



Foster Care and Adoption Legislation In the 114th Congress

[S. Res. 622: Recognizing National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month](#)

Introduced: 11/29/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

In an effort to express support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. *Status: Passed Senate by unanimous consent on 11/29/2016.*

[H. Res. 929: Recognizing National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month](#)

Introduced: 11/17/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)

In an effort to support the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 11/17/2016.*

[S. 3409: Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2016](#)

Introduced: 9/28/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include foster care transition youth as members of a targeted group for purposes of the work opportunity credit. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 9/28/2016.*

[H.R. 6289: Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act](#)

Introduced: 9/28/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH)

In an effort to help prevent homelessness among former foster youth, provides priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to assist youth who are aging out of foster care. *Status: Referred to the House Financial Services Committee on 9/28/2016. Related Bill H.R. 5947.*

[H.R. 6238: To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program for issuing identity protection personal identification numbers \(IP PINs\) to adopted children for purposes of tax administration.](#)

Introduced: 9/28/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)

In an effort to prevent individuals from improperly claiming tax benefits with respect to adopted children, requires the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program under which the legal guardian of an adopted child may obtain an identity protection personal identification number (IP PIN) for the child. The Secretary of the Treasury may require the IP PIN to be included on a tax return as a condition of receiving any tax benefit with respect to the child. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 9/28/2016.*

[H. Res. 880: Expressing support for a uniform adoption process of children from foster care and promoting the enactment by all States of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children](#)

Introduced: 9/21/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)

In an effort to streamline the adoption process between states, expresses support for a uniform adoption process of children from foster care and the enactment by all States of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children to ensure more children in the U.S. are placed in safe, loving, and permanent homes. *Status: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee on 9/21/2016.*

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H.R. 5947: Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2016

Introduced: 9/7/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)

In an effort to improve employment outcomes among youth who are transitioning out of foster care, amends the Internal Revenue Code to include “qualified foster care transition youth” as members of targeted groups for the purpose of the work opportunity credit, which permits employers who hire qualified individuals to claim a tax credit equal to a portion of the wages paid to those individuals. Defines the youth as any individual who is certified by the designated local agency as not having attained age 27 as of the hiring date, and as having been in foster care after attaining the younger of age 16 or the age specified in provisions of the Social Security Act related to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 9/7/2016. Related bill S. 3409 was introduced on 9/28/2016.*

S. 3279: Vulnerable Children and Families Act

Introduced: 7/14/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

In an effort to ensure that international child welfare and efforts to provide permanent and safe homes for vulnerable children are a central part of international diplomacy and U.S. foreign policy within the State Department, designates an Ambassador at Large to oversee the Office of Vulnerable Children and Family Security; requires that data on children living without families be included in the Department of State’s annual human rights report; sets concurrent planning as the official U.S. policy; and strengthens coordination between the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in an effort to implement the objectives of the Action Plan on Children in Adversity. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations on 7/14/2016.*

S. 3193: Childhood Outcomes Need New Efficient Community Teams Act (CONNECT)

Introduced: 7/14/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-MI)

In an effort to help states identify and respond to the needs of children who come into contact with both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, amends Title IV of the Social Security Act to authorize grants to improve cooperation between, and data collection by, the state agencies overseeing juvenile justice and child welfare programs. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 7/13/2016.*

H.R. 5810: National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study Act

Introduced: 7/14/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)

In an effort to improve the home study process for prospective foster and adoptive parents and create greater uniformity between states, amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to establish an evidence-based, voluntary National Home Study Standard within the Adoption Opportunities Program. Includes the development of an evidence-based National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study assessment standard and demonstration program, the development and deployment of a National Home Study Registry to allow foster care and adoption agencies across the nation to access information through a secure system about prospective families, and an independent evaluation of the Study methodology and Registry deployment. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 7/14/2016.*

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H.R. 5737: Protecting Foster Youth Resources to Promote Self Sufficiency Act of 2016

Introduced: 7/12/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to ensure that foster children are able to use their Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits immediately after they transition out of foster care to facilitate self-sufficiency requires state or local agencies acting as representative payees for foster youth benefits to serve as true fiduciaries and protect these benefits for the child's best interest. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 7/12/2016.*

S. 3083: Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016

Introduced: 6/22/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

In an effort to improve coordination between public housing agencies and public child welfare agencies by identifying eligible recipients for assistance; implementing housing strategies to assist eligible families and youth; aligning system goals to improve outcomes for families and youth and reduce lapses in housing for families and youth; and identifying resources that are available to eligible families and youth to provide supportive services, amends the U.S. Housing Act and other housing laws to modify the Department of Housing and Urban Development's rental assistance and public housing programs. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on 6/22/2016. Companion Bill to H.R. 3700 which was presented to the President on 7/19/2016.*

S. 3065: Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016

Introduced: 6/16/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT)

In an effort to strengthen families and reduce congregate care placements by allowing states to use foster care funding to provide evidence-based prevention services, ensures more foster children are placed with families, reduces the amount of time foster children wait to be adopted or placed with relatives, and supports relatives who assume responsibility for a child. *Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 6/16/2016. Companion Bill to H.R. 5456.*

H.R. 5456: Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016

Introduced: 6/13/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

In an effort to strengthen families and reduce congregate care placements by allowing states to use foster care funding to provide evidence-based prevention services, ensures more foster children are placed with families, reduces the amount of time foster children wait to be adopted or placed with relatives, and supports relatives who assume responsibility for a child. *Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders on 6/23/2016. Companion Bill to S. 3065.*

H.R. 5454: Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2016

Introduced: 6/10/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

In an effort to address an issue created by the Child Citizenship Act in which certain adult adoptees do not have U.S. citizenship despite being legally adopted, makes citizenship automatic for all international adoptees, and applies to individuals inside and outside the U.S. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 6/1/2016. Companion Bill to S. 2275.*

