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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a demonstration pilot program to test the innovative use of funds and outcomes-oriented benchmarks for initiatives to support low income households in accessing hygiene materials.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a demonstration pilot program to test the innovative use of funds and outcomes-oriented benchmarks for initiatives to support low income households in accessing hygiene materials.

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 “TANF Hygiene Access
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO TEST INITIATIVES**
2 **TO SUPPORT LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN**
3 **ACCESSING HYGIENE MATERIALS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
6 retary)”, through the Office of Family Assistance, shall
7 conduct a demonstration program to test innovative uses
8 of funds and outcomes-oriented benchmarks for initiatives
9 to improve the access of low income households to hygiene
10 materials.

11 (b) DEFINITION OF HYGIENE MATERIALS.—In this
12 Act, the term “hygiene materials” includes soap, deodor-
13 ant, toothpaste, toothbrush, toilet paper, feminine hygiene
14 products, shampoo, diapers, baby wipes, postpartum pads,
15 antibacterial hand soap, laundry detergent, dish soap. and
16 any other product related to hygiene as determined by the
17 Secretary.

18 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

19 (1) SUBMISSION.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may
21 submit to the Secretary an application for a
22 grant under this section.

23 (B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this
24 Act, the term “eligible entity” means a State,
25 an Indian tribe, or a tribal organization, as

1 such terms are defined in section 419 of the So-
2 cial Security Act.

3 (2) CONSIDERATION.—

4 (A) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—The Secretary
5 shall establish a process for considering applica-
6 tions submitted pursuant to this section on a
7 competitive basis.

8 (B) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—The
9 Secretary shall select applicants to receive
10 grants under this section on the basis of—

11 (i) the strength of the design of the
12 hygiene access initiative described in the
13 application submitted by the applicant;

14 (ii) the capacity of the initiative to
15 serve the population targeted by the initia-
16 tive;

17 (iii) the extent to which the applicant
18 will partner with basic needs banks or
19 similar entities with demonstrated experi-
20 ence in collecting, warehousing, and dis-
21 tributing hygiene materials or basic needs
22 items;

23 (iv) the readiness of the applicant to
24 evaluate the initiative;

1 (v) the cost-effectiveness of the initia-
2 tive;

3 (vi) the past performance of the appli-
4 cant in carrying out the program of the
5 applicant that is funded under part A of
6 title IV of the Social Security Act; and

7 (vii) geographic diversity.

8 (3) PUBLICATION.—On receipt of an applica-
9 tion submitted pursuant to this section, the Sec-
10 retary shall make a copy of the application available
11 on the website of the Department of Health and
12 Human Services.

13 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
14 ister this section in a way that advances the goal of ex-
15 panding access to hygiene materials for a significant num-
16 ber of low-income households.

17 (e) DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT.—The Secretary shall
18 disburse each grant awarded under this section, on the
19 1st day of the fiscal year for which the grant is awarded.

20 (f) USE OF GRANT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity to which a grant
22 is made under this section may use the grant only
23 to provide hygiene materials to low income house-
24 holds.

1 (2) LIMITATION ON USE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
2 EXPENSES.—Not more than 15 percent of a grant
3 made under this section may be used for administra-
4 tive expenses.

5 (g) EVALUATION.—An entity to which a grant is
6 made under this section shall submit to the Secretary a
7 report on the performance of the initiative carried out with
8 the grant funds, as assessed using the following indicators:

9 (1) The geographic area served.

10 (2) The number of families served.

11 (3) The number of materials distributed.

12 (4) The frequency of distributions.

13 (h) FUNDING.—Out of any money in the Treasury
14 of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are
15 appropriated to carry out this Act—

16 (1) \$25,000,000 for the 1st fiscal year that be-
17 gins on or after the effective date of this Act;

18 (2) \$30,000,000 for each of the 2nd and 3rd
19 fiscal years that begin on or after the effective date;
20 and

21 (3) \$32,500,000 for each of the 4th and 5th
22 fiscal years that begin on or after the effective date.

23 (i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect 1
24 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (j) REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF LARGE SCALE IM-
2 PLEMENTATION.—Before the 5th fiscal year that begins
3 on or after the effective date of this Act, the Secretary
4 shall submit to the Congress a report that contains an
5 evaluation of the demonstration program conducted under
6 this section, and the recommendation of the Secretary as
7 to whether it would be feasible to implement a program
8 of this type on a large scale.