



## Foster Care and Adoption Legislation in the 112th Congress

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### **H.R.184: Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act of 2011**

Introduced: 1/5/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Joe

Repeals the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption tax credit and adoption assistance programs. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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### **H.R.32: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2011**

Introduced: 1/5/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Biggert, Judy

Amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to redefine “homeless,” “homeless individual,” or “homeless person” to include: (1) a child or youth who has been verified as homeless by a local educational agency (LEA) homeless liaison, and the family of such child or youth; (2) a youth verified as homeless by the director (or a designee) of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; (3) a child verified as homeless by the program director (or designee) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the child’s family; and (4) a child verified as homeless by the Head Start program director (or designee) under the Head Start Act, and the child’s family. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.*

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### **S.82: Tax Relief Guarantee Act**

Introduced: 1/25/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Johanns, Mike

Repeals the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs, to repeal the sunset of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with respect to increased dollar limitations for such credit and programs, and to allow the adoption credit to be claimed in the year expenses are incurred, regardless of when the adoption becomes final. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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### **H.R.616: Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2011**

Introduced: 2/10/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B.

Allows federal employees to substitute any available paid leave for any leave without pay available for either the: (1) birth of a child; or (2) placement of a child with the employee for either adoption or foster care. *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.*

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### **H.Res.87: Supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**

Introduced: 2/11/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Expresses support for the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month to raise awareness of teen dating violence in the United States. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.*

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### **S.336: Tax Relief Certainty Act of 2011**

Introduced: 2/14/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. DeMint, Jim

A bill to permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax relief provisions, and to permanently repeal the estate tax, and to provide permanent AMT relief, and for other purposes. Specifically, it extends excess of the adoption tax credit to the following taxable year. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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### **H.R.696: Tax Relief Certainty Act of 2011**

Introduced: 2/14/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Pence, Mike

A bill to permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax relief provisions, and to permanently repeal the estate tax, and to provide permanent AMT relief, and for other purposes. Specifically, it extends excess of the adoption tax credit to the following taxable year. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**S.416: North Korean Refugee Adoption Act of 2011**

Introduced: 2/28/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Burr, Richard

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, provide suggestions, 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: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.*

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**S.420: Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2011**

Introduced: 2/28/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary

Amends part B (Child-Welfare Services) of title IV of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to states to support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using networks of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care. Authorizes a grant award directly to a political subdivision if the subdivision serves a substantial number of foster care youth. *Status: Read twice and referred to Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.878: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals for legal expenses with respect to establishing guardianship of a disabled individual**

Introduced: 3/2/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Deutch, Theodore

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals for legal expenses paid with respect to establishing guardianship of a disabled individual by inserting Section 36D into Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A, which allows a credit of up to \$5,000 for qualified legal expenses incurred to establish legal guardianship of a disabled individual. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**S.571: Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2011**

Introduced: 3/14/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty

Amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's program of grants to states and, through them, subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the education of homeless youths to accomplish various goals, including (1) ensuring that homeless youth do not lose credits earned in other schools and are not segregated into separate schools or programs without schools; (2) requiring states, LEAs, and schools to promote success for homeless youth by holding them to the same achievement standards as other students and removing barriers to their full participation in all classes and school activities; (3) requiring schools to immediately enroll homeless youth despite unpaid fees or missed application or enrollment deadlines; (4) requiring LEAs to coordinate services provided to homeless and disabled youth; (5) protect the privacy of information about a homeless youth's living situation. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

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**S.596: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2011**

Introduced: 3/16/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron

A bill to establish a grant program to benefit victims of sex trafficking. In particular, this bill amends Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 by adding a requirement to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family or childcare institution. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

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**H.R.1194: To renew the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs**

Introduced: 3/17/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. McDermott, Jim

Amends the Social Security Act by permitting the Secretary, after receiving an application, to consider authorizing a demonstration project which is designed to identify and address domestic violence that endangers children and results in the placement of children in foster care. *Status: Passed the House of Representatives by voice vote, 5/31/2011; Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance, 6/6/2011.*

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**H.R.1253: Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2011**

Introduced: 3/30/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Biggert, Judy

Amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's program of grants to states and, through them, subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the education of homeless youths to accomplish various goals, including (1) ensuring that homeless youth do not lose credits earned in other schools and are not segregated into separate schools or programs without schools; (2) requiring states, LEAs, and schools to promote success for homeless youth by holding them to the same achievement standards as other students and removing barriers to their full participation in all classes and school activities; (3) requiring schools to immediately enroll homeless youth despite unpaid fees or missed application or enrollment deadlines; (4) requiring LEAs to coordinate services provided to homeless and disabled youth; (5) protect the privacy of information about a homeless youth's living situation. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.*

