

**SUPPORTING PREGNANT AND
PARENTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES ACT**

JANUARY __, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SMITH of Missouri, from the Committee on Ways and Means,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 6918]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill, H.R. 6918, the
“Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act”, reports favorably thereon with
an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND	3
A. Purpose and Summary	3
B. Background and Need for Legislation	3
C. Legislative History	5
D. Designated Hearing	5
III. VOTES OF THE COMMITTEE	7
IV. BUDGET EFFECTS OF THE BILL	15
A. Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects	15
B. Statement Regarding New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures Budget Authority 15	
V. COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE	15
VI. OTHER MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE RULES OF THE HOUSE	16
A. Committee Oversight Findings and Recommendations	16
B. Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives	16
C. Information Relating to Unfunded Mandates	16
D. Congressional Earmarks, Limited Tax Benefits, and Limited Tariff Benefits	16
E. Duplication of Federal Programs	16
VII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED	17
In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows.....	17
VIII. DISSENTING VIEWS	18

I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

A. Purpose and Summary

H.R. 6918, as amended, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act,” as ordered reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on January 11, 2024 prohibits the Department of Health of Human Services from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled, “Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as a Safety Net and Work Program,” proposed at 88 FR 67697, or any substantially similar regulation, as it applies to expenditures for pregnancy centers. Introduced by Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN), Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY), and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), this bill protects state flexibility to provide federal TANF funds to pregnancy centers that support protecting the life of the mother and unborn child that offer resources and services including counseling, prenatal and pregnancy education, pregnancy testing, diapers, baby clothes, or other material supports.

B. Background and Need for Legislation

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a key federal program in the fight against poverty. TANF provides \$16.5 billion in federal funding to states to further four statutory purposes:¹

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own home or in the home of relatives;
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- Prevent and reduce incidence out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- Encourage the formation of two-parent families.

On October 2, 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), “*Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as a Safety Net and Work Program*” that includes several regulatory reforms to TANF, as well as several technical and administrative changes.² One of the proposed regulatory changes in this rule is to clarify when an expenditure is “reasonably calculated to accomplish a TANF purpose” to increase the thresholds for states to prove their non-assistance spending meets one of TANF’s statutory purposes. This proposed change to TANF regulations are at Subpart B, Section 263.11, which pertain to uses of federal TANF funds that are considered to be improper. The proposed rule would amend this section of the regulations by adding a new subpart (c) to clarify that if an expenditure does not appear to HHS to be reasonably calculated to accomplish a purpose of TANF, a state must show that a “reasonable person” would consider the use of funds to be within one or more of the four statutory purposes.

In their explanation of this proposed change, HHS singles out pregnancy centers and preemptively suggests state spending on these organizations would no longer be an allowable TANF expenditure. In the preamble of the proposed rule, HHS states:

¹ 42 U.S.C 601

² RIN 0970-AC99

“[P]rograms that only or primarily provide pregnancy counseling to women only after they become pregnant likely do not meet the reasonable person standard because the connection to preventing and reducing out-of-wedlock pregnancies is tenuous or non-existent, and therefore do not accomplish purpose three.”³

Pregnancy centers are non-profit organizations that have a pro-life mission and provide services to pregnant women and families including pregnancy testing, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal and pregnancy education, ultrasounds, adoption referrals, diapers, baby clothes, linkages to housing, and other material supports. Over 2,700 pregnancy centers across the country aided nearly two million people in 2019.⁴ Services and material assistance provided by pregnancy centers had an estimated value of over \$358 million annually. At least five states in 2023 distributed a portion of their TANF funding to pregnancy centers, including Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.⁵

HHS’s proposed rule inaccurately describes pregnancy centers as limited to “only or primarily provid[ing] pregnancy counseling to women only after they become pregnant” and only relevant for the “prevent and reduce incidence out-of-wedlock pregnancies” and TANF purpose.⁶ However, pregnancy centers clearly meet other TANF purposes; for example, by providing material support and assistance to women in need so children can be cared for in their own home and by reducing dependence on government assistance. Documented pregnancy centers services include parenting classes, training in life skills, sexual risk avoidance education, promoting responsible paternity, promoting marriage, care coordination, housing and support services through maternity homes, assistance with job searching, reducing dependence on government and much more.⁷

Furthermore, the changes in the proposed rule are in clear violation of Congressional restrictions placed on the Department’s ability to regulate. When TANF was created with bipartisan support and signed into law by President Clinton in 1996, the overarching goal and stated purpose in statute was “to increase the flexibility of States.”⁸ Likewise, the Committee report emphasized the importance of state flexibility seven times and stated that TANF’s purpose is “to increase state flexibility in providing assistance to needy families...”⁹ To protect this purpose, Congress explicitly limited the ability of the Executive branch from issuing regulations for the TANF program:

³ 88 FR 67705

⁴ Charlotte Lozier Institute, “A Legacy of Life and Love: Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time”, October 21, 2020, https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Pregnancy-Center-Report-2020_FINAL.pdf

⁵ Jeanneane Maxon, Charlotte Lozier Institute, “Fact Sheet: State Alternatives to Abortion Funding”, June 28, 2022, updated on October 13, 2023, <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-state-alternatives-to-abortion-funding/>

⁶ 88 FR 67705

⁷ Amanda Stirone Mansfield, Charlotte Lozier Institute, “Alternatives to Abortion Programs: Support for Mothers and Families,” February 14, 2022, <https://lozierinstitute.org/alternatives-to-abortion-programs-support-for-mothers-and-families>.

⁸ 42 U.S.C. 601

⁹ H.R. Conference Report No 104-15 (1996)

Sec. 417 Limitations on Federal Authority.¹⁰

No officer or employee of the Federal Government may regulate the conduct of States under this part of enforce any provision of this part, except to the extent expressly provided in this part.

Pregnancy centers are an important alternative for expectant mothers. This bill protects state flexibility to provide federal TANF funds to pregnancy centers that support protecting the life of the mother and unborn child that offer resources and services including but not limited to relationship counseling, prenatal and pregnancy education, pregnancy testing, diapers, baby clothes, or other material supports.

C. Legislative History

Background

H.R. 6918 was introduced on January 9, 2024, and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee Hearings

The Committee has held the following hearing:

On July 12, 2023, the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing titled, “Where is all the Welfare Money Going? Reclaiming TANF Non-Assistance Dollars to Lift Americans Out of Poverty,” to hear from state officials and administrators about needed reforms to balance accountability and state flexibility in TANF non-assistance spending.

Committee Action

The Committee on Ways and Means marked up H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act”, on January 11, 2023, and ordered the bill, as amended, favorably reported (with a quorum being present).

D. Designated Hearing

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of Rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop and consider: “Where is all the Welfare Money Going? Reclaiming TANF Non-Assistance Dollars to Lift Americans Out of Poverty” hearing held on July 12, 2023.

¹⁰ 42 U.S.C. 617

II. EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

Reasons for Change

Section 1. The Committee believes the title accurately reflects the content of the bill.

Section 2. The Committee believes that preventing the Department of Health and Human Services from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled, “Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as a Safety Net and Work Program,” proposed at 88 FR 67697, or any substantially similar regulation, as it applies to expenditures for pregnancy centers is cost-effective, protects state flexibility on the use of federal TANF funds in accordance with Part A Title IV of the Social Security Act, and will benefit the pregnant and parenting women and families served by pregnancy centers.

Explanation of Provisions

Section 1. This section provides the short title, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

Section 2. This section prohibits the Department of Health of Human Services from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled, “Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as a Safety Net and Work Program,” proposed at 88 FR 67697, or any substantially similar regulation, as it applies to expenditures for pregnancy centers. This section defines “pregnancy centers” to mean organizations that support protecting the life of the mother and unborn child that offer resources and services including but not limited to relationship counseling, prenatal and pregnancy education, pregnancy testing, diapers, baby clothes, or other material supports.

Effective Date

The bill would become effective upon enactment.

III. VOTES OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Ms. DelBene to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would prohibit the legislation from going into effect unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services finds implementation would not result in funds being made available to any organization that presents itself as providing unbiased reproductive health information or counseling, but that covertly intends to discourage pregnant individuals from seeking or accessing abortion services was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 17 yeas to 23 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington		✓		Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell			
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy		✓		Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube				Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore		✓					
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Dуйne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Ms. Chu to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would prohibit the legislation from going into effect unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that there will be no negative medical or economic effects on women seeking abortion care who are directed to crisis pregnancy centers was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 17 yeas to 22 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington		✓		Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell			
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy				Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube				Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore		✓					
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Duyne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Ms. Sanchez to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would prohibit the legislation from going into effect unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies that no Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds or resources are used to make coercive referrals to Crisis Pregnancy Centers that provide misleading or deceptive information was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas to 22 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington		✓		Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell	✓		
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy				Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube				Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore		✓					
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Duyne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Ms. Moore to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would prohibit the legislation from going into effect unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that all families in the United States with a child under 5 years of age, where the family has a gross annual income that is less than the poverty line, have guaranteed access to income support, housing, and child care was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas to 23 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington		✓		Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell	✓		
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy		✓		Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube				Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore		✓					
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Duyne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Mr. Davis to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would require that the legislation shall not take effect unless the Department of Health and Human Services submits a report to Congress on the total amount made available for part A of title IV of the Social Security Act provided to anti-abortion centers and on the total number of applications for and recipients of assistance under State programs funded under such part to refer individuals to anti-abortion centers under or by such a program was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 17 yeas to 24 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington		✓		Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell			
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy		✓		Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube		✓		Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore		✓					
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Duyne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Ms. DelBene to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would prohibit the legislation from going into effect unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services finds there are no pregnancy center that provide misleading or deceptive information or puts at risk the health of women was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas to 21 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington				Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell	✓		
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy				Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube		✓		Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore							
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Duyne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act,” on January 11, 2024.

