



Foster Care and Adoption Legislation in the 113th Congress

H.R. 1464: North Korean Child Welfare Act of 2012

Introduced: 04/08/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Royce, Edward

Generally directs the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive strategy for facilitating the adoption of North Korean children by U.S. citizens. Specifically directs the Secretary of State to consider the challenges with, provide suggestions for, and propose solutions for the intercountry adoption of orphans who either reside within North Korea or are stateless refugees in surrounding countries, whether those countries are signatories to the Hague Convention or not. *Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 112-264) by the President 1/14/2013.*

S. 3331: Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012

Introduced: 06/21/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Kerry, John

Allows the application of universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, along with related regulations. Any person(s) offering or providing adoption services shall now abide by the provisions set under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. Also deems the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the accrediting entities to have the duties, responsibilities, and authority under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to implement regulations to any person(s) offering or providing adoption services. *Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 112-276) by the President 1/14/2013.*

S. 3472: Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA)

Introduced: 08/01/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Expands a provision set forth by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which prohibits the Dept. of Education from funding agencies or institutions that release student educational records to any individual, agency, or organization without written parental consent. FERPA now includes agency caseworkers, other state representatives, local child welfare agencies, and tribal organizations authorized to access a student's case plan when they are legally responsible for the student. However, it does permit the release of records if the child is in a court proceeding involving child abuse, neglect, or dependency matters. *Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 112-278) by the President 1/14/2013.*

***CCAI does not endorse specific legislation.
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H.R. 102: Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2013

Introduced: 01/03/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Conyers, John

Provides that upon a child's removal from parental custody, all adults and relatives of a child will be notified. The communication will seek to discover whether the relatives or adults would be eligible to provide foster care for the child. Within 90 days after a state has made a decision about a child's custody, all adults or relatives interested in caring for the child will be notified of the decision. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources.*

H.Res.24: Expressing the deep disappointment of the House of Representatives in the enactment by the Russia Government of a law ending intercountry adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens and urging the Russia Government to reconsider the law and prioritize the processing of intercountry adoptions involving parentless Russian children who were already matched with United States families before the enactment of the law

Introduced: 01/14/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Bachmann, Michele

Expresses the disappointment of the House of Representatives because of the Russian government's decision to enact a law permanently banning United States citizens from adopting Russian children. Urges the Russian government to reconsider the law on humanitarian grounds. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.*

H.R. 286: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain State foster care program payments made to the biological parents of disabled children

Introduced: 01/15/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Green, Gene

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 so that a payment made in accordance with the foster care program of a state or political subdivision will not fail to be treated as a difficulty of care payment. Changes the Code to make a difficulty of care payment excludible from gross income. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

H.Res. 34: Calling on the United States and Russia to continue cooperation in securing safe and loving homes for unparented children

Introduced: 01/15/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Christopher

Appeals to the Russian government to allow the completion of the adoption process for children whose adoption proceedings began before January 1, 2013. Also calls for the bilateral adoption agreement, which was first convened on November 1, 2012, between the United States and Russia, to continue. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.*

H.R. 365: Territorial TANF Equity Act of 2013

Introduced: 01/23/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Pierluisi, Pedro R.

Section 6: Amends Part E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) of SSA Title XI to increase the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for foster care and adoption assistance in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources.*

CCAI does not endorse specific legislation.

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S. 131: Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvements Act of 2013

Introduced: 01/24/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty

Section 4(a), 1789(a): Provides covered veterans with a certain amount to assist them in the process of adopting children. *Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 185. Companion Bill to H.R. 958.*

H.R. 517: Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2013

Introduced: 02/05/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B.

To provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave. Allow Federal employees to substitute any available paid leave for any leave without pay available for either the birth or placement of a child. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

S. 264: Excellence in Mental Health Act

Introduced: 02/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie

Aims to greatly expand the overall access, quality, and efficacy of federally qualified Community Behavioral Health Centers. Aspires to ensure that these health centers include vital services such as 24-hour crisis care and increased integration of physical, mental, and substance abuse treatment. Creates a more comprehensive approach to the treatment of individuals. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Companion Bill to H.R.1263.*

S. 237: Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act

Introduced: 02/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa

Amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention and Services Program. Repurposes resources to educate adoption and foster care agency officials about available and necessary services for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Many of these programs are designed specifically to identify, treat, and educate those with FASD. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

H.R. 680: Rilya Wilson Act

Introduced: 02/13/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Frederica S.