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**H.R.1464: North Korean Refugee Adoption Act of 2011**

Introduced: 4/8/2011

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, provide suggestions, 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: Bill passed in the House on 9/11/2012 and goes to the Senate next for consideration.*

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**H.R.1576: Dave Thomas Adoption Act of 2011**

Introduced: 4/15/2011

Sponsor: Rep. King, Peter T.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans for adoption expenses. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**H.R.1681: Every Child Deserves a Family Act**

Introduced: 5/3/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Stark, Fortney Pete

Prohibits the discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of a prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**H.Res.242: Recognizing May as "National Foster Care Month"**

Introduced: 5/3/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

Recognizes May as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors and the positive impact they have on children's lives. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**S.961: Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act of 2011**

Introduced: 5/12/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Kerry, John F.

Section 101 amends the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 671(a), to ensure that a child may not be placed in foster care solely because the family with which the child is living is homeless, is living in substandard housing, or is living in a dwelling unit that is experiencing severe physical problems. It also ensures that states work with the family and state housing authorities to secure permanent housing for a family that includes a minor child and is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Section 103 amends 42 U.S.C. 675(5)(C) by adding procedural safeguards to assure that the final permanency transition of a child from foster care to a planned, permanent living arrangement or independent living is held in a family or juvenile court of competent jurisdiction, and amends Case Plan Requirements under 42 U.S.C. 675 (1)(D) to include a written description of the programs and services that will facilitate the transition of a child who has attained fourteen years of age from foster care to independent living, such as age-appropriate adolescent health services, including services to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections as part of a general health plan. It also requires the Case Plan to include documentation of the steps the agency is taking to ensure permanent placement for the child, and in the case of a child who has attained seventeen years of age with a permanency goal of emancipation, the Case Plan shall include documentation of the child's permanent living arrangement upon emancipation.

Section 105 amends 24 C.F.R. 291 to provide that individuals who have been under the responsibility of the foster care system but are no longer under the foster care system due to having attained the age of majority and who have attained a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution in the United States are qualified to purchase a home in the Good Neighbor Next Door Sales Program.

Section 201 amends 42 U.S.C. 672 by adding to the definition of "child" an individual who has reached the legal age of majority but has not attained twenty-one years of age and is under the responsibility of the State. This increases eligibility for Foster Care Maintenance Payments and Adoption Assistance Payments. Section 202 increases funding for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (42 U.S.C. 677) and expands eligibility for services.

Section 502 requires that state agencies develop and implement procedures to ensure that, within 60 days after a child is in foster care the child is screened to determine potential eligibility for benefits under title II and for supplemental security income benefits under title XVI. Section 504 provides that with respect to each child in foster care who is a recipient of benefits under title II or supplemental security income benefits under title XVI, the State agency shall develop an individually designed plan to best meet the current and future needs of the child and enable the child to achieve self-support after leaving foster care. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**S.1013: State Child Welfare Innovation Act**

Introduced: 5/17/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max

Renews the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs. States may apply for a grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in order to receive a waiver for existing title IV-E foster care funds. To demonstrate eligibility, a State must identify particular goals such as increasing permanency, positive outcomes, and preventing child abuse and neglect for children in foster care. A state must also demonstrate implemented or planned child welfare program improvement policies. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.2012: Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2011**

Introduced: 5/26/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

Supports the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care. Specifically, it amends Subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act by authorizing the Secretary to make grants to eligible applicants to support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care. *Status: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training 9/8/11.*

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**H.R.2022: To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the recruitment and retention of foster parents in the United States**

Introduced: 5/26/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the recruitment and retention of foster parents of children served by any foster care program funded under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act. *Status: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Human Resources 6/6/11.*

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**S.Res.203: 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: 5/26/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Recognizes May as “National Foster Care Month” in order to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system and encourage Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. *Status: Passed in Senate 5/26/2011.*

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**H.R.2063: Look-back Elimination Act of 2011**

Introduced: 5/31/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Eliminates 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. *Status: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Human Resources 6/6/11.*

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**H.R.2193: Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2011**

Introduced: 6/15/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny

Amends title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income families, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training by House Education and the Workforce on 9/8/11.*

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**H.R.2230: Internet Gambling Regulation and Tax Enforcement Act of 2011**

Introduced: 6/16/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. McDermott, Jim

Amends the Social Security Act to establish the Transitional Assistance Trust Fund to finance state plans for transitional education and job training assistance to individuals who are, or were formerly, in foster care. Allocates 25% of the tax revenues received after December 31, 2010, that are attributable to Internet gambling to the Trust Fund. From the Transnational Assistance Fund, each state shall be entitled to a payment of its allotted amount for the fiscal year to be used to carry out the State’s plan for transnational assistance. A State plan for transnational assistance must provide for (1) expanded educational opportunities for individuals who are, or were formerly, in foster care; (2) job training opportunities for individuals who are, or were formerly, in foster care; (3) expanded post-secondary education and job training opportunities for individuals who are working in, or had worked in, declining sectors of the economy; and (4) subsidies for the use of public transportation by qualified individuals. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and 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.*

