



Foster Care and Adoption Legislation In the 115th Congress

H.R. 6223: To reauthorize the Child Advocate Program

Introduced: 6/26/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)

Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 6/26/2018.

S. 3120: HEAL Act of 2018

Introduced: 6/25/2018

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

A bill to help end addictions and lessen substance abuse disorders. Supports family residential treatment programs where children reside with their parents and guardians during treatment. Enables DHHS and to provide guidelines for state programs and their implementation of Medicaid funding. *Status: Placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 484, on 6/25/2018.*

H.R. 6115: Safe Home Act of 2018

Introduced 6/14/2018

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

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to include an act of unregulated custody transfer in the definition of child abuse and neglect. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 6/14/2018.*

S. 3075: Children's Budget Act

Introduced: 6/14/2018

Sponsor: Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

This bill requires the President's annual budget submission to include a detailed and separate analysis of current and requested levels of spending for children and children's programs. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget on 6/14/2018.*

S. 3074: Focus on Children Act

Introduced: 6/14/2018

Sponsor: Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-CA)

This bill amends the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to produce studies and reports regarding federal spending on children. Also requires the CBO to maintain a public website including these reports and studies, indicators and other tools on child spending trends, and quantitative data on that federal spending. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget on 6/14/2018.*

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H.R. 6: SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act

Introduced: 6/13/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

Expands Medicaid coverage for former foster youth by allowing states to extend coverage to age 26. Increases monitoring of antipsychotic medication of children in foster care. *Status: Passed in the House on 6/22/2018 and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.*

S. 3039: Using Data to Help Protect Children and Families Act

Introduced: 6/7/2018

Sponsor: Sen. Todd C. Young (R-IN)

To provide funding for the development of a predictive analytics pilot program to help children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system. Creates grant pathways for research-based strategies for risk and safety assessments of child abuse and neglect. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 6/7/2018.*

S. 3036: Keep Families Together Act

Introduced: 6/7/2018

Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

The bill favors family and sibling unity and parental rights. Prohibits removing a child who is under the age of 18 and has no permanent immigration status from his or her parent or legal guardian with 100 miles of the U.S. border unless, among other things, a state or county child welfare official with expertise in child trauma and development determines that it is in the child's best interests to be removed because of abuse or neglect. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 6/7/2018.*

H.R. 5799: Medicaid Drug Review, Utilization, Good Governance Improvement Act

Introduced: 5/15/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Improves state monitoring of antipsychotic medications by children. *Status: Reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on 6/12/2018.*

H.R. 5626: Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2018

Introduced: 4/26/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA)

Directs the Department of State to include in its annual intercountry adoptions report to Congress information on: (1) countries that have halted or reduced adoptions of children by American parents, and (2) State Department efforts to encourage the resumption of such halted or reduced adoption proceedings. *Status: Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute on 5/17/2018.*

S. 2680: Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018

Introduced: 4/16/2018

Sponsor: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

To address the opioid crisis. *Status: Places on Senate Legislative Calendar on 5/7/2018.*

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S. 2636: Community Action Opioid Response Act of 2018

Introduced: 4/10/2018

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

To create a community-action opioid response grant program. The funds would be used for public education, identification of at-risk individuals, support for foster youth or those at-risk of foster placement and their caregivers, and other projects and services responding to multi-generational risks of opioid addiction. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 4/10/2018.*

H.R. 5233: Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018

Introduced: 3/8/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

To provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security on 4/30/2018.*

S. 2522: Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018

Introduced: 3/8/2018

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

To provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 3/8/2018.*

H.R. 5124: Community Action Opioid Response Act of 2018

Introduced: 2/27/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)

To create a community-action opioid response grant program. The funds would be used for public education, identification of at-risk individuals, support for foster youth or those at-risk of foster placement and their caregivers, and other projects and services responding to multi-generational risks of opioid addiction. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce on 2/27/2018.*

H.R. 4990: Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2018

Introduced: 2/8/2018

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

To require States to follow certain procedures in placing a child who has been removed from the custody of his or her parents. The bill calls for notification of all adult relatives of a child removed from parental custody, as well as notice of the placement decision and reasons for it. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 2/14/2018.*

H.R. 4547: Strengthening Protections For Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018

Introduced: 12/05/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)