Amends Title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that State child welfare agencies will have to report information on missing or abducted children to law enforcement authorities. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.*

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<p><u>H.R. 958: Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvements Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 03/05/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Larsen, Rick</p>	<p>Section 4, section 1789(a): Provides covered veterans with a certain amount to assist them in the process of adopting children. <i>Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Companion Bill to S. 131.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 624: Child Care Protection Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 03/20/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Burr, Richard</p>	<p>Amends the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require criminal background checks for child care providers. <i>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 1476: Dave Thomas Adoption Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 04/10/2013 Sponsor: Rep. King, Peter T.</p>	<p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans for adoption expenses. Withdrawals are allowed up to \$10,000 for regular adoption expenses and unlimited when the expenses are related to the adoption of a child with special needs. <i>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 744: Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act</u> Introduced: 04/16/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Schumer, Charles</p>	<p>Comprehensively reforms the immigration system. The bill has implications for foster care and adoption in Sections 2312: Modifications on adoption age requirements and 2313: Relief for orphans, widows and widowers. <i>Status: Passed Senate with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote on June 27, 2013.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 1690: Child Protection Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 04/23/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Vargas, Juan</p>	<p>Strengthens the statute barring sex trafficking of minors by eliminating the “knowledge of age” element of the crime. Known as <i>Hazel’s Law</i>, the bill is named after a child sex trafficking victim whose case was delayed while prosecutors struggled to prove that the trafficker knew the victim was a minor. <i>Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 1732: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 04/25/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen</p>	<p>To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better equip the State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.</i></p>

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H.Res. 203: Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: Rep. Bass, Karen
Sponsor: 05/7/2013

Supports the designation of National Foster Care Month and recognizes this month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children in the foster care system face. Also encourages Congress to implement policy that will improve the lives of children in the foster care system. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

H.R. 2036: Foster Children Opportunity Act

Introduced: 05/16/2013
Sponsor: Rep. O'Rourke, Beto

To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to help alien children in the child welfare system apply for all available forms of immigration relief before exiting foster care. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Nutrition.*

S.Res. 147: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 05/16/2013
Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Supports the designation of May 2013 as National Foster Care Month. Recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children in the foster care system face. Encourages Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of these children in the foster care system. *Status: Passed Senate without amendment on May 16, 2013.*

H.R. 2028: Every Child Deserves a Family Act

Introduced: 05/16/2013
Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status for a prospective adoptive or foster parent. Also prohibits discrimination regarding placement of a child based on the child's sexual orientation or gender identity. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Companion Bill to S. 1069.*

H.R. 2108: Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act

Introduced: 05/22/2013
Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Amends Title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to inform students who indicate on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form that they are or were in the foster care system that they may be eligible for federal aid, including the specific programs they may be eligible for. Requires the Secretary to provide foster youth with that information on the Dept. of Education's website. *Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Training.*

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<p><u>H.R. 2111: Look-back Elimination Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 05/22/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John</p>	<p>Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to eliminate the requirement that, to be eligible for foster care maintenance payments, a child would have been eligible for aid under the former program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children at the time of removal from the home. <i>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1069: Every Child Deserves a Family Act</u> Introduced: 05/23/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E.</p>	<p>Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status for a prospective adoptive or foster parent. Also prohibits discrimination regarding placement of a child based on the child's sexual orientation or gender identity. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion Bill to H.R. 2028.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1047: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 05/23/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck</p>	<p>A bill to increase funding for effective programs aimed at improving permanency outcomes for foster care youth by providing for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the U.S. Postal Service. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Companion Bill to H.R. 2149.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 2149: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 05/23/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Conyers, John, Jr.</p>	<p>A bill to increase funding for effective programs aimed at improving permanency outcomes for foster care youth by providing for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the U.S. Postal Service. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Companion Bill to S. 1047.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 2144: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 05/23/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Braley, Bruce L.</p>	<p>A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit. <i>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Companion Bill to S. 1056.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1056: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 05/23/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr.</p>	<p>A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion Bill to H.R. 2144.</i></p>