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H.R. 5364: All Kids Matter Act

Introduced: 5/26/2016

Sponsor: Rep. James R. Langevin (D-RI)

In an effort to amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to require the state to identify and provide appropriate prevention, intervention, and support services before placing a child in foster care as part of its reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families, and to provide certain child welfare services all at-risk children, children in foster care, and children who have left foster care to return home through reunification or reinstatement of parental rights, or for kinship guardianship or adoption. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 5/26/2016. Companion Bill to S. 1932.*

H.R. 5325: Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act

Introduced: 5/25/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA)

In an effort to support military families, allows the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to cover the costs of adoption assistance services and assisted reproductive technology (including IVF) for veterans with service-related injuries that prevent them from starting or growing their family. *Status: Signed into law (Pub. L. 114-223) by the President on 9/29/2016. See also: S. 469.*

H.R. 5285: Amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

Introduced: 5/19/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA)

In an effort to amend the Foreign Assistance Act to require the annual human rights reports to include information on the institutionalization of children and the subjection of children to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, unnecessary detention, and denial of the right to life, liberty, and the security of persons. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on 5/19/2016.*

S. Res. 466: Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 5/16/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

In an effort to bring foster care issues to the forefront and raise awareness about the challenges faced by children placed in the foster care system, acknowledge the special needs of children in foster care, reaffirm the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system, and encourage the implementation of policy to improve their lives. *Status: Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent on 5/26/2016. Companion Bill to H. Res. 733.*

H. Res. 733: Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 5/16/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

In an effort to bring foster care issues to the forefront and raise awareness about the challenges faced by children placed in the foster care system, acknowledge the special needs of children in foster care, reaffirm the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system, and encourage the implementation of policy to improve their lives. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 5/16/2016. Companion Bill to S. Res. 466.*

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H.R. 5046: Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016

Introduced: 4/25/2016

Sponsor: Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI)

In an effort to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to authorize the Department of Justice to award grants to state, local, and tribal governments to provide opioid abuse services, including: enhancing collaboration between criminal justice and substance abuse agencies; developing, implementing, or expanding programs to prevent, treat, or respond to opioid abuse; training first responders to administer opioid overdose reversal drugs; and investigating unlawful opioid distribution activities. *Status: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 5/1/2016.*

H.R. 4843: Improving Safe Care for the Prevention of Infant Abuse and Neglect Act

Introduced: 3/23/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA)

In an effort to improve plans for safe care of vulnerable infants, amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require the development of best practices for plans of care for infants identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms, or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and to require that data on such infants is collected. Requires states to have a law or statewide program for the safe care of such infants that includes addressing the health of the affected families or caregivers. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to monitor the implementation of these programs. *Status: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 5/12/2016.*

H.R. 4796: Military Parental Leave Modernization Act

Introduced: 3/17/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

In an effort to amend Title 10 of the U.S. Code, authorizes at least 84 days of parental leave available for a member of the Armed Forces in connection with the birth of a child of the member or in connection with the adoption or foster care of a child by the member, and allows transfer of leave between parents in dual military families. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel on 3/23/2016.*

H.R. 4750: Adoption Leave for Military Families Act

Introduced: 3/16/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Thomas MacArthur (R-NJ)

In an effort to allow couples serving in the military to take leave similar to the leave currently available after childbirth immediately following the adoption of a child, amends Title 10 of the U.S. Code to repeal the prohibition on providing adoptive leave to each member of a dual military couple, allows one parent 21 days of adoption leave and allows the second parent of a dual military couple 14 days of adoption leave. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel on 3/23/2016.*

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[S. 2687: Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act](#)

Introduced: 3/15/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to improve plans of safe care for infants affected by illegal substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to require the implementation of monitoring systems to ensure the safety and well-being of the children, and address the health needs of the child and family and determine if local entities are capable of providing referrals to, and delivery of appropriate services to, the child and family. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to states regarding the requirements and best practices for the development and implementation of plans of safe care. *Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders on 4/4/2016. Included in CARA, S. 524.*

[S. 2574: Modernizing the Inter State Placement of Children in Foster Care Act](#)

Introduced: 2/24/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

In an effort to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across state lines and to provide grants to aid states, amends amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to require states to adopt a centralized electronic interstate processing system for the exchange of data and documents by October 1, 2022. Requires states to describe in their grant applications how the program's goals will result in reducing the time it takes for a child to be provided with a safe and appropriate permanent living arrangement across state lines, improving administrative processes, and reducing costs in the foster care system and the secure exchange of relevant case files and other necessary materials. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the program based on how it changed the time it takes for children to be placed across state lines, the number of cases that were processed through the system, how using the system has affected various metrics related to child safety and well-being, and how the system has affected administrative costs and caseworker time spent on placing children across state lines. *Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 2/24/2016. Companion Bill to H.R. 4472.*

[S. 2565: Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act](#)

Introduced: 2/23/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

In an effort to assist children affected by methamphetamine, opioid, or other substance abuse, amends Part B of Title IV of the Social Security Act, and reauthorizes grants under the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program for FY2017-2021. *Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 2/23/2016.*

[H.R. 4472: Modernizing the Inter State Placement of Children in Foster Care Act](#)

Introduced: 2/4/2016

Sponsor: Rep. Todd Young (R-IN)

In an effort to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across state lines and to provide grants to aid states, amends amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to require states to adopt a centralized electronic interstate processing system for the exchange of data and documents by October 1, 2022. Requires states to describe in their grant applications how the program's goals will result in reducing the time it takes for a child to be provided with a safe and appropriate permanent living arrangement across state lines, improving administrative processes and reducing costs in the foster care system and the secure exchange of relevant case files and other necessary materials. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the

