



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 27, 2009

H.R. 911 **Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009**

As passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 23, 2009

SUMMARY

H.R. 911 would authorize the appropriation of \$250 million per year for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for child abuse prevention programs. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$786 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting H.R. 911 would not affect direct spending. The bill would create new civil penalties, which CBO estimates would have an insignificant effect on revenues over the 2010-2019 period.

H.R. 911 contains both intergovernmental and private-sector mandates, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the costs of the mandates would be below the annual thresholds established by UMRA (\$69 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$139 million for private-sector mandates, in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 911 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 500 (education, training, employment, and social services) and 600 (income security).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ^a						
Grants and Other Activities						
Estimated Authorization Level	235	235	235	235	235	1,175
Estimated Outlays	13	116	167	209	227	731
Enforcement Standards						
Estimated Authorization Level	15	15	15	15	15	75
Estimated Outlays	5	8	12	15	15	55
Total						
Estimated Authorization Level	250	250	250	250	250	1,250
Estimated Outlays	17	125	179	224	242	786

a. The bill would increase revenue by less than \$500,000 in 2010 and over the 2010-2019 period.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 911 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2009, the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated by the beginning of each fiscal year, and outlays will follow historical spending patterns.

H.R. 911 would authorize the appropriation of \$235 million per year for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for various purposes related to combating child abuse and neglect, including grants and research. (The previous authorization of such sums as may be necessary expired at the end of fiscal year 2008.) The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million per year for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to assist with enforcing new standards for certain residential treatment programs for children. In total, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$250 million a year through 2014. Assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$786 million over the 2009-2014 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 911 would impose training and disclosure requirements and establish minimum health and safety requirements on operators of residential programs that treat youth who have emotional, behavioral, mental health, or substance abuse problems. State and local

governments operate such programs, usually in the form of therapeutic schools and group homes. Private entities operate similar facilities, as well as specialized programs that simulate military training or boot camp experiences.

The mandate would impose minimal costs on most operators of these programs, because many already comply with a similar set of standards, either in accordance with existing state laws or voluntary industry standards. Consequently, CBO estimates that the cost to comply with the mandate would fall below the thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$69 million and \$139 million, respectively, in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).

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