is invoked, the assessing entity shall disclose in writing to the family, at or before the assessment, the nature of its financial relationship with the referring agency and with any recommended provider.

(c) Right to Independent Evaluation.—A parent subject to an assessment funded in whole or in part under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act shall have the right to obtain an independent evaluation, and the State shall inform the parent of that right in writing.

SEC. 234. PREVENTION FUNDING PARITY.

The Secretary shall report annually to Congress, by State, the ratio of Federal expenditures on out-of-home care to Federal expenditures on prevention and family preservation services, and shall identify each State in which out-of-home expenditures exceed 50 percent of total expenditures under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act.

Subtitle E—Marriage and Fatherhood Formation

SEC. 241. EXPANSION OF HEALTHY MARRIAGE AND RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD GRANTS.

(a) Funding.—Section 403(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)) is amended by striking the applicable dollar amount and inserting "\$500,000,000".

(b) Priority.—In awarding grants under such section, the Secretary shall give priority to programs that—

- (1) are delivered before the birth of a first child;
- (2) address the obligations of fathers expressly, including the obligation to establish a household with the mother of one's children;
- (3) are delivered through community, faith-based, and workforce institutions rather than through agencies exercising custodial authority over participants; and
- (4) are voluntary and are not conditioned upon, and do not affect, any custody, visitation, or child welfare determination.

(c) Non-Coercion.—Neither participation nor non-participation in a program funded under such section may be introduced as evidence in any custody, visitation, dependency, or termination proceeding.

SEC. 242. FAMILY INTEGRITY FUND.

(a) Establishment.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Family Integrity Fund.

(b) Deposits.—There shall be deposited into the Fund such amounts as are appropriated to it, together with amounts transferred under section 502(b).

(c) Uses.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available, subject to appropriation and to section 504, for—

- (1) Caregiver Compensation Payments under section 403;
- (2) family preservation and reunification services;
- (3) parental legal representation under section 223;
- (4) grants under section 241; and
- (5) the reporting infrastructure required under subtitle D.

TITLE III—REINTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY RESTORATION

SEC. 301. NATIONAL RESTORATION CORPS.

(a) Establishment.—There is established within the Department of Labor, in coordination with the Department of Justice, a National Restoration Corps.

(b) Purpose.—The Corps shall provide structured employment, training, and community reintegration for eligible participants in—

- (1) infrastructure construction and repair;
- (2) disaster response and recovery;
- (3) neighborhood redevelopment;
- (4) logistics and supply support; and
- (5) support to Federal immigration and border operations as provided in section 304.

(c) Screening.—A participant shall undergo background, psychological, and physical evaluation before assignment.

(d) Training.—A participant shall complete federally approved training programs applicable to the participant's assignment.

(e) Compensation.—A participant shall receive compensation and completion incentives.

(f) Civilian Character.—The Corps is a civilian program. No member of the Corps shall exercise law enforcement authority, and nothing in this title authorizes the use of the Armed Forces to execute the laws within the United States.

SEC. 302. ELIGIBILITY AND SENTENCE REDUCTION.

(a) Motion for Reduction.—Section 3582(c)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to permit a court, upon motion of the defendant or of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, to reduce a term of imprisonment where the defendant—

- (1) has been convicted of a non-violent offense;
- (2) has served not less than 50 percent of the sentence imposed;
- (3) has been accepted into the National Restoration Corps; and
- (4) is not disqualified under subsection (b).

(b) Disqualifying Offenses.—No reduction may be granted under subsection (a) where the defendant was convicted of—

- (1) a sexual offense;
- (2) an offense involving a minor victim;

- (3) an organizing, supervisory, or leadership role in an offense involving human trafficking; or
- (4) a second or subsequent crime of violence.

(c) **Judicial Determination.**—In considering a motion under subsection (a), the court shall consider the factors set forth in section 3553(a) of title 18, United States Code, and the safety of the community.

(d) **Family Reunification Factor.**—In considering a motion under subsection (a), the court may consider the defendant's demonstrated commitment to the support and care of the defendant's dependent children.

SEC. 303. CONDITIONS AND REVOCATION.

(a) **Conditions.**—A participant shall complete a term of supervised participation of not less than 5 years, including required training and assignment.

(b) **Revocation.**—The release of a participant may be revoked only upon—

- (1) written notice of the alleged violation;
- (2) a hearing before a neutral decisionmaker at which the participant may appear, present evidence, and confront adverse witnesses; and
- (3) a written statement of the evidence relied upon and the reasons for revocation.

SEC. 304. SUPPORT TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND BORDER OPERATIONS.