A bill requiring the Social Security Administration (SSA) to enter into agreements with each state for the purpose of sharing information to identify represented minor beneficiaries who are in foster care; and determine the appropriate representative payee for any represented minor beneficiary who has entered foster care, exited foster care, or changed foster care placement in a given month. *Status: Signed into Public Law No. 115-165 by the President on 4/13/2018.*

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H.R. 4461: The COURTS Act

Introduced: 11/28/2017

Sponsor: House Ways and Means
Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX)

In an effort to extend to Court Improvement Program that provides additional resources to allow courts to make improvements when handling child welfare related proceedings. Provides grants to train judges, attorneys, and legal personnel, increase timeliness of courts decisions, and improve engagement of families in courts proceedings. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 11/28/2017.*

S. 2173: The COURTS Act

Introduced: 11/28/2017

Sponsor: Senate Majority Whip John
Cornyn (R-TX)

In an effort to extend to Court Improvement Program that provides additional resources to allow courts to make improvements when handling child welfare related proceedings. Provides grants to train judges, attorneys, and legal personnel, increase timeliness of courts decisions, and improve engagement of families in courts proceedings. *Status: Read twice and referred to Committee on Finance on 11/29/2017.*

H.R. 4388: Forgotten Families Recovery Act of 2017

Introduced: 11/16/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Sean Duffy (R-W)

A bill to prioritize, in certain substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, the treatment and recovery of addicted minors, and individuals responsible for the care of dependent minors who are at risk of entering the foster care system. *Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Health on 11/17/2017.*

S. 1964: The Child Welfare Oversight and Accountability Act

Introduced: 10/16/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

In an effort to improve the state and federal governments' ability to monitor child welfare practices and keep vulnerable children safe. Enhances federal oversight of child welfare systems, promotes family placements, creates more accountability for foster care providers, increases the understanding of child fatalities in order to prevent them, and improves caseworker training. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 10/16/17.*

S. 1797: Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 9/12/2017

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

In an effort to ensure that foster youth who age out of foster care, or enter into a kinship arrangement at the age of 14 years or older, have Medicaid coverage until the age of 26 years, regardless of the state he/she lives in. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 9/12/2017.*

H.R. 3740: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 9/12/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)

In an effort to make college more affordable for homeless and foster youth. Improves FAFSA and eligibility for financial aid, provides housing options between terms, and designates a single point of contact to help provide valuable services for foster and homeless youth. Requires U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about foster and

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homeless youth college students' independence, publish useable data, and ensure its programs identify, recruit, and prepare foster and homeless youth for college. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 9/12/2017.*

[S. 1795: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act](#)

Introduced: 9/12/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

In an effort to make college more affordable for homeless and foster youth. Improves FAFSA and eligibility for financial aid, provides housing options between terms, and designates a single point of contact to help provide valuable services for foster and homeless youth. Requires U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about foster and homeless youth college students' independence, publish useable data, and ensure its programs identify, recruit, and prepare foster and homeless youth for college. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 9/12/2017.*

[H.R. 3742: Fostering Success in Higher Education Act](#)

Introduced: 9/12/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to improve states' ability to help foster and homeless youth attend and graduate from college. Creates in-depth, hands-on programs to address the needs of foster and homeless youth to give them the resources and information they need as well as provides states with several grants dependent on their foster youth and homeless youth population. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 9/12/2017.*

[S. 1792: Fostering Success in Higher Education Act](#)

Introduced: 9/12/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)

In an effort to improve states' ability to help foster and homeless youth attend and graduate from college. Creates in-depth, hands-on programs to address the needs of foster and homeless youth to give them the resources and information they need as well as several grants to states dependent on their foster youth and homeless youth population. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 9/12/2017.*

[H.R. 3491: Protecting Adopted Children Act](#)

Introduced: 7/27/2017

Sponsor: Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)

In an effort to provide pre- and post-adoption services to families adopting from foster care. These services would help address the mental health needs of adopted children and their families, particularly related to trauma, loss, abuse, neglect, and substance exposure from which many children in the foster care system suffer. Mandates states to require a minimum of 20 hours of pre-placement training for all prospective adoption parents and legal guardians. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 7/27/2017.*

[H.R. 3490: Supporting Adopted Children and Families Act](#)

In an effort to fund post-adoption mental health research and service programs for adopted youth and their families, creates a grant