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program based on how it changed the time it takes for children to be placed across state lines, the number of cases that were processed through the system, how using the system has affected various metrics related to child safety and well-being, and how the system has affected administrative costs and caseworker time spent on placing children across state lines. *Status: Passed the House on 3/22/2016. Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/4/2016. Companion Bill to S. 2574.*

[S. 2561: Protection of Children Act of 2016](#)

Introduced: 2/22/2016

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL)

In an effort to eliminate special repatriation requirements for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) who are nationals or residents of a country contiguous to the U.S., amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Requires an immigration officer who finds an inadmissible UAC at a land border or port of entry to return the child to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence. Requires the Department of state to negotiate agreements between the U.S. and other countries for the repatriation of children. An unaccompanied child who is not a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons, and does not have a fear of returning to his or her country of nationality or last habitual residence, but who is: in removal proceedings shall have a hearing before an immigration judge within 14 days, in federal custody shall be transferred to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) custody within 30 days, and in HHS or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) custody shall have access to legal counsel at no cost to the government. Requires DHS to investigate the immigration status of the individual with whom the child is placed, and initiate removal proceedings if that individual is unlawfully present in the U.S. *Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 2/22/2016. Companion to bill H.R. 1149.*

[S. 2431: National Child Protection Training Act](#)

Introduced: 12/18/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

In an effort to improve the training of child protection professionals, directs the Attorney General to establish a program to sustain at least four university, college, or community college-affiliated regional training centers in coordination with the National Child Protection Training Center. Requires the regional training centers to: (1) develop model interdisciplinary undergraduate curricula on recognizing and responding to cases of child maltreatment that consist of at least a three-course certificate program or minor degree; (2) develop related model graduate curricula for medical schools, law schools, seminaries, and other institutions of higher education that instruct students likely to become child protection professionals or other professionals required by law to report cases of child maltreatment; (3) disseminate such curricula to community colleges, colleges, universities, law schools, medical schools, and other institutions of higher education; (4) develop "laboratory" training facilities that allow for simulated, interactive, and intensive training of students preparing for child protection careers as well as child protection professionals currently in the field; (5) assist communities in developing evidence-based prevention programs; and (6) assist states in developing and maintaining forensic interview training programs. *Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on 12/18/2015.*

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[S. 2332: Child Protection Improvements and Electronic Life and Safety Security Systems Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 11/30/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)

In an effort facilitate widespread access to national criminal history background checks for organizations working in child welfare to receive reliable and accurate information regarding the fitness of an individual who has, seeks to have or may have unsupervised access to children, designates the Attorney General to make determinations regarding whether the criminal history records received in response to a background check indicate that the individual has a criminal history that may bear on the individual's fitness to provide for the safety and well-being of children. *Status: Referred to House Judiciary Committee on 11/30/2015. Companion to bill H.R. 4073.*

[S. 2327: Foster EITC Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 11/19/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to amend the Internal Revenue Act to strengthen the earned income tax credit and expand eligibility for children formerly in foster care, reduces the qualifying age to 18 for children formerly in foster care and imposes new reporting requirements for youth in foster care who are 16 or older. *Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 11/19/2015.*

[H. Res. 538: Recognizing National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month](#)

Introduced: 11/19/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)

In an effort to support the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting awareness of adoption and the children in foster care awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, recognizing current programs and efforts designed to promote adoption, and encouraging people in the U.S. to seek improved safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 11/19/2015.*

[H.R. 4073: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 11/18/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)

In an effort facilitate widespread access to national criminal history background checks for organizations working in child welfare to receive reliable and accurate information regarding the fitness of an individual who has, seeks to have or may have unsupervised access to children, designates the Attorney General to make determinations regarding whether the criminal history records received in response to a background check indicate that the individual has a criminal history that may bear on the individual's fitness to provide for the safety and well-being of children. *Status: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on 12/4/2015. Companion to bill S. 2332.*

[S. Res. 315: Recognizing National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month](#)

Introduced: 11/18/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

In an effort to express support for the goals of both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. *Status: Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by unanimous consent on 11/18/2015. Companion to H.R. Res. 538.11*

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H. Res. 530: Recognizing National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month

Introduced: 11/17/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)

In an effort to express support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce on 11/17/2015. Companion to S. Res. 315.*

S. 2289: Family Unification, Preservation, and Modernization Act of 2015

Introduced: 11/17/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)

In an effort to improve the Family Unification Program by making modifications including utilizing a 'housing first' model, strengthening the connections between local public housing agencies and child welfare agencies to promote family stabilization and reunification, and ensuring resources are identified for youth and families to assist in housing searches. Requires the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health and Human Services to work together to improve system coordination and implementation, changes the timeline for youth vouchers to 36 months, and expands youth eligibility to 18 to 24-year-olds who have left foster care at age 14 or older or who will leave foster care within 90 days and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs on 11/17/2015.*

H.R. 4043: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 11/17/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)

In an effort to amend the Higher Education Act to improve the financial aid process for children and youth who are homeless and in foster care, requires colleges and universities to improve outreach, resources, and policies for children and youth who are homeless and in foster care, including streamlining eligibility determinations for financial aid, providing housing options between terms, and designating a single point of contact for vulnerable students. Requires the Student Loan Ombudsman of a Performance-Based Organization to help resolve questions about a student's independence and ensure its programs identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training on 3/23/2016. Companion Bill to S. 2267.*

S. 2275: Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015

Introduced: 11/10/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

In an effort to address an issue created by the Child Citizenship Act in which certain adult adoptees do not have U.S. citizenship despite being legally adopted, makes citizenship automatic for all international adoptees, and applies to individuals inside and outside the U.S. *Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 11/10/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 5454.*

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[S. 2267: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act](#)

