

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5169
OFFERED BY MR. BRADY OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “What Works to Move
3 Welfare Recipients into Jobs Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING WELFARE RESEARCH AND EVAL-**
5 **UATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WHAT**
6 **WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE.**

7 Section 413 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 613) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 413. EVALUATION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR**
10 **NEEDY FAMILIES AND RELATED PROGRAMS.**

11 “(a) **EVALUATION OF THE IMPACTS OF TANF.**—The
12 Secretary shall conduct research on the effect of State pro-
13 grams funded under this part and any other State pro-
14 gram funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined
15 in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) on employment, self-suffi-
16 ciency, child well-being, unmarried births, marriage, pov-
17 erty, economic mobility, and other factors as determined
18 by the Secretary.

1 “(b) EVALUATION OF GRANTS TO IMPROVE CHILD
2 WELL-BEING BY PROMOTING HEALTHY MARRIAGE AND
3 RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD.—The Secretary shall con-
4 duct research to determine the effects of the grants made
5 under section 403(a)(2) on child well-being, marriage,
6 family stability, economic mobility, poverty, and other fac-
7 tors as determined by the Secretary.

8 “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
9 retary shall, in consultation with States receiving funds
10 provided under this part, develop methods of dissemi-
11 nating information on any research, evaluation, or study
12 conducted under this section, including facilitating the
13 sharing of information and best practices among States
14 and localities.

15 “(d) STATE-INITIATED EVALUATIONS.—A State shall
16 be eligible to receive funding to evaluate the State pro-
17 gram funded under this part or any other State program
18 funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined in
19 section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) if—

20 “(1) the State submits to the Secretary a de-
21 scription of the proposed evaluation;

22 “(2) the Secretary determines that the design
23 and approach of the proposed evaluation is rigorous
24 and is likely to yield information that is credible and
25 will be useful to other States; and

1 “(3) unless waived by the Secretary, the State
2 contributes to the cost of the evaluation, from non-
3 Federal sources, an amount equal to at least 25 per-
4 cent of the cost of the proposed evaluation.

5 “(e) CENSUS BUREAU RESEARCH.—

6 “(1) The Bureau of the Census shall implement
7 or enhance household surveys of program participa-
8 tion, in consultation with the Secretary and the
9 Bureau of Labor Statistics and made available to
10 interested parties, to allow for the assessment of the
11 outcomes of continued welfare reform on the eco-
12 nomic and child well-being of low-income families
13 with children, including those who received assist-
14 ance or services from a State program funded under
15 this part or any other State program funded with
16 qualified State expenditures (as defined in section
17 409(a)(7)(B)(i)). The content of the surveys should
18 include such information as may be necessary to ex-
19 amine the issues of unmarried childbearing, mar-
20 riage, welfare dependency and compliance with work
21 requirements, the beginning and ending of spells of
22 assistance, work, earnings and employment stability,
23 and the well-being of children.

24 “(2) To carry out the activities specified in
25 paragraph (1), the Bureau of the Census, the Sec-

1 retary, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics shall con-
2 sider ways to improve the surveys and data derived
3 from the surveys to—

4 “(A) address underreporting of the receipt
5 of means-tested benefits and tax benefits for
6 low-income individuals and families;

7 “(B) increase understanding of poverty
8 spells and long-term poverty, including by facili-
9 tating the matching of information to better un-
10 derstand intergenerational poverty;

11 “(C) generate a better geographical under-
12 standing of poverty such as through State-
13 based estimates and measures of neighborhood
14 poverty;

15 “(D) increase understanding of the effects
16 of means-tested benefits and tax benefits on the
17 earnings of low-income families; and

18 “(E) improve how poverty and economic
19 well-being are measured, including through the
20 use of consumption measures.