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**S.1234: Partners for Stable Families and Foster Youth Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse Act**

Introduced: 6/20/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck

Amends Title IV-B of the Social Security Act to reauthorize grants to assist families affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse under the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. The Secretary of Health and Human Services must evaluate the effectiveness of the grants no later than December 31, 2017 with regard to whether the grants have been successful in addressing the needs of families with methamphetamine or other substance abuse problems who come to the attention of the child welfare system and in achieving the goals of safety, permanence, and family stability. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.2346: Balancing Act of 2011**

Introduced: 6/23/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C.

Supports the enhancement of families through paid leave of new parents for family and medical leave, and seeks to expand and improve child care and the workplace for families. Title I Part I Section 113 lists paid leave for adoption or foster care parents for up to 12 weeks. *Status: House Committee on Education and the Workforce referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education 9/8/11.*

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**S.1301: Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2011**

Introduced: 6/29/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J.

Companion bill to H.R. 2830. Amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to require each Department of State regional bureau to annually submit a list of goals for combating trafficking in persons (trafficking) for each country in its geographic area of responsibility. Authorizes the Secretary of State to appoint anti-trafficking officers at U.S. embassies. Directs the President to establish programs with foreign governments and civil society to enhance anti-trafficking capacity. Provides a model state criminal law protection for child trafficking victims and survivors. Section 404 provides access to foster care and unaccompanied refugee minor protections for certain U visa (a visa for US immigrants who are victims of criminal activity) recipients. *Status: Reported to Committee by Senator Leahy from Committee on Judiciary filed written report 11/17/11.*

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**S.1318: Supporting Adoptive Families Act**

Introduced: 6/30/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy

Amends title IV-B (Child and Family Services) of the SSA to make it a purpose of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program to promote efforts to prevent children from entering the foster care system through the provision of pre- and post-adoptive services. Extends adoption promotion and support services to those designed to support adoptions from other countries as well as domestic adoptions. Amends the SSA title IV-E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) to revise requirements for state expenditures for adoption support services by allocating a significant portion to pre- and post-adoption services. Amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to develop and implement state-sponsored statewide or tribal post-adoption mental health service programs for all adopted children. Amends SSA title IV-D (Child Support and Establishment of Paternity) to direct the Secretary, as part of the child support and paternity data collection system, to promulgate final regulations requiring the states to collect and report information regarding children adopted within the United States or from other countries who enter into state custody as a result of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.2678: Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2011**

Introduced: 7/28/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille

Amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies. *Status: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Health 8/1/11.*

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**S.1437: Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2011**

Introduced: 7/28/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Boxer, Barbara

Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies. *Status: Read twice and referred to the House Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

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**H.R.2721: Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act**

Introduced: 8/1/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Scott, Robert

Provides evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce which referred to Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education 10/8/11.*

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**H.R.2370: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2011**

Introduced: 8/1/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

Amends part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means which referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources 8/15/11.*

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**S.1509: Promoting Accountability and Excellence in Child Welfare Act**

Introduced: 8/2/2011  
Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron

Provide incentives for States to improve the well-being of children in the child welfare system through systematic reforms and innovations, increased collaboration between State agencies, and incorporation of higher standards of accountability. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.2790: Child and Family Services Extension and Enhancement Act**

Introduced: 8/2/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Geoff

Amends part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend child and family services programs through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes. *Status: Sponsor introductory remarks on the measure. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means which referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources 8/15/11.*

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**H.R.2818: No Child Left Outside Act of 2011**

Introduced: 8/12/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Fudge, Marcia

Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide temporary housing during school breaks to students who are homeless or in foster care. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce which referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training 11/18/11.*

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**H.R.2830: Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2011**

Introduced: 8/30/2011  
Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Christopher

Companion bill to S. 1301. Amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to require each Department of State regional bureau to annually submit a list of goals for combating trafficking in persons (trafficking) for each country in its geographic area of responsibility. Authorizes the Secretary of State to appoint anti-trafficking officers at U.S. embassies. Directs the President to establish programs with foreign governments and civil society to enhance anti-trafficking capacity. Provides a model state criminal law protection for child trafficking victims and survivors. Section 404 provides access to foster care and unaccompanied refugee minor protections for certain U visa (a visa for US immigrants who are victims of criminal activity) recipients. *Status: Hearings held by House Energy and Commerce: Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe 11/2/11.*