Introduced: 11/10/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

In an effort to amend the Higher Education Act to improve the financial aid process for children and youth who are homeless and in foster care, requires colleges and universities to improve outreach, resources, and policies for children and youth who are homeless and in foster care including streamlining eligibility determinations for financial aid, providing housing options between terms, and designating a single point of contact for vulnerable students. Requires the Student Loan Ombudsman of a Performance-Based Organization to help resolve questions about a student's independence and ensure its programs identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 11/10/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 4043.*

[H.R. 3894: To amend Title 10, U.S. Code, to require the prompt notification of State Child Protective Services by military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense required by law to report suspected instances of child abuse and neglect](#)

Introduced: 11/3/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)

In an effort to amend Title X of the U.S. Code to help curb child abuse in the military, requires members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, or contractor employees working on a military base who are designated as mandated reporters by state or federal law to provide reports of potential child abuse or neglect directly to state Child Protective Services and the member's chain of command. Requires that each mandated reporter receive appropriate training to recognize evidence of child abuse and neglect and to understand mandatory reporting requirements. *Status: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Armed Services on 2/10/2016.*

[S. 2224: Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 10/29/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to develop a national strategy to eliminate child poverty in the U.S. by 2035, establishes the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Child Poverty within the Administration of Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 10/29/2015. Companion to bill H.R. 2408.*

[H.R. 3781: Family Stability and Kinship Care Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 10/21/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

In an effort to enable states to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements, amends Parts B and E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services. Allows reimbursement under Part E of Title IV for time-limited family services when these are needed to prevent entry into foster care or allow children to exit foster care to family placements. Defines "eligible population" as children identified as candidates for foster care or who are in foster care, as well as the children's family members. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 10/21/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1964.*

[S. 2166: Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act](#)

Introduced: 10/8/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

In an effort to support the mental health and well-being of children in foster care, amends Part B of Title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care and that mental health assessments are provided under certain circumstances. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 10/8/2015.*

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H.R. 3706: Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015

Introduced: 10/7/2015

Sponsor: Rep. David G. Reichert (R-WA)

In an effort to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally, directs the President to: (1) establish a five-year strategy to achieve, with target countries and donors, the goal of ending preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally and ensure healthy and productive lives within a generation; and (2) provide assistance to implement the strategy. Directs the President to appoint a current U.S. Agency for International Development employee serving in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Administrator or higher to serve concurrently as the Maternal and Child Survival Coordinator, who shall be responsible for overseeing the strategy and all U.S. government funds appropriated or used for international maternal and child health and nutrition programs. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on 10/7/2015. Companion to bill S. 1911.*

H.R. 3700: Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016

Introduced: 10/7/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)

In an effort to improve coordination between public housing agencies and public child welfare agencies by identifying eligible recipients for assistance; implementing housing strategies to assist eligible families and youth; aligning system goals to improve outcomes for families and youth and reduce lapses in housing for families and youth; and identifying resources that are available to eligible families and youth to provide supportive services, amends the U.S. Housing Act and other housing laws to modify the Department of Housing and Urban Development's rental assistance and public housing programs. *Status: Presented to President on 7/19/2016. Companion Bill to S. 3083.*

H.R. 3691: Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2016

Introduced: 10/6/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

In an effort to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend support for residential substance abuse treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women through FY2021. The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment must carry out a pilot program to make grants to state substance abuse agencies to support services for pregnant and postpartum women who have a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder, including opioid use disorders (opioids are drugs with effects similar to opium, such as heroin and certain pain medications). The Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality must fund an evaluation of the pilot program. *Status: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 5/12/2016.*

H.R. 3641: Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 9/29/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

In an effort to better serve children formerly in foster care, amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for eligible children formerly in foster care up to age 26 who move to another state. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 10/2/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1852.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

S. 1964: Family Stability and Kinship Care Act of 2015

Introduced: 8/5/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

In an effort to enable states to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements, amends Parts B and E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services. Allows reimbursement under Part E of Title IV for time-limited family services when these are needed to prevent entry into foster care or allow children to exit foster care to family placements. Defines “eligible population” as children identified as candidates for foster care or who are in foster care, as well as the children’s family members. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 8/5/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 3781.*

S. 1932: All Kids Matter Act

Introduced: 8/4/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Michael F. Bennet (D-CO)

In an effort to amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to require the state to identify and provide appropriate prevention, intervention, and support services before placing a child in foster care as part of its reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families, and to provide certain child welfare services to all at-risk children, children in foster care, and children who have left foster care to return home through reunification or reinstatement of parental rights, or for kinship guardianship or adoption. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 8/4/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 5364.*

S. 1911: Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015

Introduced: 7/30/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-ME)

In an effort to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally, directs the President to: (1) establish a five-year strategy to achieve, with target countries and donors, the goal of ending preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally and ensure healthy and productive lives within a generation; and (2) provide assistance to implement the strategy. Directs the President to appoint a current U.S. Agency for International Development employee serving in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Administrator or higher to serve concurrently as the Maternal and Child Survival Coordinator, who shall be responsible for overseeing the strategy and all U.S. government funds appropriated or used for international maternal and child health and nutrition programs. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign on Relations on 7/30/2015. Companion to bill H.R. 3706.*

H.R. 3428: Adoption Information Act

Introduced: 7/29/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-VA)

In an effort to ensure that individuals receive information about adoption centers, amends Title X of the Public Health Service Act to require family planning service projects or programs to provide each person who inquiries about their services with a pamphlet containing a comprehensive list of adoption centers in their state. Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare, annually update, and distribute such pamphlets to such projects or programs. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 7/31/2015.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

H.R. 3365: Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2015

Introduced: 7/29/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)

In an effort to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides financial support to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, for the adoption of one or more children. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel on 11/23/2015. Companion Bill to S. 469.*

H.R. 3221: Homeless and Foster Youth Achievement Act

Introduced: 7/27/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)