21 “(f) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CONDUCTED
22 UNDER THIS SECTION.—Research and evaluation con-
23 ducted under this section designed to determine the effects
24 of a program or policy (other than research conducted
25 under subsection (e)) shall use experimental designs using

1 random assignment or other reliable, evidence-based re-
2 search methodologies that allow for the strongest possible
3 causal inferences when random assignment is not feasible.

4 “(g) DEVELOPMENT OF WHAT WORKS CLEARING-
5 HOUSE OF PROVEN AND PROMISING APPROACHES TO
6 MOVE WELFARE RECIPIENTS INTO WORK.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
8 tion with the Secretary of Labor, shall develop a
9 database (which shall be referred to as the ‘What
10 Works Clearinghouse of Proven and Promising
11 Projects to Move Welfare Recipients into Work’) of
12 the projects that used a proven approach or a prom-
13 ising approach in moving welfare recipients into
14 work, based on independent, rigorous evaluations of
15 the projects. The database shall include a separate
16 listing of projects that used a developmental ap-
17 proach in delivering services and a further separate
18 listing of the projects with no or negative effects.
19 The Secretary shall add to the What Works Clear-
20 ingshouse of Proven and Promising Projects to Move
21 Welfare Recipients into Work data about the
22 projects that, based on an independent, well-con-
23 ducted experimental evaluation of a program or
24 project, using random assignment or other research
25 methodologies that allow for the strongest possible

1 causal inferences, have shown they are proven,
2 promising, developmental, or ineffective approaches.

3 “(2) CRITERIA FOR EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVE-
4 NESS OF APPROACH.—The Secretary, in consultation
5 with the Secretary of Labor and organizations with
6 experience in evaluating research on the effective-
7 ness of various approaches in delivering services to
8 move welfare recipients into work, shall—

9 “(A) establish criteria for evidence of effec-
10 tiveness; and

11 “(B) ensure that the process for estab-
12 lishing the criteria—

13 “(i) is transparent;

14 “(ii) is consistent across agencies;

15 “(iii) provides opportunity for public
16 comment; and

17 “(iv) takes into account efforts of
18 Federal agencies to identify and publicize
19 effective interventions, including efforts at
20 the Department of Health and Human
21 Services, the Department of Education,
22 and the Department of Justice.

23 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) APPROACH.—The term ‘approach’
2 means a process, product, strategy, or practice
3 that is—

4 “(i) research-based, based on the re-
5 sults of 1 or more empirical studies, and
6 linked to program-determined outcomes;
7 and

8 “(ii) evaluated using rigorous research
9 designs.

10 “(B) PROVEN APPROACH.—The term
11 ‘proven approach’ means an approach that—

12 “(i) meets the requirements of a
13 promising approach; and

14 “(ii) has demonstrated significant
15 positive outcomes at more than 1 site in
16 terms of increasing work and earnings of
17 participants, reducing poverty and depend-
18 ence, or strengthening families.

19 “(C) PROMISING APPROACH.—The term
20 ‘promising approach’ means an approach—

21 “(i) that meets the requirements of
22 subparagraph (D)(i);

23 “(ii) that has been evaluated using
24 well-designed and rigorous randomized

1 controlled or quasi-experimental research
2 designs;

3 “(iii) that has demonstrated signifi-
4 cant positive outcomes at only 1 site in
5 terms of increasing work and earnings of
6 participants, reducing poverty and depend-
7 ence, or strengthening families; and

8 “(iv) under which the benefits of the
9 positive outcomes have exceeded the costs
10 of achieving the outcomes.

11 “(D) DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH.—The
12 term ‘developmental approach’ means an ap-
13 proach that—

14 “(i) is research-based, grounded in
15 relevant empirically-based knowledge, and
16 linked to program-determined outcomes;

17 “(ii) is evaluated using rigorous re-
18 search designs; and

19 “(iii) has yet to demonstrate a signifi-
20 cant positive outcome in terms of increas-
21 ing work and earnings of participants in a
22 cost-effective way.”.

1 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
3 on October 1, 2016.