(a) **Authorization.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may assign members of the National Restoration Corps to provide construction, infrastructure, logistical, and maintenance support to the Department of Homeland Security, including—

- (1) construction, repair, and maintenance of border barriers, access roads, sensor and surveillance tower foundations, lighting, and related physical infrastructure;
- (2) construction and repair of ports of entry and inspection facilities;
- (3) maintenance and repair of vehicles, aircraft ground equipment, vessels, and mechanical systems;
- (4) supply, warehousing, and transportation of materiel;
- (5) installation of communications and information technology infrastructure; and
- (6) humanitarian logistics, including provision of water, shelter, and medical supply support in border regions.

(b) **Limitations.**—A member of the Corps assigned under this section shall not—

- (1) exercise any power of arrest, detention, search, seizure, interrogation, or pursuit;
- (2) carry a firearm in the performance of any duty under this section;

(3) have custodial contact with, or exercise any supervisory function over, any person in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) perform any function for which designation under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) would be required; or

(5) participate in any enforcement action conducted at a residence, place of employment, school, hospital, or place of worship.

(c) Citizenship.—Only a citizen of the United States may be assigned under this section.

(d) Voluntary Assignment.—Assignment under this section shall be voluntary. A member's declination of assignment under this section shall not—

(1) constitute a violation of any condition imposed under section 303;

(2) be a basis for revocation of a sentence reduction granted under section 302; or

(3) affect the member's standing, compensation, or completion incentives within the Corps.

(e) Prevailing Wage.—A member assigned under this section shall be compensated at not less than the rate determined under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, for the classification of work performed.

(f) Oversight.—Assignments under this section shall be subject to review by the Community Oversight Councils established under section 306, which shall report annually on the number of members assigned, the categories of work performed, and any complaint received.

(g) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this section authorizes the use of the Armed Forces to execute the laws within the United States, or modifies section 1385 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 305. REMOVAL PRIORITY FOR TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OFFENDERS.

(a) Priority.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall accord the highest priority in the initiation and adjudication of removal proceedings to any alien who has been convicted of—

(1) an offense involving human trafficking;

(2) an offense involving the sexual exploitation of a minor; or

(3) an organizing, supervisory, or leadership role in an offense described in paragraph (1).

(b) Coordination.—The High-Profile Case Transparency Office established under section 101 shall transmit to the Secretary of Homeland Security the identity of any alien identified in the course of a review under that section as having been convicted of an offense described in subsection (a).

(c) Reporting.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall report annually to Congress the number of aliens removed under the priority established by this section, disaggregated by category of offense.

SEC. 306. COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COUNCILS.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish a Community Oversight Council in each State.

(b) Composition.—Each Council shall consist of not fewer than 6 members drawn from community leadership, faith-based institutions, workforce sectors, and individuals with direct experience of incarceration or of the child welfare system.

(c) Authority.—Each Council shall—

- (1) review Corps operations within the State;
- (2) issue public findings, conditions, or objections;
- (3) transmit any objection to the Secretary of Labor, who shall respond in writing not later than 60 days after receipt; and
- (4) transmit unresolved objections to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 307. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION FOR RELIEF FROM FEDERAL FIREARMS DISABILITIES.

(a) Procedures Required.—Section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "The Attorney General shall establish and maintain procedures for the receipt, investigation, and adjudication of applications submitted under this subsection. Not later than 180 days after receipt of a complete application, the Attorney General shall grant or deny the application. A denial shall be accompanied by a written statement of the specific grounds therefor."

(b) Availability of Funds.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any limitation contained in any appropriations Act, amounts appropriated to the Department of Justice shall be available to carry out section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code.

(c) Ineligibility.—No relief may be granted under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code, to a person who has been convicted of—

- (1) a crime of violence, as defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code;
- (2) an offense described in chapter 109A, chapter 110, or chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code;
- (3) an offense involving a minor victim;
- (4) an organizing, supervisory, or leadership role in an offense involving human trafficking;
- (5) a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, as defined in section 921(a)(33) of title 18, United States Code; or
- (6) an offense described in section 2332b(g)(5)(B) of title 18, United States Code.

(d) Standard for Relief.—The Attorney General may grant relief under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code, only upon a finding, supported by clear and convincing evidence, that—

- (1) the applicant is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety; and

(2) the granting of relief would not be contrary to the public interest.

(e) Waiting Period.—Except as provided in subsection (f), an application under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code, may not be granted before the expiration of the 5-year period beginning on the latest of the dates on which the applicant completed the term of imprisonment, supervised release, probation, or parole imposed for the disqualifying offense.

(f) National Restoration Corps.—In the case of an applicant who has completed the full term of supervised participation required under section 303 without revocation—

(1) the period described in subsection (e) shall be deemed satisfied; and

(2) the Attorney General shall accord the application expedited review.

