

## New law to provide resources for grandparents raising grandchildren

There's relief in sight for grandparents raising grandchildren because of the opioid crisis.

Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey and Sen. Susan Collins introduced the **Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act** last year and Monday, it was signed into law.

It's a bipartisan issue Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey brought up last year, introducing the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act.

On Monday, President Donald Trump signed it into law.

"This legislation will allow us to have a resource that will provide information and best practices and resources that grandparents sometimes don't have," Casey said.

It will be a one stop shop for family members finding themselves parenting a second time.

"I found a lot of support on Facebook, but I'd like to see the more government resources telling us where to get these. And I'm really excited about the new bill."

Casey says the bill directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assemble an advisory council that will include the U.S. Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies.

"And they need that information right now, or as fast as we can develop it," Casey said. "We want to make sure that there's a thorough review of the material, but we want to get it in their hands as quickly as possible."

An eventual website will house the compiled resources.

"Those kids really need that anchor of a family and we really need support, and hopefully this bill will give us that support we need," Csehoski said.

The **Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act** establishes an Advisory Council to support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

The Council includes a number of federal agencies having responsibilities or administering programs related grandparents or other older relatives raising children and will include a grandparent and an older relative raising a grandchild.

The Council shall issue a report that should include best practices, identify existing resources, and offer other useful information for grandparents and other older relatives raising children because of family circumstances, with a particular emphasis on those impacted by the opioid epidemic.