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[S. 1086: Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/03/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Mikulski, Barbara

Reauthorizes the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 through FY2019. Revises and expands plan requirements for states to receive grant funds. *Status: Passed in Senate, held at the desk.*

[S. 1094: Strengthening America's Schools Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/04/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Harkin, Thomas

Part E, section 1501: Educational stability of children in foster care. A bill to create better stability for a child that has to move to a new school district as a result of placement in foster care. *Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 218.*

[S. 1118: Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable state child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Companion Bill to H.R. 2744.*

[H.R. 2332: Adoption Tax Credit Tribal Parity Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/12/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Kilmer, Derek

Amends the IRS tax code to recognize Native American tribes to determine whether a child has special needs under the adoption tax credit, ensuring that parents who adopt Native American children with special needs through tribal courts receive the same tax relief as other parents adopting children with special needs. The current disparity in the tax law is an inadvertent oversight; this legislation acknowledges the jurisdiction of tribal courts, which already adjudicate adoption proceedings, for the purposes of the adoption tax credit. *Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.*

[H.R. 2439: Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/19/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Kuster, Ann

Promotes permanent families for children, privacy and safety for unwed mothers, responsible fatherhood, and security for adoptive parents by establishing a National Responsible Father Registry and encouraging states to enter into agreements to contribute information contained in each state's Responsible Father Registry to the National Responsible Father Registry. *Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means. Companion Bill to S. 1203.*

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S. 1203: Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2013

Introduced: 06/20/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Promotes permanent families for children, privacy and safety for unwed mothers, responsible fatherhood, and security for adoptive parents by establishing a National Responsible Father Registry and encouraging states to enter into agreements to contribute information contained in each state's Responsible Father Registry to the National Responsible Father Registry. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion Bill to H.R. 2439.*

S.Res.190: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that foreign assistance for child welfare should adhere to the goals of the United States Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity.

Introduced: 06/27/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Inhofe, Jim

Represents the understanding of the Senate that the United States Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity (APCA), through U.S. foreign assistance, comprises a holistic action plan for approaching the fundamental requirements of children dwelling in adversity. APCA aims to address the coordination of funding among agencies to support the goals of family care, reduction of abuse, and elimination of repetitive or contradictory approaches by the government. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.*

H.R. 2604: Help Separated Families Act of 2013

Introduced: 06/28/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that immigration status alone does not disqualify a parent, legal guardian, or relative from being a placement for a foster child. Authorizing discretion to a State, county, or other political subdivision of a State to delay filing for termination of parental rights in foster care cases in which an otherwise fit and willing parent or legal guardian has been deported or is involved in (including detention pursuant to) an immigration proceeding. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

H.R. 2744: Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013

Introduced: 07/18/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Paulsen, Erik

To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Companion Bill to S. 1118.*

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<p><u>H.R. 3062: Adoption Information Act</u> Introduced: 08/02/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Wittman, Robert J.</p>	<p>A bill to require assurances that certain family planning service projects and programs will provide pamphlets containing the contact information of adoption centers. <i>Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. Companion Bill to S. 1539.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1511: Removing Barriers to Adoption and Supporting Families Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 09/17/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Rockefeller, John D.</p>	<p>A bill to amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove barriers to the adoption of children in foster care through reauthorizations of adoption incentive payments, and other improvements including post-adoption services and sibling placements. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1518: Improving Outcomes for Youth At Risk for Sex Trafficking Act of 2013</u> Introduced: 09/18/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G.</p>	<p>A bill that addresses the risks that makes youth vulnerable to sex trafficking, and introduces different means to prevent sex trafficking. Focus on improvements in the foster care system: the need for stable placements and normalcy. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 3124: Investing in Permanency for Youth in Foster Care Act</u> Introduced: 09/18/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K.</p>	<p>To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentive payments program to incentive payments for foster child exits to reunification, adoption, and guardianship, and for other purposes. <i>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1527: Supporting Adoptive Families Act</u> Introduced: 09/19/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy</p>	<p>A bill to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services: to ensure the well-being of adopted children and their adoptive families and promoting efforts to prevent such children from entering the foster care system. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.</i></p>
<p><u>S.1539: Adoption Information Act</u> Introduced: 09/24/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Fischer, Deb</p>	<p>A bill to require assurances that certain family planning service projects and programs will provide pamphlets containing the contact information of adoption centers. <i>Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Companion Bill to H.R. 3062.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 3205: Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act</u> Introduced: 09/27/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Camp, Dave</p>	<p>To reauthorize and restructure the adoption incentives grant program. <i>Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.</i></p>

