

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for studies and reports relating to the impact of legislation on spending on children, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for studies and reports relating to the impact of legislation on spending on children, 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 “Focus on Children
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDIES AND REPORTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL**
2 **BUDGET OFFICE RELATING TO THE IMPACT**
3 **OF LEGISLATION ON SPENDING ON CHIL-**
4 **DREN.**

5 Section 202(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of
6 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(g)) is amended—

7 (1) in the heading, by inserting “AND REPORTS
8 TO CONGRESS” after “STUDIES”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(3) SPENDING ON CHILDREN STUDIES AND
11 REPORTS.—

12 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

13 “(i) the term ‘budget of the President’
14 means the budget of the President sub-
15 mitted to Congress under section 1105(a)
16 of title 31, United States Code;

17 “(ii) the term ‘category of spending
18 on children’ means—

19 “(I) spending on children that is
20 discretionary appropriations;

21 “(II) spending on children under
22 an entitlement authority;

23 “(III) spending on children that
24 is a tax expenditure;

1 “(IV) spending on children that
2 is discretionary appropriations or
3 under an entitlement authority; or

4 “(V) spending on children that is
5 discretionary appropriations, under an
6 entitlement authority, or a tax ex-
7 penditure;

8 “(iii) the term ‘child’ means an indi-
9 vidual under 19 years of age;

10 “(iv) the term ‘discretionary appro-
11 priations’—

12 “(I) has the meaning given that
13 term in section 250 of the Balanced
14 Budget and Emergency Deficit Con-
15 trol Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900); and

16 “(II) includes amounts appro-
17 priated under Acts making supple-
18 mental appropriations and continuing
19 resolutions;

20 “(v) the term ‘Federal spending’ in-
21 cludes all outlays and tax expenditures;

22 “(vi) the term ‘key indicator’ includes
23 information relating to the outlays or tax
24 expenditures described in subclause (I),
25 (II), (III), (IV), or (V) of clause (vii); and

1 “(vii) the term ‘spending on children’
2 includes—

3 “(I) outlays under an entitlement
4 authority that go directly to children;

5 “(II) outlays for a Federal pro-
6 gram or initiative that, consistent
7 with the mission of the program or
8 initiative, delivers services exclusively
9 to children;

10 “(III) outlays for a Federal pro-
11 gram or initiative that, while not serv-
12 ing children directly, has as a core
13 mission goal the improvement of the
14 health, education, welfare, or general
15 well-being of children;

16 “(IV) for a Federal program or
17 initiative that delivers services to both
18 children and adults, the portion of
19 outlays under the program or initia-
20 tive attributable to providing benefits
21 for children, based on the best avail-
22 able data; and

23 “(V) tax expenditures that have,
24 as a core goal, the improvement of the

1 health, education, welfare, or general
2 well-being of children.

3 “(B) STUDIES.—At the request of the
4 Chairman or Ranking Member of a committee
5 of the Senate or the House of Representatives,
6 the Director shall, to the extent practicable,
7 conduct a study of a bill, joint resolution,
8 amendment, amendment between the Houses,
9 or conference report containing changes in
10 spending on children that includes, separately
11 for each category of spending on children, infor-
12 mation and data, including the amount of the
13 change in spending on children for each cat-
14 egory of spending on children.

15 “(C) ANNUAL REPORTS ON SPENDING.—
16 As soon as is practicable after the date on
17 which the Director completes an analysis of the
18 budget of the President, the Director shall sub-
19 mit to Congress a report that includes informa-
20 tion and data regarding spending on children
21 separately for each category of spending on
22 children, including—

23 “(i) the amount of spending on chil-
24 dren for each category of spending on chil-
25 dren; and

1 “(ii) the share of Federal spending
2 constituted by spending on children for
3 each category of spending on children.

4 “(D) ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE BUDGET
5 OF THE PRESIDENT.—As soon as is practicable
6 after the date on which the Director completes
7 an analysis of the budget of the President, the
8 Director shall submit to Congress a report on
9 the budget of the President that includes infor-
10 mation and data regarding spending on children
11 separately for each category of spending on
12 children for the prior fiscal year, the current
13 fiscal year, the fiscal year for which the budget
14 of the President is submitted, and the ensuing
15 fiscal year, including—

16 “(i) for the prior fiscal year, the
17 amount of and share of Federal spending
18 constituted by each category of spending
19 on children;

20 “(ii) for the current fiscal year, the
21 estimated amount of and share of Federal
22 spending constituted by each category of
23 spending on children;

24 “(iii) for the fiscal year for which the
25 budget of the President is submitted, the

1 amount of and share of Federal spending
2 constituted by each category of spending
3 on children under the budget of the Presi-
4 dent; and

5 “(iv) for the fiscal year after the fiscal
6 year described in clause (iii), the amount
7 of and share of Federal spending con-
8 stituted by each category of spending on
9 children under the budget of the President.

10 “(E) OPEN DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
12 publish all of the reports and studies re-
13 quired under this paragraph in a publicly
14 accessible format, including through—

15 “(I) the dashboard described in
16 clause (ii); and

17 “(II) the open data portal de-
18 scribed in clause (iii).

19 “(ii) DASHBOARD.—The Director
20 shall develop and maintain on an internet
21 website available to the public a tool (com-
22 monly referred to as a ‘dashboard’) that—

23 “(I) highlights the key indicators
24 identified in the reports and studies
25 required under this paragraph; and

1 “(II) uses visualization tools to
2 assist the public in understanding
3 trends in spending on children over
4 periods of time.

5 “(iii) OPEN DATA PORTAL.—The Di-
6 rector shall develop and maintain an inter-
7 net website available to the public that—

8 “(I) provides raw quantitative
9 data relating to spending on children
10 contained in reports and studies re-
11 quired under this paragraph;

12 “(II) provides that data in a
13 widely accessible file format that al-
14 lows the public to analyze the data;
15 and

16 “(III) categorizes that data by
17 budget account.”.