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Introduced: 7/27/2017
Sponsor: Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)

program under the Public Health Service Act. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would award grants to state, tribal, and non-profit organizations to develop and implement post-adoption mental health service programs, including those that provide counseling, mentoring, education, and support groups to adopted children and families. HHS would also be required to create policy guidance related to the provision of post-adoption services. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 7/28/2017.*

[S. 1638: Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act](#)

Introduced: 7/26/2017
Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

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 system. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on 7/26/2017.*

[H.R. 3418: Fostering Academic Information and Resources \(FAIR\) Act](#)

Introduced: 7/26/2017
Sponsor: Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)

In an effort to ensure that children in the foster care system are provided with the information and understanding of all available federal programs to assist in financing higher education. Giving states the responsibility to inform foster youth of their financial options will increase the number of former foster youth attending college. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 7/26/2017.*

[S. 1630: Child Poverty Reduction Act](#)

Introduced: 7/25/2017
Sponsor: Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)

In an effort to reduce child poverty by setting a national target and identifying the most effective ways to reduce child poverty. Creates a national target to reduce child poverty by half in ten years and to eliminate child poverty in twenty years. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 7/25/2017.*

[H.R. 3381: Child Poverty Reduction Act](#)

Introduced: 7/25/2017
Sponsor: Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to reduce child poverty by setting a national target and identifying the most effective ways to reduce child poverty. Creates a national target to reduce child poverty by half in ten years and to eliminate child poverty in twenty years. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on 7/25/2017.*

[H.R. 3105: Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act](#)

Introduced: 6/29/2017
Sponsor: Rep. James McGovern (D-MA)

In an effort to assist the vast number of children being raised by grandparents, especially as that number has increased due to the opioid epidemic, creates a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to last for five years. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 6/30/2017.*

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[S. 1427: EMPOWERS Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 6/26/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)

This bill establishes the Interagency Board for Empowering Low-Income Families. Allows state governors to apply to the Board for a four-year waiver from the requirements of certain federal assistance programs, including programs that provide Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.*

[H.R. 2952: Foster Youth Mentoring Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 6/20/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

In an effort to address the need for greater support of mentoring programs that serve youth in foster care. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 6/28/2017.*

[S. 1357: Family-Based Care Services Act](#)

Introduced: 6/14/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

In an effort to improve home-based health and mental health services for children in the foster care system. The bill establishes a federal Medicaid definition for Therapeutic Family Care (TFC) in order to promote accountability for states offering TFC. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 6/14/2017.*

[H.R. 2834: Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act](#)

Introduced: 6/8/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to improve the well-being of, and improve the permanency outcomes for, children and families affected by heroin, opioids, and other substance abuse. *Status: Passed by the House on 6/20/2017. Enacted through H.R. 1892 in Public Law No. 115-123 on 2/9/2018.*

[H.R. 2824: Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act](#)

Introduced: 6/8/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)

In an effort to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program at the current level of \$400 million per year for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2018 through 2022. *Status: Received in the Senate on 9/28/2017 and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

[H.R. 2866: Reducing Unnecessary Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act](#)

Introduced: 6/8/2017

Sponsor: Rep Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

In an effort to ensure safe, appropriate, and expedient placement of foster children in a family member's home, amends Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act to require that the Secretary of Health and Human Services identify reputable model licensing standards for foster family homes prior to October 1, 2018. Requires states to submit a report prior to April 1, 2019 detailing the state's compliance with the model language or explaining any non-compliance with the model language and explaining efforts to come into compliance. *Status:*

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Passed by the House on 6/20/2017. Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance on 6/21/2017.

[H.R. 2857: Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act](#)

Introduced: 6/8/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD)

In an effort to support foster care maintenance payments for children with parents healing from substance abuse, amends eligibility requirements under Section 472 of the Social Security Act to include children placed with a parent in a family based treatment facility for substance abuse. Requires that the facility in which the child and parent are placed provides parenting skills training in addition to substance abuse treatment. *Status: Passed by the House on 6/20/2017. Received in the Senate on 6/21/2017 and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

[H.R. 2847: Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act](#)

Introduced: 6/8/2017

Sponsor: Rep. John Faso (R-NY)

