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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To temporarily increase funding to the Court Improvement Program, to improve the ability of courts to conduct remote child welfare proceedings, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MOORE of Utah introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To temporarily increase funding to the Court Improvement Program, to improve the ability of courts to conduct remote child welfare proceedings, 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 “Connecting Forever  
5 Families Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE**  
2 **COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 436 of the Social Security  
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 629f) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “,  
6 \$375,000,000 for each fiscal year in the 5-fiscal year  
7 period beginning with the 1st fiscal year beginning  
8 after the effective date of the Connecting Forever  
9 Families Act of 2022, and \$345,000,000 for each  
10 succeeding fiscal year” before the period; and

11 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “until the  
12 1st fiscal year beginning after the effective date of  
13 the Connecting Forever Families Act of 2022,  
14 \$60,000,000 for the grants for each fiscal year in  
15 the 5-fiscal year period beginning with the 1st fiscal  
16 year after such effective date, and \$30,000,000 for  
17 the grants for each succeeding fiscal year” before  
18 the period.

19 (b) INDIAN TRIBES.—Section 438(c)(3) of such Act  
20 (42 U.S.C. 629h(c)(3)) is amended by inserting “for each  
21 fiscal year that begins before the effective date of the Con-  
22 necting Forever Families Act of 2022, \$2,000,000 in the  
23 case of the 1st 5 fiscal years that begin after such effective  
24 date, and \$1,000,000 for each succeeding fiscal year,”  
25 after “\$1,000,000”.

26 (c) OFFSET.—

1           (1) Effective on October 1 of the 1st fiscal year  
2           beginning after the effective date of this Act, section  
3           403(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(b)(2)) is  
4           amended by striking “\$608,000,000” and inserting  
5           “\$448,000,000”.

6           (2) Effective on October 1 of the 2nd fiscal  
7           year beginning after such effective date, section  
8           403(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(b)(2)) is  
9           amended by striking “\$448,000,000” and inserting  
10          “\$618,000,000”.

11          (3) Effective on October 1 of the 3rd fiscal year  
12          beginning after such effective date, section 403(b)(2)  
13          of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(b)(2)) is amended by  
14          striking “\$618,000,000” and inserting  
15          “\$608,000,000”.

16 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION THAT COURT IMPROVEMENT PRO-**  
17 **GRAM FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR TECHNO-**  
18 **LOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PREVENT DIS-**  
19 **RUPTION AND ENABLE RECOVERY FROM**  
20 **VARIOUS THREATS.**

21          Section 438(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
22          629h(a)) is amended—

23               (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
24          (1);

1 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
2 graph (2) and inserting “and”; and

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

4 “(3) to prevent disruption and enable recovery  
5 from threats such as public health crises, natural  
6 disasters, or cyber-attacks, including technology sup-  
7 port for remote hearings or legal representation, de-  
8 veloping guidance, coordinating with other agencies,  
9 or otherwise ensuring back-up approaches are in  
10 place to ensure continuity of needed services.”.

11 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE ON SHARING BEST**  
12 **PRACTICES FOR TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES**  
13 **NEEDED FOR COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR**  
14 **FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION TO BE CON-**  
15 **DUCTED REMOTELY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Every 5 years, the Secretary of  
17 Health and Human Services, through the Administration  
18 for Children and Families, shall issue implementation  
19 guidance for sharing information on the best practices  
20 for—

21 (1) technological changes needed for court pro-  
22 ceedings for foster care or adoption to be conducted  
23 remotely in a way that maximizes engagement and  
24 protects the privacy of participants; and

1           (2) the manner in which the proceedings should  
2       be conducted.

3       (b) INITIAL ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of Health and  
4 Human Services shall issue the 1st guidance required by  
5 subsection (a) not later than January 1, 2024.

6 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7       Except as provided in section 2(b), this Act and the  
8 amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date  
9 that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this  
10 Act.