

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in grants  
for reemployment services and eligibility assessments.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which  
was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide  
flexibility in grants for reemployment services and eligi-  
bility assessments.

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 “Expedited Access to  
5       Reemployment Learning Yields Benefits for Workers Act”  
6       or the “EARLY Benefits for Workers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY IN GRANTS FOR REEMPLOYMENT**  
2 **SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a) of the Social Secu-  
4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 506(a)) is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(j) AUTHORITY FOR EARLY INTERVENTIONS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a State  
8 program of reemployment services and eligibility as-  
9 sessments using grant funds awarded to the State  
10 under this section, a State may use up to the lessor  
11 of 20 percent of such grant funds or \$3,000,000 to  
12 provide reemployment services and eligibility assess-  
13 ment services and tools to claimants for regular  
14 compensation as soon as a claimant files an initial  
15 claim for regular compensation.

16 “(2) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—In ad-  
17 judicating an initial claim for regular compensation  
18 with respect to a claimant, a State shall not make  
19 a determination that such claimant is ineligible for  
20 such regular compensation based solely on such  
21 claimant’s failure to participate in the early inter-  
22 ventions under paragraph (1) during the period be-  
23 tween such initial claim and such claimant’s first  
24 week of such regular compensation that is based on  
25 such initial claim.

1           “(3) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION OF INELI-  
2           GIBILITY.—In the case where a claimant is provided  
3           reemployment services and eligibility assessment  
4           services and tools by a State pursuant to the early  
5           interventions under paragraph (1) but is subse-  
6           quently determined by the State to be ineligible for  
7           regular compensation, the following shall apply:

8           “(A) Such claimant shall be ineligible to  
9           continue to be provided such reemployment  
10          services and eligibility assessment services and  
11          tools unless such services and tools are funded  
12          by another source or are generally available to  
13          members of the public.

14          “(B) Such State—

15               “(i) shall not be considered to be out  
16               of compliance with the terms and condi-  
17               tions of the grant program by reason of  
18               the provision of such reemployment serv-  
19               ices and eligibility assessment services and  
20               tools to such claimant prior to such deter-  
21               mination; and

22               “(ii) shall not be required to return  
23               any grant funds used in providing such re-  
24               employment services and eligibility assess-

1                   ment services and tools to such claimant  
2                   prior to such determination.

3                   “(4) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this sub-  
4                   section shall preclude amounts expended by a State  
5                   on the early interventions under paragraph (1) from  
6                   being used to meet the threshold requirement under  
7                   subsection (c)(2) if the expenditures otherwise meet  
8                   the requirements for interventions under such sub-  
9                   section.”.

10                  (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
11                  subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment  
12                  of this Act.