In an effort to help homeless children and children in foster care stay in school and achieve their academic goals, amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to require states to include information on the academic progress of homeless children and children in foster care in annual state report cards. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education on 11/16/2015. Related bill S. 1177 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-95) by the President on 12/10/2015.*

S. 1852: Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 7/23/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to better serve children formerly in foster care, amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for eligible children formerly in foster care up to age 26 who move to another state. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 7/23/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 3641.*

H.R. 3160: Foster Youth Independence Act of 2015

Introduced: 7/22/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

In an effort to assist youth who age out of foster care in making a successful transition into adulthood, amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to allow states that have opted to extend the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program for youth up to age 21, to use existing funds up to age 23. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resource on 7/28/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1439.*

H.R. 3087: Education Stability for Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 7/16/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to ensure educational stability for children in foster care, amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by requiring districts to create educational liaisons for child welfare agencies, to allow foster students to stay at their school of origin if they move or change homes, and to provide transportation from their new home to the school. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education on 11/16/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1639. Related bill S. 1177 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-95) by the President on 12/10/2015.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

S. 1770: Youth PROMISE Act

Introduced: 7/15/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to improve evidence-based and promising practices with regard to juvenile delinquency and prevention, amends the Juvenile Justices and Delinquency Prevention Act to establish a Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE) Advisory Panel to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in assessing and developing standards and evidence-based and promising practices, and collecting data in designated geographic areas. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Judiciary on 7/15/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 2197.*

S. Amdt. 2169: Every Child Achieves Act of 2015

Introduced: 7/14/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Cory A. Booker (D-NJ)

Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by requiring a state's report card to include information on the graduation rates of homeless children and children in foster care. *Status: Passed Senate on 7/14/2015. Related bill S. 1177 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-95) by the President on 12/10/2015.*

H.R. 3060: Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2015

Introduced: 7/14/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)

In an effort to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement a review process for reports of child abuse and neglect, establish a process to assist states in the oversight and enforcement of this Act, refer any violation of such standards to the Attorney General, and require covered programs to meet certain child abuse and neglect standards. Covered programs are those that provide treatment or modify behaviors in a residential environment for one or more children who are unrelated to the program owner or operator, with the exception of foster families homes that are licensed and regulated by the state and provide 24-hour substitute care for children for whom the state child welfare services agency has placement and care responsibility. Also amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to establish additional eligibility requirements for grants to states to prevent child abuse and neglect at residential programs. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education on 11/16/2015.*

H.R. 3005: Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015

Introduced: 7/9/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to improve the collection and distribution of child support on behalf of children in foster care, requires that amounts collected will be paid to the public agency responsible for supervising the placement of the child. Allows the agency to use the payments in the manner it determines will best serve the interests of the child. Expands the EITC to include children in foster care at least 18 years of age but no older than 21 and those who were placed in foster care after turning 14 years old. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 7/15/2015.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

H.R. 2922: Adoptive Family Relief Act

Introduced: 6/25/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)

In an effort to provide financial relief to families who have adopted children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, amends Section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive immigrant visa renewal fees in exceptional circumstances when children are unable to immigrate to the U.S. within the 6-month visa expiration date. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security on 7/29/2015. Companion Bill S. 1300 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-70) by the President on 10/16/2015.*

S. 1639: Education Stability of Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 6/18/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)

In an effort to ensure educational stability for children in foster care, amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by requiring districts to create educational liaisons for child welfare agencies, to allow foster students to stay at their school of origin if they move or change homes, and to provide transportation from their new home to the school. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 6/18/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 3087.*

S. 1637: The Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2015

Introduced: 6/18/2015

Sponsor: Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-OK)

In an effort to help place children in permanent homes more quickly and to ensure birth fathers' rights are protected, creates an electronic National Responsible Father Registry that encourages states with already existing registries to provide their data to the new National Registry. In states lacking a registry, allows fathers to register directly with the National Registry, and authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to create registries or to modify existing registries in accordance with national standards. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 6/18/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 2818.*

H.R. 2818: The Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2015

Introduced: 6/18/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO)

In an effort to help place children in permanent homes more quickly and to ensure birth fathers' rights are protected, creates an electronic National Responsible Father Registry that encourages states with already existing registries to provide their data to the new National Registry. In states lacking a registry, allows fathers to register directly with the National Registry, and authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to create registries or to modify existing registries in accordance with national standards. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 7/2/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1637.*

H.R. 2751: Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act

Introduced: 6/12/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)

In an effort to ensure greater well-being of Native American children in foster care, establishes a Commission on Native American Children in the Office of Tribal Justice of the Department of Justice to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local and tribal programs that serve Native American children, including children in foster care. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs on 7/1/2015. Companion Bill to S. 246.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

H.R. 2646: Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016

Introduced: 6/4/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA)

In an effort to refocus programs and resources to families and patients with the most challenging cases of serious mental illnesses by making psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services available, and to improve accountability of federal programs, provides Comprehensive Community Based Health Systems; provides for a system of integrated services for children with serious emotional disturbance; provides training for health care professionals with expertise in infant and early childhood mental health with integration with other disciplines; creates a National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative; and provides Youth Suicide Early Intervention and Prevention Strategies. *Status: Passed by the House of Representatives on 7/6/2016. Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate on 7/14/2016.*

S. 1439: Foster Youth Independence Act of 2015

Introduced: 5/21/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

In an effort to assist youth who age out of foster care in making a successful transition into adulthood, amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to allow states that have opted to extend the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program for youth up to age 21, to use existing funds up to age 23. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/21/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 3160.*

H.R. 2449: Every Child Deserves a Family Act

Introduced: 5/19/2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)

In an effort to open more homes to children in foster care, prohibits discrimination in adoption and foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on 5/19/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1382.*

S. 1382: Every Child Deserves a Family Act

Introduced: 5/19/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY)