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<p><u>H.R. 3386: Accuracy for Adoptees Act</u> Introduced: 10/30/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Lamar</p>	<p>To require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes. <i>Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 113-74) by the President on 1/16/2014. Companion bill to S. 1614.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1614: Accuracy for Adoptees Act</u> Introduced: 10/30/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy</p>	<p>A bill to require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes. <i>Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 113-74) by the President on 1/16/2014.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 3423: To ensure the safety and well-being of adopted children</u> Introduced: 10/30/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Langevin, James R.</p>	<p>To ensure the well-being of adoptive children and adoptive families through pre- and post-adoption services. <i>Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1622: Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act</u> Introduced: 10/30/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi</p>	<p>A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children: to focus on Native children's needs in the American society. <i>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.</i></p>
<p><u>H.Res. 409: Expressing 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.</u> Introduced: 11/13/2013 Sponsor: Rep. Bachmann, Michele</p>	<p>A resolution to express support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. <i>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Companion Bill to S.Res. 294.</i></p>
<p><u>S.Res. 294: A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month</u> Introduced: 11/13/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.</p>	<p>A resolution to express support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. <i>Status: Passed in Senate. Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. Companion Bill to H.Res. 409.</i></p>

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H.R. 3491: Internet Gambling Regulation and Tax Enforcement Act of 2013

Introduced: 11/14/2013

Sponsor: Rep. McDermott, Jim

Section 2202(C)(1) and (2): Transitional assistance grant program. Provides for expanded education opportunities and job training opportunities for individuals who are, or were formerly, in foster care. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

S. 1722: National Child Protecting Training Act

Introduced: 11/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Pryor, Mark L.

A bill to improve the training of child protection professionals through establishments of regional training centers. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

H.R. 3530: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014

Introduced: 11/19/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Poe, Ted

Amends criminal code to impose additional penalty for persons convicted for sexual exploitation and other abuse of children. Allots funds for victims of child pornography. Authorizes grants for programs that rescue and restore victims of trafficking. *Status: Passed House. Received in the Senate 5/21/2014. Companion bill to S. 1738.*

S. 1738: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014

Introduced: 11/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John

Amends criminal code to impose additional penalty for persons convicted for sexual exploitation and other abuse of children. Allots funds for victims of child pornography. Authorizes grants for programs that rescue and restore victims of trafficking. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Companion bill to H.R. 3530.*

H.R. 3549: Protecting Adoption Act

Introduced: 11/20/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Hartzler, Vicky

To promote permanent families for children, privacy and safety for unwed mothers, responsible fatherhood, and security for adoptive parents by establishing a National Responsible Father Registry and encouraging States to enter into agreements to contribute the information contained in the State's Responsible Father Registry to the National Responsible Father Registry, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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H.R. 3547: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014

Introduced: 11/20/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Lamar

Sets the federal budget for fiscal year 2014. Expands a provision that apportions four million dollars to the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services for the creation of child-focused adoptive parent recruitment grants. Also, none of the funds under the “International Military Education and Training” may be verified for assistance for the Guatemalan children and American adoptive parents pending since 2007. (Section 7045,C) Amends Sec, 7083 Section 101 b1fi of the Immigration and Nationality Act by striking “at least twenty-five years of age, at least 1 of whom personally saw and observed the child before and during the adoption proceedings.” The definition of “orphan” has also been changed found in INA. (Sec. 416) *Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 113-76) by the President on 1/17/2014.*

S. 1754: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 11/21/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty

A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and foster children. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

S. 1823: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013

Introduced: 12/13/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco

Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Companion bill to H.R. 1732.*

