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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To require States to take certain steps to address domestic and sexual violence among individuals receiving assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require States to take certain steps to address domestic and sexual violence among individuals receiving assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. REQUIREMENT THAT STATES ADOPT STAND-**
2 **ARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS DO-**
3 **MESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG**
4 **TANF RECIPIENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a)(7) of the Social
6 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(7)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking the paragraph heading and in-
8 serting “CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS AND PRO-
9 CEDURES REGARDING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIO-
10 LENCE”;

11 (2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A certification by the
14 chief executive officer of the State that the
15 State has established and is enforcing stand-
16 ards and procedures to ensure the right and en-
17 titlement of victims of domestic or sexual vio-
18 lence (notwithstanding section 401(b)) seeking
19 or receiving assistance under the State program
20 funded under this part—

21 “(i) to be screened and identified
22 while maintaining the confidentiality of the
23 victims;

24 “(ii) to be referred to counseling and
25 supportive services;

1 “(iii) to be granted a waiver, pursuant
2 to a determination of good cause, of pro-
3 gram requirements such as time limits (for
4 so long as necessary), residency require-
5 ments, child support cooperation require-
6 ments, and family cap provisions, in cases
7 where compliance with the requirements
8 would make it more difficult for the vic-
9 tims to escape domestic or sexual violence
10 or unfairly penalize the victims or individ-
11 uals who are at risk of further domestic or
12 sexual violence;

13 “(iv) to apply to participate in the
14 program on the same day that they contact
15 a program office in person during office
16 hours;

17 “(v) to have an application that con-
18 tains their name, address, and signature
19 considered to be filed on the date it is sub-
20 mitted;

21 “(vi) to receive at the time of applica-
22 tion a clear, written statement explaining
23 what acts they must perform to cooperate
24 in obtaining verification and otherwise
25 completing the application process; and

1 “(vii) if they have completed the ap-
2 plication process, to have their eligibility
3 determined promptly, and to be provided
4 assistance retroactive to the application
5 date if determined eligible within 30 days
6 after the application date.”; and

7 (3) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by in-
9 serting “OR SEXUAL” after “DOMESTIC”; and

10 (B) in the text, by inserting “or sexual”
11 after “domestic”.

12 (b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON BEST PRACTICES
13 OF STATES.—Section 413 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 613)
14 is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON BEST PRACTICES OF
16 STATES IN ADDRESSING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIO-
17 LENCE SUFFERED BY TANF RECIPIENTS.—Every 4
18 years, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Con-
19 gress a report which examines the practices of States in
20 implementing section 402(a)(7), and identifies the best
21 practices used to do so.”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2012.