(g) Service Under Section 304.—Service performed under section 304 shall be credited toward the term of supervised participation required under section 303, and shall be recorded in the participant's service record for consideration under subsection (d).

(h) Individualized Determination.—Nothing in subsection (f) or (g) creates a presumption in favor of relief or relieves the Attorney General of the obligation to make the findings required under subsection (d) in each case.

(i) Reporting.—The Attorney General shall submit annually to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report stating, for the preceding fiscal year—

(1) the number of applications received, granted, and denied under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code;

(2) the categories of disqualifying offense presented by such applications;

(3) the median time to adjudication; and

(4) the number of persons granted relief who were subsequently convicted of a felony offense.

(j) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this section affects the operation of any State law governing the possession, receipt, transfer, or transportation of firearms.

TITLE IV—MARRIAGE AND THE WORK OF RAISING CHILDREN

SEC. 401. PROPOSAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

(a) Proposal.—The following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission for ratification:

"ARTICLE XXVIII

"SECTION 1. Marriage in the United States shall be recognized as a union between one biological male and one biological female.

"SECTION 2. Nothing in this article shall be construed to invalidate a marriage lawfully entered into before the date of ratification, or to impair any right, benefit, or obligation arising from such a marriage.

"SECTION 3. The Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.".

(b) Submission.—The article proposed under subsection (a) shall be submitted to the legislatures of the several States for ratification as provided in article V of the Constitution.

(c) Severability From Remainder of Act.—The failure of the article proposed under subsection (a) to be ratified shall not affect the operation of any other provision of this Act. Every other title of this Act shall take effect and remain in force independently of this section.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THIS TITLE.

In this title:

(1) BIOLOGICAL PARENT.—The term "biological parent" means an individual who is the genetic mother or genetic father of a child.

(2) ADOPTIVE PARENT.—The term "adoptive parent" means an individual who has become the legal parent of a child through a final decree of adoption entered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) QUALIFYING PARENT.—The term "qualifying parent" means a biological parent or an adoptive parent.

(4) MARRIED TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLD.—The term "married two-parent household" means a household in which two individuals who are lawfully married to one another reside with one or more dependent children of whom at least one of them is a qualifying parent.

(5) PRIMARY CAREGIVER.—The term "primary caregiver" means the qualifying parent in a married two-parent household who provides full-time care within the home for one or more dependent children of the household and who is not concurrently employed more than 10 hours

per week outside the home.

(6) LOCAL NECESSARY INCOME.—The term "local necessary income" means the annual income required for a household of a given size to meet basic needs in the county of residence, as determined and published annually by the Secretary of Labor.

(7) NO PREFERENCE BY SEX.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to designate, prefer, or require that the primary caregiver be of a particular sex. The designation shall be made by the household.

SEC. 403. HOUSEHOLD CAREGIVER COMPENSATION.

(a) Finding.—Congress finds that the care of a child within the home is productive work; that it has never been compensated as such; and that the absence of any compensation for it has compelled both parents in most married households to sell their labor outside the home in order to meet basic needs, to the detriment of children, parents, and communities.

(b) Establishment.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which a married two-parent household that has designated a primary caregiver receives an annual Caregiver Compensation Payment.

(c) Eligibility.—A household is eligible for a payment under this section if—

(1) it is a married two-parent household;

(2) it has designated one qualifying parent as primary caregiver;

(3) at least one qualifying parent is employed not less than 30 hours per week in paid employment or the equivalent in self-employment; and

(4) the household's earned income is less than 130 percent of local necessary income for a household of its size.

(d) Amount.—The payment shall equal the difference between the household's earned income and 130 percent of local necessary income for a household of its size in its county of residence, subject to subsection (e).

(e) Maximum.—The payment under subsection (d) shall not exceed the greater of \$28,000 or 60 percent of local necessary income for a household of that size, adjusted annually for inflation.

(f) Payment.—The payment shall be made to the primary caregiver directly, in not fewer than 12 installments annually.

(g) Taper.—If the primary caregiver takes paid employment, the payment shall be reduced by 40 cents for each dollar earned, and shall not terminate by reason of such employment until the reduction equals the full payment. No household shall receive less in total resources by reason of the primary caregiver earning additional income.

(h) Continuity.—Eligibility shall be determined annually. A household whose earned income rises above the threshold described in subsection (c)(4) shall continue to receive a payment reduced under

subsection (g) for a period of not less than 12 months.

SEC. 404. CREDIT FOR CAREGIVING YEARS.

(a) In General.—Section 215 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415) is amended to provide that, for purposes of computing an individual's average indexed monthly earnings, each year in which the individual served as a primary caregiver shall be credited at not less than 50 percent of the national average wage index for that year.