S. 1876: Strengthening And Finding Families for Children Act

Introduced: 12/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to revise the adoption incentives grant program to determine the payments using a new formula and extend the program through FY2016. *Status: Referred to Senate committee. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

S. 1877: Child Support Improvement and Work Promotion Act

Introduced: 12/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max

Amends Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act (SSA) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to apply federal and state enforcement mechanisms. Also, establishes in the executive branch a Child Support Enforcement Task Force. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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<p><u>S. 1878: Protecting Youth At-Risk for Sex Trafficking Act</u> Introduced: 12/19/2013 Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max</p>	<p>A bill that Supports At-Risk Children Act Title I: Strengthening and finding Families for Children. It Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives grant program through FY 2016. Also repeals the state incentive eligibility requirements, replaces determination of numbers of adoption based on Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data, and creates a new formula for determining adoption incentive payments. <i>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1936: To improve the response to missing children and victims of child sex trafficking</u> Introduced: 1/16/2014 Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob</p>	<p>Improves the response to missing children and victims of child sex trafficking and amends section 404 of the Crime Control Act of 1990. <i>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Companion bill to H.R. 3905</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 3905: To improve the response to missing children and victims of child sex trafficking</u> Introduced: 1/16/2014 Sponsor: Rep. Beatty, Joyce</p>	<p>A bill to improve the response to missing children and victims of child sex trafficking. <i>Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. Companion bill to S. 1936.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 3915: to direct the Secretary of Education to modify the FAFSA to include a space for the purpose of identifying whether a student is a foster youth, and for other purposes</u> Introduced: 1/16/2014 Sponsor: Rep. Grayson, Alan</p>	<p>A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to adjust the FAFSA to include whether a student is a foster youth. Its purpose is to amend Section 438(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965. <i>Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1982: Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014</u> Introduced: 02/03/ 2014 Sponsor: Sen. Sanders, Bernard</p>	<p>Amends federal veteran provisions to revise or add provisions concerning medical services and other benefits including adoption services provided to veterans and/or their dependents through the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Sec. 373) <i>Status: Motion by Senator Reid to commit to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report back forthwith with amendment (SA 2767) fell when the bill was committed in Senate.</i></p>
<p><u>S. 1992: Quality Foster Care Services Act of 2014</u> Introduced: 02/04/2014 Sponsor: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy</p>	<p>Amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid. <i>Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.</i></p>
<p><u>H.R. 4016: Quality Foster Care Service Act of 2014</u> Introduced: 02/06/2014 Sponsor: Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L.</p>	<p>Quality Foster Care Service Act of 2014. <i>Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. Companion bill to S. 1992</i></p>

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H.R. 4058: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act

Introduced: 02/14/2014

Sponsor(s): Rep. Doggett, Lloyd
Rep. Reichert, David

This bill builds on H.R. 2744 and H.R. 1732, and would improve the lives of youth in foster care by ensuring they have more normal opportunities and experiences, while providing them with tools they need to become successful adults. Also includes procedures to identify foster youth who are victims of domestic sex trafficking and to determine appropriate State action and services to provide. *Status: Passed House. Received in the Senate.*

H.R. 4143: Children in Families First Act of 2014

Introduced: 03/04/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Granger, Kay

Realigns structures and reallocates resources in the Federal Government, in keeping with the core American belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society, to bolster United States diplomacy and assistance targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to strengthen intercountry adoption to the United States and around the world. *Status: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. Companion Bill to S. 2475.*

S. 2475: Children in Families First Act of 2014

Introduced: 06/17/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Realigns structures and reallocates resources in the Federal Government, in keeping with the core American belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society, to bolster United States diplomacy and assistance targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to strengthen intercountry adoption to the United States and around the world. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Companion Bill to H.R. 4143.*

S. 2160: Native American Children Safety Act

Introduced: 3/26/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Hoeven, John

Amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placement are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held.*

H.Res. 577: Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 05/08/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

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. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Companion bill S.Res. 442.*

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H.Res 588: Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Introduced: 5/19/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Peterson, Collin C.