In an effort to open more homes to children in foster care, prohibits discrimination in adoption and foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/19/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 2449.*

H.R. 2434: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015

Introduced: 5/19/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Diane Black (R-TN)

In an effort to provide equitable financial support to families wishing to adopt, amends the Internal Revenue Code to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit. Restores the refundable provision that applied to the adoption tax credit in 2010 and 2011. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on 5/19/2015. Companion Bill to S. 950.*

H.R. 2408: Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2015

Introduced: 5/19/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to reduce child poverty in the U.S., establishes the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Child Poverty within the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on 5/19/2015. Companion to bill S. 2224.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

[S. 1300: Adoptive Family Relief Act](#)

Introduced: 5/12/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

In an effort to provide financial relief to families who have adopted children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, amends Section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive immigrant visa renewal fees in exceptional circumstances when children are unable to immigrate to the U.S. within the 6-month visa expiration date. *Status: Signed into law (Pub. L. 114-70) by the President on 10/16/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 2922.*

[S. 1254: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act](#)

Introduced: 5/7/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

In an effort to generate funding for programs that support permanency outcomes for children in foster care, provides for the issuance and sale by the U.S. Postal Service of a semi-postal stamp and requires proceeds to be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the Adoption Opportunities Program. Allows such funds to be used only for programs and activities authorized under section 203 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act that target permanency, such as the increase adoptions of minority and older children; support of the placement in kinship care arrangements, pre-adoptive, or adoptive homes; post-legal adoption services for families who have adopted children with special needs; and data gathering, adoption training and technical assistance, and efforts to eliminate interjurisdictional adoption barriers. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on 5/7/2015.*

[S. Res. 168: Recognizing National Foster Care Month](#)

Introduced: 5/5/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

In an effort to advance the agenda on issues related to children in foster care, recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in foster care, highlight the importance of permanency for every child, and recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of these children. *Status: Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent on 5/21/2015. Companion resolution to H. Res. 251.*

[H. Res. 251: Recognizing National Foster Care Month](#)

Introduced: 5/5/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

In an effort to advance the agenda on issues related to children in foster care, recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in foster care, highlight the importance of permanency for every child, and recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the U.S. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 5/11/2015. Companion resolution to S. Res. 168.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

H.R. 2197: Youth PROMISE Act

Introduced: 5/1/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA)

In an effort to improve evidence-based and promising practices with regard to juvenile delinquency and prevention, amends the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to establish a Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE) Advisory Panel to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in assessing and developing standards and evidence-based and promising practices, and collecting data in designated geographic areas. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce on 5/1/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1770.*

S. 1177: Every Child Achieves Act

Introduced: 4/30/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

In an effort to improve educational outcomes for children in foster care, amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to require states to track the achievement data of students in foster care and to ensure that children in foster care are immediately enrolled in school even if they do not possess records required to enroll. Requires the new school to secure records from the previous school. *Status: Signed into law (Pub. L. 114-95) by the President on 12/10/2015.*

H.R. 2068: Protecting Adopted Children Act

Introduced: 4/28/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI)

In an effort to ensure safety and well-being of adopted children, establishes pre- and post-adoption services and expands the scope of the existing Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in the Department of Justice to include combating the illegal transfer of a child. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 5/14/2015. Companion Bill to S. 369.*

S. 1089: Social Impact Partnership Act

Introduced: 4/27/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT)

In an effort to reduce the number of children in foster care and improve social programs, amends Title XX of the Social Security Act to add a new Part C for Social Impact Partnerships. Creates public-private partnerships using a "pay-for-performance" model in which government enters into an agreement with a service intermediary that agrees to deliver a set of services with measurable outcomes outlined in a feasibility study. Establishes the Federal Interagency Council on Social Impact Partnerships and amends the Community Reinvestment Act to require the appropriate federal financial supervisory agency to consider, in assessing and taking into account the record of a financial institution in meeting the credit needs of its entire community, its investments in social impact partnership projects. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/27/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 1336.*

S. 950: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015

Introduced: 4/15/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

In an effort to provide more equitable financial support for families wishing to adopt, amends the Internal Revenue Code to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit. Restores the refundable provisions that applied to the adoption tax credit in 2010 and 2011. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/15/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 2434.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

H.R. 1868: Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2015

Introduced: 4/15/2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI)

In an effort to better serve youth in foster care, amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to require states to follow certain procedures in placing a child who has been removed from the custody of his or her parents, including notification within 30 days to all adult relatives of the child, an explanation of options under federal, state, and local law for the care and placement of the child, and a description of requirements to become a foster family along with additional supports available for the child. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 5/1/2015.*

S. Amdt. 950: Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by U.S. citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Introduced: 3/25/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Amends **S. Con. Res. 11** by creating a deficit-neutral reserve fund in Section 393 for the purpose of promoting the “return” of children who have been legally adopted by U.S. citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo yet denied exit visas to leave the country. *Status: Passed Senate by Unanimous Consent on 3/27/2015.*

S. 835: Tribal Adoption Parity Act

Introduced: 3/23/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

In an effort to financially aid Native American families with children with special needs, amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow Indian tribes to make the determination that a child is a child with special needs for purposes of the adoption tax credit. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 3/23/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 1542.*

H.R. 1542: Tribal Adoption Parity Act

Introduced: 3/23/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

In an effort to financially aid Native American families with children with special needs, amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow Indian tribes to make the determination that a child is a child with special needs for purposes of the adoption tax credit. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 4/7/2015. Companion Bill to S. 835.*

H.R. 1336: Social Impact Partnership Act

Introduced: 3/4/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Todd Young (R-IN)

In an effort to reduce the number of children in foster care and improve social programs, amends Title XX of the Social Security Act to add a new Part C for Social Impact Partnerships. Creates public-private partnerships using a “pay-for-performance” model in which government enters into an agreement with a service intermediary that agrees to deliver a set of services with measurable outcomes outlined in a feasibility study. Also aims to provide long-term savings to local, state, and federal governments. Makes appropriations for 10 years to carry out this Act; establishes the Federal Interagency Council on Social Impact Partnerships; and, amends the Community Reinvestment Act to require the appropriate federal financial supervisory agency to consider, assessing the record of a the institution in meeting the credit needs of its entire community, its investments in social impact partnership projects. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 3/19/2015. Companion Bill to S. 1089.*

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute does not endorse specific legislation. Information on legislation contained in this document is for educational purposes only.