The vote on the amendment offered by Ms. Sewell to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6918, which would prohibit the legislation from going into effect unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services finds that all states have in effect laws that provide affordable access to healthcare for all women of reproductive age was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas to 21 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)		✓		Mr. Neal	✓		
Mr. Buchanan		✓		Mr. Doggett	✓		
Mr. Smith (NE)		✓		Mr. Thompson	✓		
Mr. Kelly		✓		Mr. Larson	✓		
Mr. Schweikert		✓		Mr. Blumenauer	✓		
Mr. LaHood		✓		Mr. Pascrell	✓		
Dr. Wenstrup		✓		Mr. Davis	✓		
Mr. Arrington				Ms. Sanchez	✓		
Dr. Ferguson		✓		Mr. Higgins	✓		
Mr. Estes		✓		Ms. Sewell	✓		
Mr. Smucker		✓		Ms. DelBene	✓		
Mr. Hern		✓		Ms. Chu	✓		
Ms. Miller		✓		Ms. Moore	✓		
Dr. Murphy				Mr. Kildee	✓		
Mr. Kustoff		✓		Mr. Beyer	✓		
Mr. Fitzpatrick				Mr. Evans	✓		
Mr. Steube		✓		Mr. Schneider	✓		
Ms. Tenney		✓		Mr. Panetta	✓		
Mrs. Fischbach		✓					
Mr. Moore							
Mrs. Steel		✓					
Ms. Van Duyne		✓					
Mr. Feenstra		✓					
Ms. Malliotakis		✓					
Mr. Carey		✓					

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act,” on January 11, 2024.

H.R. 6918 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives as amended by a roll call vote of 24 yeas to 18 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)	✓			Mr. Neal		✓	
Mr. Buchanan	✓			Mr. Doggett		✓	
Mr. Smith (NE)	✓			Mr. Thompson		✓	
Mr. Kelly	✓			Mr. Larson		✓	
Mr. Schweikert	✓			Mr. Blumenauer		✓	
Mr. LaHood	✓			Mr. Pascrell		✓	
Dr. Wenstrup	✓			Mr. Davis		✓	
Mr. Arrington	✓			Ms. Sanchez		✓	
Dr. Ferguson	✓			Mr. Higgins		✓	
Mr. Estes	✓			Ms. Sewell		✓	
Mr. Smucker	✓			Ms. DelBene		✓	
Mr. Hern	✓			Ms. Chu		✓	
Ms. Miller	✓			Ms. Moore		✓	
Dr. Murphy				Mr. Kildee		✓	
Mr. Kustoff	✓			Mr. Beyer		✓	
Mr. Fitzpatrick	✓			Mr. Evans		✓	
Mr. Steube	✓			Mr. Schneider		✓	
Ms. Tenney	✓			Mr. Panetta		✓	
Mrs. Fischbach	✓						
Mr. Moore	✓						
Mrs. Steel	✓						
Ms. Van Duyne	✓						
Mr. Feenstra	✓						
Ms. Malliotakis	✓						
Mr. Carey	✓						

IV. BUDGET EFFECTS OF THE BILL

A. Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects

With respect to clause 3(d) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, a cost estimate provided by the congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report.

B. Statement Regarding New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures Budget Authority

In compliance with clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that the bill involves no new or increased budget authority. The Committee states further that the bill involves no new or increased tax expenditures.

V. COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* and with respect to requirements of clause (3)(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has requested but not received a cost estimate for this bill from the Director of Congressional Budget Office. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such estimate and statement to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee.

VI. OTHER MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

A. Committee Oversight Findings and Recommendations

With respect to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee made findings and recommendations that are reflected in this report.

B. Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives

With respect to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the bill does not authorize funding, so no statement of general performance goals and objectives is required.

C. Information Relating to Unfunded Mandates

This information is provided in accordance with section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-4).

The Committee has determined that the bill does not contain Federal mandates on the private sector. The Committee has determined that the bill does not impose a Federal intergovernmental mandate on State, local, or tribal governments.

D. Congressional Earmarks, Limited Tax Benefits, and Limited Tariff Benefits

With respect to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has carefully reviewed the provisions of the bill, and states that the provisions of the bill do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits within the meaning of the rule.

E. Duplication of Federal Programs

In compliance with clause 3(c)(5) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that no provision of the bill establishes or reauthorizes: (1) a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program; (2) a program included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111 139; or (3) a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Pub. L. No. 95-220, as amended by Pub. L. No. 98-169).

**VII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL,
AS REPORTED**

In compliance with clause 3(e) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the bill doesn't make any changes to existing law.

VIII. DISSENTING VIEWS
[INSERT A – DISSENTING VIEWS]



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2024

DISSENTING VIEWS ON THE SUPPORTING PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES ACT, H.R. 6918

H.R. 6918 doubles down on Republicans' extreme, unpopular war on women.

Ways and Means Democrats strongly oppose H.R. 6918, which would allow states to divert funding intended for poor children to anti-abortion propaganda and facilities that provide deceptive and inaccurate information, endanger women's health with very little oversight, and put women's health in danger. This legislation does nothing to strengthen access to maternal health care, protect pregnant women, or increase federal support for struggling families.

The partisan bill, introduced by Rep. Fischbach, would permanently prevent the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from regulating state expenditure of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" or anti-abortion centers (AACs). Under the bill, HHS would not be able to require data reporting, enforce statutory requirements, or prevent coercion or harm to low-income women for TANF-funded AACs.

AACs masquerade as health care facilities, usually providing misleading or inaccurate medical information in order to prevent women from seeking abortions. The recent HHS regulation this legislation would block notes that AACs target women who are *already* pregnant and therefore are cannot reasonably meet TANF's purpose of reducing out-of-wedlock childbearing; thus, they should only receive funding if they meet other TANF purposes, including helping low-income children live with their parents, reducing use of government assistance, or promoting family formation.¹ Under the bill, AACs would be exempt from the requirement to meet

¹ Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families As a Safety Net and Work Program, 88 Fed. Reg. 67,697, Oct. 2, 2023.

TANF's statutory purposes, but pregnancy centers or other TANF-funded entities that did not have an explicit anti-abortion mission would be subject to regulation.

This is just another extremist bill from Republicans, timed to satisfy their anti-women base that is marching on Washington this week.

Anti-abortion centers provide misleading information and should not receive federal taxpayer dollars.

Everyone deserves access to accurate information when making personal decisions. Anti-abortion centers (AACs)—sometimes referred to as Crisis Pregnancy Centers or CPCs—are not legitimate health care providers. They are organizations attempting to coerce pregnant people seeking abortions into carrying pregnancies to term through shame and misinformation. Pregnant people seeking pregnancy related counseling and services often find themselves at anti-abortion centers because of the deceptive way that these centers advertise themselves as legitimate, comprehensive health care providers. This bill would go further, allowing states to force low-income women to visit AACs in order to receive basic necessities like diapers.

Republicans rejected amendments to protect pregnant women from anti-abortion centers' deceptive, dangerous unlicensed medical practices.

During the Committee markup, extremist Republicans voted down amendments to prevent funding to organizations that deceived women about their purpose and qualifications or provided medically inaccurate information. Both amendments were rejected on a party line vote, despite recent cases in which women who went to so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" later had to seek emergency medical care because unqualified personnel missed ectopic pregnancies and other dangerous conditions. Republicans also refused to prevent coercive referrals of women who needed emergency financial assistance or basic necessities but were made to believe that they could only receive it if they gave up their reproductive rights.

Republicans voted against Democratic amendments to support pregnant women and mothers.

Despite the bill's misleading title about "supporting" pregnant women and families, extremist Republicans rejected amendments to ensure that families with poor children under 5 had food, housing, child care, and access to reproductive health care. Republicans also refused to require states to provide any data about how

any diverted money was spent or demonstrate that women’s health and economic futures were not being harmed.

AACs receive federal tax dollars to pursue an extremist ideological agenda at the expense of low-income mothers and children.