Resolution requests that the Congolese Government resume issuing exit permits for all children that have been adopted, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway; expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the USG and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process. *Status: Passed on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.*

S.Res. 456: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 5/22/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care. *Status: Agreed to on May 22, 2014.*

S. 2390: Foster Care Tax Credit Act

Introduced: 5/22/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi

Amends the Internal Revenue Code by creating a tax credit for foster families. Allows the tax credit for each calendar month that a qualifying foster youth resides in the home of an eligible taxpayer, up to \$1,000 per taxable year. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.*

H.R. 4885: Social Impact Bond Act

Introduced: 6/18/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Young, Todd
Rep. Delaney, John

Encourages and supports partnerships between public and private sectors to improve our nation's social programs. Allows State and local governments to submit proposals to the Secretary of the Treasury for social impact bond projects that produce measurable outcomes, resulting in social benefit and federal savings through: increasing the proportion of children living in two-parent families, reducing incidences of child abuse and neglect, increasing adoptions of children from foster care, reducing dependence of low-income families and individuals, and other positive social outcomes that result in federal savings. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Financial Services.*

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H.R. 4909: Permanent Families for All Children Act

Introduced: 6/19/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Langevin, James

To provide States with assistance in finding a permanent home for every child. Limits federal reimbursement to states for foster care maintenance payments for a child not in a legal guardianship, increases funding for caseworker training on child-focused recruitment and retention, reallocates unused savings for child welfare programs, and provides loan forgiveness for social workers. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

H.R. 4980: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

Introduced: 6/19/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Camp, Dave

A bill to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve the Adoption Incentives Program, and to improve international child support recovery. It amends the process for identifying, documenting and determining services for children and youth at risk of sex trafficking; requires States to report instances of sex trafficking and include the data in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System. Requires locating runaways from foster care. Requires child welfare agencies to promote "normalcy" for youth in foster care so that they may participate in age appropriate social, scholastic and enrichment activities. Eliminates the Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) as a permanency plan for foster youth under age 16 and requires documentation of efforts for family placement of any APPLA youth 16 and older. Reauthorizes the Adoption Incentives Program through FY2016 and improves the award structure through new rate-based and timely adoption incentivizes. Ensures access to child support services for international child support cases. Requires data standardization within the child support enforcement program, improving administration. *Status: Signed into law (Pub. L. 113-183) by President on 9/29/14.*

S. 2570: Tribal Adoption Parity Act

Introduced: 7/9/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Johnson, Tim

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to recognize Indian tribal governments for purposes of determining under the federal adoption tax credit whether a child has special needs. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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S. 2591: Girls Count Act of 2014

Introduced: 7/10/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco

Directs current U.S. foreign assistance to work to establish birth registries in their countries. Promotes programs that build the capacity of developing countries' national and local legal and policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against girls, and help increase property rights, social security, land tenure, and inheritance rights for women. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.*

S.Res.502: A resolution concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Introduced: 7/15/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Robert

Resolution requests that the Congolese Government resume issuing exit permits for all children that have been adopted, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway; expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the USG and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process. *Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 495.*

H.R. 5285: To ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

Introduced: 7/30/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Kelly, Mike

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

S. 2691: A bill to encourage and support partnerships between the public and private sectors to improve our nation's social programs, and for other purposes.

Introduced: 7/30/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Bennet, Michael

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2036: Foster Children Opportunity Act

Introduced: 5/16/2014

Sponsor: Rep. O'Rourke, Beto

The bill amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act. This amendment requires state plans for foster care and adoption assistance to have procedures to assist alien children in the child welfare system achieve special immigrant juvenile status and lawful permanent resident status before exiting foster care. *Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**S.1622: Alyce Spotted Bear and Watter Soboleff
Commission on Native Children Act**

Introduced: 10/30/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi

Establishes Commission on Native Children in the Office of Tribal Justice of the Department of Justice. The Commission is required to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs that serve Native American children including the impact of concurrent jurisdiction on the child welfare system. *Status: Reported by Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.*

H.R. 4704: To expand the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 to include combating the transfer of permanent custody or control of a minor in contravention of required legal procedure, and for other purposes

Introduced: 05/21/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice

Expands the definition of child exploitation. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.*

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