In an effort to improve services offered to foster youth aged 14 and over, amends Section 477 of the Social Security Act to increase the age limit for receipt of services to age 23 in certain qualifying states. Permits redistribution of unexpended funds during the subsequent fiscal year provided that the allocation of the funds will not change and that the amount redistributed will be considered part of the allocated budget during the redistribution year. Expands the distribution of education and training vouchers to foster youth up to age 26 to be used for up to 5 years. Requires the Secretary to issue a report no later than October 1, 2018 regarding the outcomes of youth who have aged out of foster care. *Status: Enacted through H.R. 1892 in Public Law No. 115-123 on 2/9/2018.*

[S. 1303: Every Child Deserves a Family Act](#)

Introduced: 6/7/2017

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

This bill prohibits adoption or foster care placement entities that receive federal funding from denying adoptive or foster parents, denying or delaying a child's placement for adoption or foster care, or establishing different procedures for adoptive or foster care placements based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 6/7/2017.*

[S. 1257: Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act](#)

Introduced: 5/25/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

In an effort to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require states to adopt an electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across state lines, and to provide funding to aid states in developing such a system, and for other purposes. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/25/2017.*

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H.R. 2742: Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act

Introduced: 5/25/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN)

In an effort to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require states to adopt an electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across state lines, and to provide funding to aid states in developing such a system, and for other purposes. *Status: Passed by the House on 6/20/2017 and received in the Senate on 6/21/2017.*

H.R. 2682: Supporting Foster Youth in Successful Parenting Act

Introduced: 5/25/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

In an effort to support foster youth in successful parenting by reducing unintended pregnancies and promoting the well-being of expectant or parenting foster youth and their children. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 6/8/2017.*

S. 1215: Foster Youth Independence Act of 2017

Introduced: 5/24/2017

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: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/24/2017.*

H.R. 2640: Every Child Deserves a Family Act

Introduced: 5/24/2017

Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)

In an effort to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on 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 Subcommittee on Human Resources on 6/7/2017.*

H.R. 2643: To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require the annual human rights reports to include information on the institutionalization of children and the subjection of children to cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment, unnecessary detention, and denial of the right to life, liberty, and the security of persons, and for other purposes

Introduced: 5/24/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA-10)

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 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, and for other purposes. *Status: Introduced in the House on 5/24/2017.*

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H.R. 2532: Vulnerable Children and Families Act

Introduced: 5/18/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)

In an effort to realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government in keeping with the core belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society to bolster United States diplomacy targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to ensure that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on 5/18/2017.*

H.R. 2512: Foster Youth and Driving Act

Introduced: 5/18/2017

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

In an effort to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to expand foster parent training and provide new appropriations to support the obtainment of a driver's license. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources 5/31/2017.*

S. 1178: Vulnerable Children and Families Act

Introduced: 5/18/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

In an effort to realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government in keeping with the core belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society to bolster United States diplomacy targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to ensure that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations on 5/28/2017.*

H.R. 2476: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2017

Introduced: 5/17/2017

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 House Committee on Ways and Means on 5/17/2017.*

S. 1091: Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act

Introduced: 5/10/2017

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

In an effort to assist the vast number of children being raised by grandparents, especially as that number has increased due to the opioid epidemic, creates a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to last for five years. *Status: Passed Senate on 3/22/2018. Passed the House on 6/13/2018. Senate agreed to House amendments by Unanimous Consent on 6/21/2018.*

S. 1067: CONNECT ACT

Introduced: 5/8/2017

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

In an effort to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between state and child welfare and juvenile

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justice systems. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/8/2017.*

[S.Res. 156: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster-care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster-care system](#)

Introduced: 5/4/2017

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 5/22/2017.*

[H.Res. 314: Recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system](#)

Introduced: 5/4/2017

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 5/5/2017.*

[H.R. 2290: Family-Based Care Services Act](#)

Introduced: 5/2/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

In an effort to improve home-based health and mental health services for children in the foster care system. The bill establishes a federal Medicaid definition for Therapeutic Family Care (TFC) in order to promote accountability for states offering TFC. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health on 5/5/2017.*

[H.R. 2236: Foster and Homeless Youth Food Security Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 4/28/2017

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

In an effort to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide certain alternative eligibility requirements applicable to foster care youth, and homeless youth, who are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition on 5/19/2017.*

[S. 937: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 4/25/2017

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: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/25/2017.*