[S. 667: Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 3/4/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Michael B. Enzi (R-WY)

In an effort to ensure that organizations with religious or moral beliefs are allowed to continue to provide services for children, prohibits the federal government, and states receiving federal funding under Parts B or E of Title IV of the Social Security Act, from discriminating or taking an adverse action against a child welfare service provider that declines to provide, facilitate, or refer for a child welfare service that conflicts with the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 3/4/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 1299.*

[S. 664: Foster Care Tax Credit Act](#)

Introduced: 3/4/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

In an effort to encourage more adults to become foster parents, amends the Internal Revenue Code to create a tax credit of up to \$1,000 each year for foster families who care for children for six months or less and are currently not eligible for tax credit assistance under the Child Tax Credit, which requires the child be under the age of 17 and have lived in the household for more than half a year. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 3/4/2015.*

[H.R. 1299: Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 3/4/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)

In an effort to improve parent involvement for disadvantaged youth, amends Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to create Family Engagement Centers with grants awarded to statewide nonprofits that provide training and support to local educational agencies on family engagement for low-income families, limited English proficient individuals, minorities, parents of children with special needs, and foster parents. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 3/2/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 1194.*

[S. 622: Family Engagement in Education Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 3/2/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

In an effort to improve parent involvement for disadvantaged youth, amends Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to create Family Engagement Centers with grants awarded to statewide nonprofits that provide training and support to local educational agencies on family engagement for low-income families, limited English proficient individuals, minorities, parents of children with special needs, and foster parents. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education on 4/29/2015. Companion Bill to S. 622.*

[H.R. 1194: Family Engagement in Education Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 3/2/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Glenn W. Thompson (R-PA)

In an effort to eliminate special repatriation requirements for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) who are nationals or residents of a country contiguous to the U.S., amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Requires an immigration officer who finds an inadmissible UAC at a land border or port of entry to return the child to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence. Requires the Department of state to negotiate agreements between the U.S. and other countries for the repatriation of children. An unaccompanied child who is not a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons, and does not have a fear of returning to his or her country of nationality or last habitual residence, but who is: in removal proceedings

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shall have a hearing before an immigration judge within 14 days, in federal custody shall be transferred to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) custody within 30 days, and in HHS or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) custody shall have access to legal counsel at no cost to the government. Requires DHS to investigate the immigration status of the individual with whom the child is placed, and initiate removal proceedings if that individual is unlawfully present in the U.S. *Status: Reported by the House Judiciary Committee on 3/4/2015. Companion to bill S. 2561.*

H.R. 1149: Protection of Children Act of 2015

Introduced: 2/27/2015

Sponsor: Rep. John Carter (R-TX)

In an effort to promote Native American children's safety, amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to specify the procedures for criminal background checks of adults involved in foster care by tribal social service agencies, which may be waived by the tribal social service agency in the event of an emergency foster care placement. *Status: Passed House, received in the Senate on 6/2/2015. Companion Bill to S. 184 which became Public Law No: 114-165 on 6/3/2016.*

H.R. 1168: Native American Children's Safety Act

Introduced: 2/27/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)

In an effort to combat the exploitation of children, amends Section 1591 of Title XVIII of the U.S. Code to prohibit knowingly: (1) advertising commercial sex acts involving a minor or an individual engaged in such an act through force, fraud, or coercion; or (2) benefitting financially or otherwise from such advertising knowing that the individual involved was a minor or victim of force, fraud, or coercion. *Status: Referred to the Judiciary Committee on 2/25/2015. Companion to bill H.R. 285. Related bill S. 178 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-22) by the President on 5/29/2015.*

S. 572: SAVE Act of 2015

Introduced: 2/25/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)

In an effort to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to create the National Youth Recovery Initiative authorizing the Recovery Branch of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to award grants to: (1) build connections between recovery community organizations and other recovery support services, including child welfare agencies; and (2) develop, support, and maintain youth recovery support services, including child welfare services. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training on 4/29/2015. Companion to bill S. 524.*

H.R. 953: Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015

Introduced: 2/12/2015

Sponsor: Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI)

In an effort to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to create the National Youth Recovery Initiative authorizing the Recovery Branch of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to award grants to: (1) build connections between recovery community organizations and other recovery support services, including child welfare agencies; and (2) develop, support, and maintain youth recovery support services, including child welfare services. *Status: Conference report agreed to on 7/13/2016 and awaiting President's signature. Companion Bill to H.R. 953.*

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[S. 524: Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016](#)

Introduced: 2/12/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

In an effort to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to create the National Youth Recovery Initiative authorizing the Recovery Branch of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to award grants to: (1) build connections between recovery community organizations and other recovery support services, including child welfare agencies; and (2) develop, support, and maintain youth recovery support services, including child welfare services. *Status: Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendments to Senate bill and House requests a conference on 5/17/2016. Companion Bill to H.R. 953.*

[S. 469: Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 2/11/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

In an effort to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides financial support to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, for the adoption of one or more children. *Status: Partially included in H.R. 5325 which was signed in to law (Pub. L. 114-223) by the President on 9/29/2016.*

[S. 429: Family-Based Foster Care Services Act](#)

