

Amendment Offered by Mr. Davis of Illinois

This amendment would set a national goal to cut childhood poverty by 50 percent in 10 years and eliminate it within 20 years as well as establish a Federal Interagency Working Group to use science to implement a coordinated effort at the federal, state, and local levels to meet the child poverty reduction goal.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5861

OFFERED BY MR. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

[Page and line numbers correspond to those of the amendment in the nature of a substitute]

Page 48, after line 17, insert the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE CHILD POV-**
2 **ERTY IN THE UNITED STATES.**

3 Section 413 (42 U.S.C. 613) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(i) NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE CHILD
6 POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.—

8 There is established in the Administration for Chil-
9 dren and Families of the Department of Health and
10 Human Services a group which shall be known as
11 the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reduc-
12 ing Child Poverty (in this subsection referred to as
13 the ‘Working Group’).

14 “(2) NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE CHILD POV-
15 ERTY.—

16 “(A) PRIMARY GOAL.—

1 “(ii) CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL
2 ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—In developing
3 the national plan under clause (i), the
4 Working Group shall consider all rec-
5 ommendations, research papers, and re-
6 ports published by the National Academy
7 of Sciences, including the Social Services
8 and Income Maintenance Research con-
9 ducted using amounts made available
10 under the heading ‘Administration for
11 Children and Families—Children and Fami-
12 lies Services Programs’ in division H of
13 Public Law 114–113 and in division H of
14 Public Law 115–31.

15 “(iii) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180
16 days after the date of the enactment of
17 this subsection, the Working Group shall
18 make substantial progress toward the de-
19 velopment of the national plan.

20 “(B) ADDITIONAL GOALS.—The national
21 plan under subparagraph (A) shall include rec-
22 ommendations for achieving the following goals:

23 “(i) Understanding the root causes of
24 child poverty, including persistent
25 intergenerational poverty, taking into ac-

1 living in poverty to achieve freedom from
2 deprivation toward the goal of helping the
3 individuals and families rise above poverty
4 and achieve long-term economic stability.

5 “(C) METHODS.—In developing the na-
6 tional plan under subparagraph (A), the Work-
7 ing Group shall employ methods for achieving
8 the goals described in subparagraphs (A) and
9 (B) that include—

10 “(i) studying the effect of child pov-
11 erty on the health and welfare of children,
12 including the access of children living in
13 poverty to health care, housing, proper nu-
14 trition, and education;

15 “(ii) measuring the effect of child pov-
16 erty on the ability of individuals to achieve
17 economic stability, including the effect on
18 educational attainment, rates of incarcer-
19 ation, lifetime earnings, access to
20 healthcare, and access to housing;

21 “(iii) updating and applying improved
22 measures of poverty that can meaningfully
23 account for other aspects relating to the
24 measure of poverty, such as the Supple-

1 cials of State, local, and tribal governments, in-
2 cluding the working group of the largest State
3 and local associations, who administer or direct
4 policy for anti-poverty programs;

5 “(C) advise all relevant Federal agencies
6 regarding how to effectively administer and co-
7 ordinate programs, activities, and services re-
8 lated to child welfare and child poverty and how
9 to resolve any disputes that arise between or
10 among the agencies as a result of the adminis-
11 tration or coordination;

12 “(D) provide recommendations to the Con-
13 gress regarding how to ensure that Federal
14 agencies administering programs, activities, and
15 services related to child welfare and child pov-
16 erty have adequate resources to increase public
17 awareness of the programs, activities, and serv-
18 ices and how to maximize enrollment of eligible
19 individuals;

20 “(E) identify methods for improving com-
21 munication and collaboration among and be-
22 tween Federal, State, and local governmental
23 entities regarding the implementation of State
24 and local programs related to child welfare and
25 child poverty, such as State programs funded

1 “(i) The Department of Justice.

2 “(ii) The Department of Agriculture.

3 “(iii) The Department of Labor.

4 “(iv) The Department of Health and
5 Human Services.

6 “(v) The Department of Housing and
7 Urban Development.

8 “(vi) The Department of Education.

9 “(D) APPOINTMENT.—Each member shall
10 be appointed by the head of the Executive de-
11 partment that employs the member.

12 “(E) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—On re-
13 quest of the Chairperson, any head of a Federal
14 agency shall furnish directly to the Working
15 Group any information necessary to enable the
16 Working Group to carry out this subsection.

17 “(F) TERMS.—Each member shall be ap-
18 pointed for the life of the Working Group.

19 “(G) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Com-
20 mission shall be filled in the manner in which
21 the original appointment was made.

22 “(H) QUORUM.—A majority of members
23 shall constitute a quorum.

1 “(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than
2 September 30, 2018, and annually thereafter,
3 the Chairperson shall submit to the Congress a
4 report describing the activities, projects, and
5 plans of the Federal Government to carry out
6 the goals of the Working Group, which shall in-
7 clude—

8 “(i) an accounting of—

9 “(I) any increase in efficiency in
10 the delivery of Federal, State, local,
11 and tribal social services and benefits
12 related to child welfare and child pov-
13 erty;

14 “(II) any reduction in the num-
15 ber of children living in poverty;

16 “(III) any reduction in the de-
17 mand for the social services and bene-
18 fits for which children living in pov-
19 erty and near poverty are eligible; and

20 “(IV) any savings to the Federal
21 Government as a result of the in-
22 creases or reductions;

23 “(ii) an accounting of any increase in
24 the national rate of employment due to the
25 efforts of the Working Group;

1 stitution with the primary goal of lifting chil-
2 dren or families out of poverty and improving
3 economic opportunities for children or families
4 that operates in whole or in part using Federal,
5 State, local, or tribal government funds.

6 “(B) CHILD.—The term ‘child’ means an
7 individual who has not attained 18 years of age.

8 “(C) DEPRIVATION.—The term ‘depriva-
9 tion’ means, with respect to an individual, that
10 the individual lacks adequate nutrition, health
11 care, housing, or other resources to provide for
12 basic human needs.

13 “(D) DISCONNECTED YOUTH.—The term
14 ‘disconnected youth’ means individuals who
15 have attained 16 years of age but have not at-
16 tained 25 years of age who are unemployed and
17 not enrolled in school.

18 “(E) ECONOMIC STABILITY.—The term
19 ‘economic stability’ means, with respect to an
20 individual or family, that the individual or fam-
21 ily has access to the means and support nec-
22 essary to effectively cope with adverse or costly
23 life events and to effectively recover from the
24 consequences of the events while maintaining a
25 decent standard of living.

1 “(I) POVERTY.—The term ‘poverty’ means,
2 with respect to an individual or family, that the
3 individual or family has a total annual income
4 that is less than the amount that is the official
5 poverty threshold for the individual or family,
6 as provided in the report of the United States
7 Census Bureau on Income, Poverty, and Health
8 Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2016
9 (issued in September 2017).”.

