

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-193

REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF SEEKING A GRANT FOR ARKANSAS PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL TITLE IV-E WAIVERS (THE KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM).

WHEREAS, Section 26 of Act 937 of 2011 required the Department of Workforce Services to prepare a study to determine the best and most appropriate way to address the financial needs of grandparents raising grandchildren through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the study concludes that currently, the TANF budget and reserve fund (carry forward fund) does not allow for a new program to be funded and sustained. However, alternative funding streams are offered, specifically the new federal Title IV-E waivers (the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) under the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act; and

WHEREAS, at present, many states already offer subsidized guardianship assistance in some form with all those programs working to promote lasting family relationships for children with the goals of improving the lives of the children and of bringing them out of foster care and into permanent families; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas grandparents who are raising their grandchildren often need financial assistance to maintain an optimal home life; and

WHEREAS, participation in the federal Title IV-E waivers (the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) would provide support for those grandparents already raising their grandchildren and would allow grandparents who cannot presently afford to raise their grandchildren to bring those children into a loving home; and

1 WHEREAS, Arkansas's participation in the federal Title IV-E waivers
2 (the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) could provide significant
3 assistance in improving the lives of Arkansas's children,
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5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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9 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council of the Eighty-Eighth Arkansas
10 General Assembly refer to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
11 Labor a study of the feasibility of seeking a grant for Arkansas
12 participation in the federal Title IV-E waivers (the Kinship Guardianship
13 Assistance Program).
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15 Respectfully submitted,
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19 Senator Mary Anne Salmon
20 District 31
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25 By: MGF/JLC
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