Introduced: 2/10/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

In an effort to support the mental health and well-being of children in foster care, amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend medical assistance coverage to therapeutic foster care services, and requires a qualified therapeutic foster care program to be state-licensed and provide children in foster care under age 21 with structured daily activities. In addition, requires biological parents, kinship caregivers and foster care parents be provided with specialized training and consultation in the management of children with mental illness, trauma, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions or developmental disabilities, and be provided with specific additional training on the needs of a child who is provided such services. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 2/10/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 835.*

[H.R. 835: Family-Based Foster Care Services Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 2/10/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

In an effort to support the mental health and well-being of children in foster care, amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend medical assistance coverage to therapeutic foster care services, and requires a qualified therapeutic foster care program to be state-licensed and provide children in foster care under age 21 with structured daily activities. In addition, requires biological parents, kinship caregivers and foster care parents be provided with specialized training and consultation in the management of children with mental illness, trauma, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions or developmental disabilities, and be provided with specific additional training on the needs of a child who is provided such services. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health on 2/13/2015. Companion Bill to S. 429.*

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S. 369: Supporting Adoptive Families Act

Introduced: 2/4/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

In an effort to promote adoption efforts and support healthy families, amends parts of the Social Security Act and Public Health Service Act to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services. Amends Part B of Title IV of the Social Security Act to make it a purpose of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program to promote efforts to prevent children from entering the foster care system. Also extends adoption promotion and support services to those designed to support intercountry and domestic adoptions. Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to revise requirements for state expenditures for adoption support services. Amends Part B of Title V of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to award grants or cooperative agreements to implement state-sponsored or tribal post-adoption mental health service programs for adopted children. Amends Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act to require states to report the disruption and dissolution of adoptions. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 2/4/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 2068.*

H.R. 562: Improving Education for Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 1/27/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL)

In an effort to improve education among children in foster care, requires states that receive assistance under this Act to implement policies ensuring that a child in foster care who is changing schools can transfer school credits and receive partial credits for coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a previous school or educational program. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education on 4/29/2015.*

H.R. 469: Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015

Introduced: 1/22/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

In an effort to protect child victims of sex trafficking, amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to condition eligibility to receive a state grant for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs on inclusion in the state plan of a certification by the governor that the state has in effect and is enforcing a state law, or is operating a statewide program, that includes provisions and procedures to identify and assess reports involving children who are sex trafficking victims, train representatives of the state child protective services about identifying and assessing such children, and identify services and procedures for appropriate referral to address the needs of such children. *Status: Passed House, amended and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 1/27/2015.*

S. 246: Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act

Introduced: 1/22/2015

Sponsor: Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

In an effort to ensure greater well-being of Native American children in foster care, establishes a Commission on Native American children in the Office of Tribal Justice of the Department of Justice to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local and tribal programs that serve Native American children, including children in foster care. *Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held in House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs on 5/18/2016. Companion Bill to H.R. 2751.*

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[S. 184: Native American Children's Safety Act](#)

Introduced: 1/16/2015

Sponsor: Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)

In an effort to promote Native American children's safety, amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to specify the procedures for criminal background checks of adults involved in foster care by tribal social service agencies, which may be waived by the tribal social service agency in the event of an emergency foster care placement. *Status: Signed into law (Pub. Law No: 114-165) on 6/3/2016. Companion Bill to H.R. 1168.*

[H.R. 311: Adoption Promotion Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 1/13/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Billy Long (R-MO)

In an effort to include adoption counseling for pregnant women, amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure the option of counseling funded through training grants for family planning personnel include adoption counseling provided by licensed social workers or counselors with experience in adoption practice. Also requires research related to family planning and population to include the collection of data related to the number of pregnancy tests administered and their results, as well as the quality, consistency, and outcomes of pregnancy options counseling. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health on 1/16/2015.*

[H.R. 296: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 1/13/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX)

In an effort to promote the safety of children in foster care, amends the Crime Control Act to require law enforcement to upload recent photos of missing children into the National Crime Information Center computer networks when available and to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of any child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution. *Status: Referred to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on 2/2/2015. Companion Bill S. 178 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-22) by the President on 5/29/2015.*

[S. 178: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015](#)

Introduced: 1/13/2015

Sponsor: Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)

In an effort to promote the safety of children in foster care, amends the Crime Control Act to require law enforcement to upload recent photos of missing children into the National Crime Information Center computer networks when available and to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of any child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution. Also requires the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's website to include a database of resources for trafficking victim advocates, crisis personnel, foster parents, and victims. *Status: Signed into law (Pub. L. 114-22) by the President on 5/29/2015. Companion Bill to H.R. 296.*

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H.R. 285: SAVE Act of 2015

Introduced: 1/12/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO)

In an effort to combat the exploitation of children, amends Section 1591 of Title XVIII of the U.S. Code to prohibit knowingly: (1) advertising commercial sex acts involving a minor or an individual engaged in such an act through force, fraud, or coercion; or (2) benefitting financially or otherwise from such advertising knowing that the individual involved was a minor or victim of force, fraud, or coercion. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 2/4/2015. Companion to bill S. 572. Related bill S. 178 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-22) by the President on 5/29/2015.*

H.R. 181: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015

Introduced: 1/7/2015

Sponsor: Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX)

In an effort to promote the safety of children in foster care through increased interagency communication, amends the Crime Control Act to require the law enforcement agency that enters a missing child report with the National Crime Information Center to include a recent photograph of the child when available, and to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of any child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution. *Status: Passed House amended, referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on 2/4/2015. Related bill S. 178 was signed into law (Pub. L. 114-22) by the President on 5/29/2015.*

Note: The primary source for this information is GovTrack (<https://www.govtrack.us>) and the Library of Congress (<https://www.congress.gov>). For additional information, please contact Christen Glickman, CCAI Director of Policy, at christen@ccainstitute.org.

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