

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising  
Grandchildren.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was read twice  
and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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-  
12 lems and decrease their ability to save for retire-  
13 ment.

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.