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H.R. 2069: Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/6/2017

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. Requires the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to submit joint reports to Congress regarding the status and outcomes of youth aging out of foster care who are provided preference for housing assistance. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on 4/6/2017.*

S. 885: Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/6/2017

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

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 foster care transition 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 age specified in provisions of the Social Security Act related to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/6/2017.*

H.R. 2060: Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/6/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Dave Reichert (R-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 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 4/6/2017.*

S. 874: At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/6/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Christopher Murphy

In an effort to amend title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to specify that a state Medicaid program may not terminate a juvenile's medical assistance enrollment because the juvenile is incarcerated. A state may suspend enrollment while the juvenile is an inmate, but must restore enrollment once the juvenile is released without requiring a new application unless the juvenile is no longer eligible for medical assistance. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/6/2017.*

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H.R. 1925: At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/5/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Tony Cardenas

In an effort to amend title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to specify that a state Medicaid program may not terminate a juvenile's medical assistance enrollment because the juvenile is incarcerated. A state may suspend enrollment while the juvenile is an inmate, but must restore enrollment once the juvenile is released without requiring a new application unless the juvenile is no longer eligible for medical assistance. *Status: Reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce and placed on Union Calendar No. 572 on 6/12/2018.*

S. 811: Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/4/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Michael 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, or under circumstances that conflict with, the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on 4/4/2017.*

H.R. 1881: Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2017

Introduced: 4/4/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)

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, or under circumstances that conflict with, the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 4/17/2017.*

H.R. 1892: Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

Introduced: 4/4/2017

Sponsor: Rep. John Larson (D-CT)

A bill to reauthorize adoption and legal guardianship incentive programs through 2021. Ensures states reinvest savings resulting from increase in adoption assistance with GAO study and report. Enables states to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements through the provision of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs, and kinship navigator services. Eliminates the time limit for family reunification services while in foster care. *Status: Signed into Public Law No. 115-123 by the President on 2/9/2018.*

H.R. 1808: Improving Support for Missing and Exploited Children Act of 2017

In an effort to strengthen efforts to recover missing children and support youth who are the victims of violent crime, amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act to update language and expand the

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Introduced: 3/30/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

role of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Requires that training be provided to relevant entities on responses to foster children missing from state child welfare systems and increases the role of nongovernmental organizations, law enforcement agencies, and schools in identifying, locating, and recovering victims of, and children at risk for, child sex trafficking. *Status: Passed by the House on 5/23/2017. Status: Received in the Senate and read twice on 5/24/2017 and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

[S. 774: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 3/29/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

In an effort to address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, establishes the Interagency Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care, the National Law Enforcement Child and Youth Trauma Coordinating Center, and the Native American Technical Assistance Resource Center. Amends the Public Health Service Act, Child Care and Developmental Block Grant Act, Social Security Act, and Elementary and Secondary Education Act to increase the amount of funding available for identifying and treating mental, behavioral, and biological disorders of children and youth resulting from witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event as well as to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct an analysis of and submit a report to Congress on the prevalence and public health impacts of child, youth, and adult trauma experienced in the US, existing modules that measure and assess adverse childhood experiences, and outcomes modules that measure and evaluate the utilization and efficacy of trauma-informed interventions. Also instructs the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to authorize and encourage states to collect and report data on adverse childhood experiences. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 3/29/2017.*

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H.R. 1757: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017

Introduced: 3/28/2017

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

In an effort to address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, establishes the Interagency Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care, the National Law Enforcement Child and Youth Trauma Coordinating Center, and the Native American Technical Assistance Resource Center. Amends the Public Health Service Act, Child Care and Developmental Block Grant Act, Social Security Act, and Elementary and Secondary Education Act to increase the amount of funding available for identifying and treating mental, behavioral, and biological disorders of children and youth resulting from witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event as well as to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings. Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct an analysis of and submit a report to Congress on the prevalence and public health impacts of child, youth, and adult trauma experienced in the US, existing modules that measure and assess adverse childhood experiences, and outcomes modules that measure and evaluate the utilization and efficacy of trauma-informed interventions. Also instructs the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to authorize and encourage states to collect and report data on adverse childhood experiences. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on 4/12/2017.*

H.R. 1748: Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2017

Introduced: 3/28/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)

