

House File 515 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 515

BY SALMON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating an alternatives to abortion program, and making
2 an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 217.41C Alternatives to abortion
2 program.

3 1. The department of human services shall create a statewide
4 alternatives to abortion program to promote childbirth and to
5 provide support services to pregnant women. The alternatives
6 to abortion program is designed to do all of the following:

7 a. Provide a holistic approach and personalized support to
8 pregnant women considering abortion to provide stabilization to
9 families and reduce abortion.

10 b. Reduce the number of abortions and improve pregnancy
11 outcomes by helping women practice sound health-related
12 behaviors and improve prenatal nutrition.

13 c. Improve child health and development by helping parents
14 provide responsible and competent care for their children.

15 d. Improve family economic self-sufficiency by linking
16 parents to services that address individual economic and social
17 needs.

18 2. The department shall issue a request for proposals to
19 administer the program. Eligible contractors shall meet all
20 of the following requirements:

21 a. Be a nonprofit entity.

22 b. Have a commitment to promoting childbirth as a
23 fundamental part of the contractor's mission.

24 c. Operate pregnancy resource centers.

25 d. Utilize proactive targeted digital marketing using
26 proven search engine marketing techniques to reach pregnant
27 women in real time who are in crisis and actively seeking an
28 abortion, and employ specific scripting strategies to create
29 a conversation with these pregnant women to encourage them to
30 choose an alternative to an abortion by increasing awareness of
31 services and removing obstacles to care.

32 e. Utilize a virtual clinic model that is premised on
33 active outreach, speed to care, and the coordination of local
34 services to connect the pregnant woman to caregivers who use
35 collaborative shared decision-making tools to allow a pregnant

1 woman to identify obstacles, schedule a pregnancy test and
2 an ultrasound at a local pregnancy resource center, design
3 and execute a personalized care plan, and comprehensively
4 address needs that encourage a healthy pregnancy by linking the
5 pregnant woman to a continuum of care program and community
6 resources including local pregnancy centers, adoption agencies,
7 housing, job training, government benefits, child care, health
8 care, material assistance, transportation, financial literacy,
9 life skills, and other resources.

10 f. Track key information throughout the entire cycle of the
11 contractor's interactions with a pregnant woman including but
12 not limited to key demographic and socioeconomic information,
13 services provided, referrals provided, and program enrollment,
14 to provide program transparency and accountability.

15 3. The department of human services shall adopt rules
16 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer the program, and
17 shall provide technical assistance to contractors, monitor
18 contractors for adherence to state and federal requirements,
19 and collect and maintain program data.

20 Sec. 2. ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION PROGRAM — APPROPRIATION.
21 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
22 department of human services for the fiscal year beginning July
23 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, the following amount, or so
24 much thereof as is necessary, for the purpose designated:

25 For distribution through a request for proposals process to
26 contractors administering the alternatives to abortion program
27 created in section 217.41C, as enacted in this Act:

28 \$ 879,152

29 EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill creates an alternatives to abortion program, and
33 makes an appropriation.

34 The bill requires the department of human services (DHS) to
35 create a statewide alternatives to abortion program to promote

1 childbirth and to provide support services to pregnant women.
2 The bill specifies that the program is designed to provide a
3 holistic approach and personalized support to pregnant women
4 considering abortion to provide stabilization to families
5 and reduce abortion; reduce the number of abortions and
6 improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women practice sound
7 health-related behaviors and improve prenatal nutrition;
8 improve child health and development by helping parents provide
9 responsible and competent care for their children; and improve
10 family economic self-sufficiency by linking parents to services
11 that address individual economic and social needs.

12 DHS shall issue a request for proposals to administer the
13 program. The bill specifies that an eligible contractor shall
14 meet all of the following requirements: be a nonprofit entity;
15 have a commitment to promoting childbirth as a fundamental
16 part of the contractor's mission; operate pregnancy resource
17 centers; utilize proactive targeted digital marketing to reach
18 pregnant women in real time who are in crisis and actively
19 seeking an abortion and employ specific scripting strategies to
20 create a conversation with these pregnant women to encourage
21 them to choose an alternative to an abortion by increasing
22 awareness of services and removing obstacles to care; utilize
23 a virtual clinic model to connect the pregnant woman to
24 caregivers who use collaborative shared decision-making tools
25 to allow a pregnant woman to identify obstacles, schedule
26 a pregnancy test and an ultrasound at a local pregnancy
27 resource center, design and execute a personalized care plan,
28 and comprehensively address needs that encourage a healthy
29 pregnancy by linking the pregnant woman to a continuum of care
30 program and community resources; and track key information
31 throughout the entire cycle of the contractor's interactions
32 with a pregnant woman to provide program transparency and
33 accountability.

34 DHS shall adopt administrative rules to administer the
35 program, and shall provide technical assistance to contractors,

H.F. 515

1 monitor contractors for adherence to state and federal
2 requirements, and collect and maintain program data.
3 The bill makes an appropriation to DHS for FY 2021-2022
4 for distribution through a request for proposals process to
5 contractors administering the alternatives to abortion program.