

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Targeting Resources
5 to Communities in Need Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
5 Committee on the Budget, the Committee on
6 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and
7 the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
8 ernmental Affairs of the Senate;

9 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
10 Committee on the Budget, the Committee on
11 Energy and Commerce, the Committee on
12 Transportation and Infrastructure, and the
13 Committee on Oversight and Reform of the
14 House of Representatives; and

15 (C) any other committee of Congress that
16 has jurisdiction over a department or agency
17 with a role developing or implementing meas-
18 ures under section 4(a).

19 (2) AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY.—The term
20 “area of persistent poverty” means an area that is
21 a high-poverty census tract or a persistent poverty
22 county.

23 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
24 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
25 et.

1 (4) HIGH-POVERTY CENSUS TRACT.—The term
2 “high-poverty census tract” means a census tract
3 that has a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent
4 in the most recent American Community Survey 5-
5 year survey by the Bureau of the Census.

6 (5) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.—The term
7 “persistent poverty county” means—

8 (A) a county, parish, or other equivalent
9 county division (as determined by the Bureau of
10 the Census) with a poverty rate of not less than
11 20 percent in the Small Area Income and Pov-
12 erty Estimates by the Bureau of the Census for
13 1997, 2007, 2017, and the most recent year for
14 which the estimates are available; or

15 (B) any territory or possession of the
16 United States.

17 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF LIST OF AREAS OF PERSISTENT**
18 **POVERTY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of the Census
21 shall publish a list of all areas of persistent poverty.

22 (b) UPDATE.—The Bureau of the Census shall up-
23 date annually the list published under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 4. INCREASING SHARE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO**
2 **AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY AND OTHER**
3 **HIGH-POVERTY AREAS.**

4 (a) GUIDANCE AND MEASURES TO INCREASE FED-
5 ERAL INVESTMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation
7 with Federal agencies, shall develop and implement guid-
8 ance and measures to increase the share of Federal invest-
9 ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty and other
10 areas with high and persistent poverty (including any
11 other areas that the Director, in consultation with Federal
12 agencies, determines to be appropriate areas to target).

13 (b) GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES.—Not later than 120
14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director
15 shall issue guidance to agencies regarding—

16 (1) identifying the scope of programs subject to
17 increased targeted investment described in sub-
18 section (a);

19 (2) identifying the manner and share of tar-
20 geted investment described in subsection (a); and

21 (3) outlining measures to track increased in-
22 vestment in areas of persistent poverty and other
23 areas with high and persistent poverty over time.

24 (c) MINIMUM INVESTMENT AMOUNT.—In developing
25 the guidance and measures under subsection (a), the Di-
26 rector shall include a minimum goal that Federal invest-

1 ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty or other
2 areas with high and persistent poverty be in an amount
3 that is greater than the amount that is proportional to
4 the population of such areas in the United States relative
5 to the population of the United States as a whole.

6 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall
7 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an an-
8 nual report that includes—

9 (1) a list of the programs, by agency, that are
10 included in the effort to increase the share of Fed-
11 eral investments targeted to areas of persistent pov-
12 erty and other areas with high and persistent pov-
13 erty; and

14 (2) for each program listed under paragraph
15 (1)—

16 (A) the amount of funds that were directed
17 under the program toward an area of persistent
18 poverty or other area with high and persistent
19 poverty during the previous fiscal year;

20 (B) the percentage change from the fiscal
21 year before the previous fiscal year in the
22 amount of funds that were directed under the
23 program toward an area of persistent poverty
24 or other area with high and persistent poverty;
25 and

1 (C) to the extent practicable, an assess-
2 ment of the economic impact of the program,
3 including data on impacted individuals,
4 disaggregated by household income, race, gen-
5 der, age, national origin, disability status, and
6 whether the individuals live in an urban area,
7 suburban area, or rural area.

8 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORTS.**

9 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller Gen-
11 eral of the United States shall report to the appropriate
12 committees of Congress on the effectiveness of the meas-
13 ures implemented pursuant to section 4(a), including an
14 assessment regarding the impact of the measures on in-
15 creasing Federal funds spent in areas of persistent poverty
16 and other areas with high and persistent poverty.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
19 2022, \$5,000,000 for salaries and expenses (including for
20 entering contracts with non-Federal persons) to carry out
21 this Act.