(b) Limitation.—Not more than 10 years may be credited under subsection (a) with respect to any individual.

(c) Application.—Subsection (a) shall apply to any individual who served as a primary caregiver in a household receiving a payment under section 403.

SEC. 405. NON-INTERFERENCE.

Neither the designation of a primary caregiver, nor the receipt of any payment under this title, nor the termination of either, may be—

- (1) introduced as evidence in any custody, visitation, dependency, or termination proceeding;
- (2) used as a basis for any determination by a title IV-E agency; or
- (3) required as a condition of eligibility for any other Federal benefit.

TITLE V—TRANSITION AND OFFSET

SEC. 501. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that the current structure of Federal assistance to households with children was built without regard to household composition; that its incentives operate against household formation; that abrupt withdrawal of assistance would harm children who are not responsible for the structure of the household into which they were born; and that a transition of sufficient length permits households to plan, form, and adjust without crisis.

SEC. 502. TEN-YEAR TRANSITION SCHEDULE.

(a) Covered Programs.—This section applies to Federal assistance provided to households with dependent children under—

- (1) part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;
- (2) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;
- (3) housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937; and
- (4) child care assistance under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990.

(b) Schedule.—Beginning with the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the portion of covered program funding allocated to households that are not married two-parent households shall be reduced by 10 percent of the base-year amount annually for 10 years, and the amount of each such reduction shall be transferred to the Family Integrity Fund established under section 242.

(c) Grandfathering.—A household receiving assistance under a covered program on the date of enactment of this Act shall continue to receive assistance at not less than the level in effect on that date for a period of 5 years.

(d) Annual Certification.—The Secretary shall certify annually to Congress that the reductions under subsection (b) have not increased the rate of child poverty or the rate of entry into foster care in any State. Where the Secretary cannot so certify, the schedule under subsection (b) shall be suspended for the following fiscal year.

SEC. 503. HOLD HARMLESS.

The reductions under section 502(b) shall not apply to a household in which the qualifying parent—

- (1) is a displaced parent as defined in section 4, and is actively seeking custody, placement, or parenting time with respect to a child;
- (2) is a surviving spouse of a deceased qualifying parent;

- (3) is separated from a spouse by reason of that spouse's military service, incarceration, or documented incapacity;
- (4) has been the victim of domestic violence by the other qualifying parent, as documented by a protective order, a police report, or an attestation by a licensed provider; or
- (5) is participating in the National Restoration Corps under title III.

SEC. 504. OFFSET AND APPLICATION OF SAVINGS.

- (a) Deposits.—Amounts transferred under section 502(b) shall be deposited in the Family Integrity Fund established under section 242.
- (b) Priority of Use.—Amounts in the Fund attributable to section 502(b) shall be applied in the following order:
 - (1) Caregiver Compensation Payments under section 403.
 - (2) The intact family tax credit under section 211 and the family formation bonus under section 212.
 - (3) Parental legal representation under section 223.
 - (4) Grants under section 241.
- (c) Prohibition on Diversion.—No amount transferred under section 502(b) may be used for any purpose other than those described in subsection (b), or transferred to the general fund of the Treasury.
- (d) Shortfall.—Where amounts in the Fund are insufficient to make full payments under section 403, payments shall be prorated. No reduction under section 502(b) shall take effect in any fiscal year in which payments under section 403 have been prorated by more than 10 percent.

SEC. 505. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report stating—

- (1) the number of households receiving payments under section 403;
- (2) changes in the marriage rate among households with dependent children;
- (3) changes in the rate of child poverty, by State;
- (4) changes in the rate of entry into foster care, by State; and
- (5) whether savings under section 502(b) have been sufficient to fund payments under section 403 in full.

TITLE VI—REPORTING, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATES

SEC. 601. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary and the Attorney General shall jointly submit to Congress an annual report on participation, outcomes, and community impact under this Act, including the data required under subtitle D of title II and the reports required under sections 502(d) and 505.

SEC. 602. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of any provision of this Act to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected. The failure of the article proposed under section 401 to be ratified shall not affect the operation of any other provision of this Act.

SEC. 603. EFFECTIVE DATES AND SUNSET.

(a) In General.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act takes effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) State Plan Compliance.—A State shall not be found out of compliance with an amendment made by subtitle C or subtitle D of title II before the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) Caregiver Compensation.—Section 403 shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and payments under that section shall commence before any reduction under section 502(b) takes effect.

(d) Sunset.—Sections 301 through 306 shall expire on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act unless reauthorized by Act of Congress. No other provision of this Act shall expire.