In an effort to improve employment and education outcomes for at-risk and disconnected youth, including young people involved in or aging out of the foster care system, authorizes the Secretary of Labor to allocate funds to subsidize summer and year-round youth employment programs designed and implemented by local governments and, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, award grants on a competitive basis to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 3/28/2017.*

S. 705: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017

Introduced: 3/23/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

In an effort to establish a nationwide program to provide criminal history background checks and reviews for individuals who apply to work or volunteer at organizations that serve children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. *Status: Passed Senate on 10/16/2017. Received in House on 10/19/2017.*

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[S. 684: National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study Act](#)

Introduced: 3/21/2017

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

In an effort to improve the home study process for prospective foster and adoptive parents and create greater uniformity between states and Indian tribes, amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to establish an evidence-based, voluntary National Home Study Process 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 Database 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 Database deployment. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 3/21/2017.*

[H.R. 1650: National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study Act](#)

Introduced: 3/21/2017

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 and Indian tribes, amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to establish an evidence-based, voluntary National Home Study Process 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 Database 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 Database deployment. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 3/21/2017.*

[S. 611: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 3/13/2017

Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

In an effort to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities by amending the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on 3/13/2017.*

[H.R. 1511: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017](#)

Introduced: 3/13/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)

In an effort to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities by amending the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. *Status: Referred to House Education and the Workforce on 3/13/2017; Hearings held by the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance on 6/6/2018.*

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H.R. 1469: Welfare Benefit Reform and Alignment Commission (BRAC) Act

Introduced: 3/9/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Davidson Warren (R-OH)

In an effort to consolidate and realign means-tested direct spending program outlays, establishes the Welfare Reform and Alignment Commission. The bipartisan, bicameral Commission would review and restructure means-tested welfare programs, including the foster care and adoption assistance program under Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act, to identify changes in law and opportunities for modification, consolidation, elimination, cost reduction, efficiency improvement, and through other means. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition on 3/23/2017.*

H.R. 1345 Protecting Children from Theft Act of 2017

Introduced: 3/2/2017

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

In an effort to defend children in foster care from identity theft, amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to create protected credit reports for minors and protect the credit of minors. Requires consumer reporting agencies to create a blocked credit file, or block an existing credit file for a child in foster care, upon request by a responsible, legal guardian, custodian, or state agency. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Financial Services on 3/2/2017.*

H.R. 1069: Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 2/15/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI)

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 Subcommittee on Trade on 2/24/2017.*

H. Res. 75: Supporting efforts to protect and support sexually exploited and trafficked girls in the U.S.

Introduced: 1/31/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)

Expresses support of efforts to provide protection and support for sexually exploited and trafficked girls in the U.S., some of whom are trafficked from the child welfare system, as well as establish criminal or civil penalties for anyone who buys or sells a child through a child trafficking system. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on 2/8/2017.*

H.R. 695: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017

Introduced: 1/21/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)

In an effort to establish a nationwide program to provide of criminal history background checks and reviews for individuals who apply to work or volunteer at organizations that serve children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. *Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on 5/23/2017. Senate cloture vote failed on 2/8/2018.*

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H. Res. 41: Supporting a uniform adoption process for foster youth

Introduced: 1/10/2017

Sponsor: Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI)

Expresses support for a uniform adoption process for foster youth and promotes enactment of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children by all states to ensure that more children are placed in safe, permanent homes. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law on 1/23/2017.*

H.R. 269: Look-back Elimination Act of 2017

Introduced: 1/4/2017

Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)

In an effort to treat all children equally, eliminates the requirement that, to be eligible for foster care maintenance payments, a child would have to have been eligible for aid under the former program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children at the time of removal from the home. Supports the replacement of the requirement with income eligibility standards based on certain criteria and encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collaborate with Members of Congress and child welfare advocates to develop modified standards. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources on 1/18/2017.*

H.R. 253: Family First Prevention Services Act of 2017

Introduced: 1/4/2017

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, ensure more foster children are placed with families, reduce the amount of time foster children wait to be adopted or placed with relatives, and support relatives who assume responsibility for a child, amends Parts B and E of Title IV of the Social Security Act. *Status: Partially enacted through H.R. 1892 in Public Law No. 115-123 on 2/9/2018.*

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 Becky Weichhand at becky@ccainstitute.org.

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