



learning more about

Grandfamilies Act of 2023

Introduced: 03/12/2024

Bill Text: [S. 3501](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)

Introduced: 12/14/2023

Bill Text: [H.R. 6803](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

Track: Prevention & Family Preservation

Key words: Kinship care, preservation

* summary

This legislation provides support to grandparents and kinship caregivers who take on the responsibility of caring for children when the children's parents are unable to do so. This allows families to remain together and preserve connection, culture, and family ties.

* what it would do

According to [Generations United](#), "grandfamilies" or "kinship families" (used interchangeably) refer to families where grandparents, other adult relatives, or close family friends raise children whose parents are unable to do so for a variety of reasons. There are over 2.7 million children in the United States who are being raised by grandparents, relatives, or close family friends.

This bill increases access to social security benefits for grandfamilies and kinship families, expands Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to make financial resources more accessible, promote temporary guardianship laws that enable grandfamilies to make decisions on child's behalf, ensure support is streamlined to support grandfamilies, and provide competitive grants to support collaborative community-based efforts to provide mental health and peer support to grandfamilies.

* to learn more

- [Licensing Standards for Relative or Kinship Foster Family Homes](#)
- [GrandFacts: Fact Sheets for Grandfamilies](#)
- [Opportunities for Kinship Families](#)

* the why

Many studies show including one from the [American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law](#), kinship care is better for children and families. Federal law also mandates that states must "consider giving preference to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining placement for a child, provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant state child protection standards." However, the assumption should not be made that all kin can financially and physically afford to care for children and sibling groups who are at risk of entering foster care. Resources need to be provided to grandfamilies. Over 20% of grandfamilies are [living below the poverty line](#). Limited resources can lead to chronic stress and mental health concerns for both caregivers and children.