

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To strengthen the Court Improvement Program to advance technology and modernizing the judicial child welfare system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To strengthen the Court Improvement Program to advance technology and modernizing the judicial child welfare system.

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 “Court Improvement
5 Program Enhancement Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION THAT COURT IMPROVEMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR TECHNO-**
3 **LOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PREVENT DIS-**
4 **RUPTION AND ENABLE RECOVERY FROM**
5 **VARIOUS THREATS.**

6 Section 438(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 629h(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

15 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF, AND IMPROVEMENT IN, HAN-**
16 **DLING OF PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO FOS-**
17 **TER CARE AND ADOPTION.**

18 Section 438(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
19 629h(a)), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
21 following:

22 “(F) that determine the appropriateness,
23 and best practices for use, of technology to
24 allow conduct of remote hearings, including to
25 ensure maximum participation of individuals in-
26 volved in proceedings and to enable courts to

1 maintain operations in times of public health or
2 other emergencies;” and

3 (2) in paragraph (2)(C), by inserting after “and
4 other legal personnel” the following: “and sup-
5 porting optimal use of remote hearing technology”.

6 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE ON SHARING BEST**
7 **PRACTICES FOR TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES**
8 **NEEDED FOR COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR**
9 **FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION TO BE CON-**
10 **DUCTED REMOTELY.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Every 5 years, the Secretary of
12 Health and Human Services, through the Administration
13 for Children and Families, shall issue implementation
14 guidance for sharing information on the best practices
15 for—

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

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

22 (b) INITIAL ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services shall issue the 1st guidance required by
24 subsection (a) not later than January 1, 2025.

1 (c) **ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION.**—The Administra-
2 tion for Children and Families shall consult with Indian
3 tribes on the development of appropriate guidelines for
4 State proceedings involving Indian children to maximize
5 engagement of Indian tribes and provide appropriate
6 guidelines on the conducting of proceedings subject to the
7 Indian Child Welfare Act (25 USC 1901 et seq.).

8 **SEC. 5. RESERVATION OF AMOUNTS.**

9 Section 436(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42
10 U.S.C. 629f(b)(2)) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000”
11 and inserting “\$40,000,000”.

12 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
14 take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act.