Comprehensive data does not exist, but using publicly available information, the watchdog group Equity Forward identified at least 10 states that had diverted funds intended to help poor children and families to fund anti-abortion organizations. Michigan² and Pennsylvania³ have terminated their contracts, but Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas are all thought to have current contracts providing such expenditures.⁴ Eight of the nine states funding anti-abortion centers served less than 15 percent of poor families in their states, and two (Texas and Arkansas) served less than 5 percent of families in need.⁵ In most states, the maximum TANF benefit for a single parent with one child is less than \$400 a month.⁶

We urge our colleagues to join us in opposing H.R. 6918.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member

² Tara Murtha, Women’s Law Project, [Michigan Governor Defunds PA-Based “Crisis Pregnancy Center” Chain Real Alternatives after Allegations of Misuse of Funds](#) (October 1, 2019).

³ Ivy DeJesus, Penn Live, [Gov. Josh Shapiro Cuts Funding to “Crisis” Pregnancy Centers from State Budget](#) (August 4, 2023).

⁴ Rachel Wormer, Equity Forward, [Mapping Deception: A Closer Look at How States’ Anti-Abortion Center Programs Operate](#) (September 2021).

⁵ Aditi Shrivastava and Gina Azito Thompson, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [TANF Cash Assistance Should Reach Millions More Families to Lessen Hardship](#) (February 18, 2022).

⁶ Gene Falk & Patrick A. Landers, Congressional Research Service, [The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) Block Grant: Responses to Frequently Asked Questions](#) (February 27, 2023).

Ranking Member Richard E. Neal
Committee on Ways and Means
Markup of H.R. 6918
Dissenting Views
Thursday, January 11, 2024

Happy New Year, Mr. Chairman, and to all of our Committee members. I echo the Chairman's sentiments—you will be missed, Congressman Ferguson. I wish you all the best in life's next chapter.

Turning to the legislation at hand, after the least productive session of Congress since the Great Depression, I had hoped we'd open the new session on a better note, working together to help the people we represent. Instead, I am gravely disappointed to see that, with today's agenda, the Majority has all but farmed itself out to be an arm of the Trump re-election campaign. Look no further than his comments last night, where he bragged about stripping women of their essential rights and freedoms. **He called the end of *Roe v Wade*: "a miracle."**

Next week, Washington will be the site of the largest anti-abortion rally in the country, and this legislation is to pander to attendees. Rather than listen to women about what they and their families need, or take action to address child poverty, the Majority has chosen to pursue

another political talking point. What's worse, with this bill, they are choosing to divert money away from needy families to dangerous anti-abortion centers.

This isn't about health care or reproductive freedom or even their wildly unpopular anti-abortion agenda, it's fundamentally about control. Republicans have long been on a crusade to control and limit the rights of women.

Our Committee has work to do, and people depend on us to do so. We should be focused on addressing the maternal health crisis in this country, which is harming black women most of all.

This committee's mission is to safeguard health care, not attack it. After all, abortion care is health care, and it is overwhelmingly safe. But when health care is difficult or even impossible to access, that's when complications arise, and health outcomes worsen. We've seen horror after horror come out of Texas since their Republican governor and Supreme Court banned proper care.

Around the country, anti-abortion centers masquerading as health care providers are jeopardizing women's health and endangering their lives. In Massachusetts, one of these centers failed to correctly diagnose

a woman's ectopic pregnancy because the staff wasn't qualified to be handling medical care. This misdiagnosis gravely endangered her life and necessitated emergency surgery a month later.

Furthermore, these centers aren't held to the same privacy or care standards as health providers.

This is not acceptable medical care, and it's horrifying that some of these propaganda centers are getting federal funding legally designated for serving poor children. This bill wants to fund more dangerous propaganda and more undeserving facilities of this kind. Women are being put in harm's way, their health is on the line, and it is all in the service of far-right ideology.

Beyond that, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that we are only 9 days from another potential Republican government shutdown. That's the fourth this Congress! Another damaging, but completely avoidable outcome for our economy and America's families.

Republicans are wasting precious time with political stunts like this one, which everyone in this room understands has zero chance of becoming law.

If Republicans wanted to pass legislation that lived up to the name of this bill, they could start by addressing the growing child care shortage caused by cutting off emergency child care funding and the enhanced dependent care tax credits that Democrats championed during the pandemic.

Or they could address the historic rise—a *doubling*—of child poverty caused by their refusal to extend the enhanced Child Tax Credit.

Or they could make paid family and medical leave a reality and spare struggling families from having to make the heartbreaking decision between caring for a loved one and losing a needed paycheck.

If you want to support parents, and support pregnant women, let's start by helping them, not misinforming them, criminalizing them, and making their lives harder.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard E. Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member