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**S.1542: Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act**

Introduced: 9/12/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max

Companion bill to H.R. 2883. Amends the Social Security Act to extend through FY2016 the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, specified reservations of funds for monthly caseworker visits and regional partnership grants, and the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program. Removes the specification of methamphetamine for grants to children affected by substance abuse. Requires grants to the highest state courts through the Court Improvement Program to serve the purpose of increasing and improving engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption. Requires state case review systems to assure that each child in foster care under state responsibility who has attained age 16 receives gratis: (1) a copy of any consumer report pertaining to the child each year until the child is discharged from care, and (2) assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report. Authorizes a state to elect to establish a program to: (1) permit part SSA title IV part E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) foster care maintenance payments to a long-term therapeutic family treatment center on behalf of a child residing in the center, or (2) identify and address domestic violence that endangers children and results in the placement of children in foster care. *Status: Considered by the Committee on Finance, which has recommended it be considered by the Senate as a whole 9/20/11.*

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**H.R.2883: Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act**

Introduced: 9/12/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Geoff

Companion bill to S. 1542. Amends the Social Security Act to extend through FY2016 the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, specified reservations of funds for monthly caseworker visits and regional partnership grants, and the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program. Removes the specification of methamphetamine for grants to children affected by substance abuse. Requires grants to the highest state courts through the Court Improvement Program to serve the purpose of increasing and improving engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption. Requires state case review systems to assure that each child in foster care under state responsibility who has attained age 16 receives gratis: (1) a copy of any consumer report pertaining to the child each year until the child is discharged from care, and (2) assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report. Authorizes a state to elect to establish a program to: (1) permit part SSA title IV part E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) foster care maintenance payments to a long-term therapeutic family treatment center on behalf of a child residing in the center, or (2) identify and address domestic violence that endangers children and results in the placement of children in foster care. *Status: Signed by President 9/30/11.*

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**S.Res.302: A resolution expressing support for “National Adoption Day” and “National Adoption Awareness Month”**

Introduced: 10/20/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary

The Senate resolves to support the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month, recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family, and encourages the people of the United States to consider during the month of November and throughout the year. *Status: Passed with unanimous consent of the Senate 11/16/11.*

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**S.1770: Every Child Deserves a Family Act**

Introduced: 11/1/2011

Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten

A bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.3333: Foster Children Opportunity Act**

Introduced: 11/3/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Stark, Fortney

To amend part E of the Social Security Act to require States to help alien children in the child welfare system to apply for all available forms of immigration relief, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the House Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture 11/29/11.*

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**S.1904: Welfare Reform Act of 2011**

Introduced: 11/17/2011

Sponsor: Sen. DeMint, Jim

A bill to provide information on total spending on means-tested welfare programs, to provide additional work requirements, and to provide an overall spending limit on means-tested welfare programs. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

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**H.R.3589: Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2011**

Introduced: 12/7/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Christopher

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for the Trafficking Victims Protection act of 2000, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs's Subcommittee on Africa Global Health and Human Rights 2/3/12.*

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**H.R.3671: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012**

Introduced: 12/14/11

Sponsor: Rep. Rogers, Harold

Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to House Budget Committee.*

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**H.R.3741: Rilya Wilson Act**

Introduced: 12/20/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Frederica

To require State child welfare agencies to promptly report information on missing or abducted children to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee which referred to Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security 1/6/12.*

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**H.R.3873: Enhancing the Quality of Parental Legal Representation Act of 2011**

Introduced: 2/1/2012

Sponsor: Rep. Moore, Gwen

To provide funds to State courts for the provision of legal representation to parents and legal guardians with respect to child welfare cases. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**S.Res.378: A Resolution Expressing the Sense of the Senate that Children Should have a Safe Home**

Introduced: 2/15/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary

A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that children should have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family and that it is the policy of the United States that family reunification, kinship care, or domestic and intercountry adoption promotes permanency and stability to a greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, continually disrupted foster care. *Status: Passed Senate 2/15/12.*

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**H.R.4111: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain State foster care payments**

Introduced: 2/29/2012

Sponsor: Rep. Green, Raymond

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

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**H.R.4373: Making Adoption Affordable Act of 2012**

Introduced: 4/17/2012

Sponsor: Rep. Braley, Bruce

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the expansion of tax benefits for adoption enacted in 2001 and to permanently reinstate the expansion of tax benefits for adoption enacted in 2010. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**S.Res.462: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children in the foster care system, acknowledging the dedication of foster care parents, advocates, and workers, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system**

Introduced: 5/16/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Supports the designation of May as National Foster Care Month and recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by foster youth children, to acknowledge the dedication of those involved in the foster care system, and to encourage Congress to implement policies devoted to improving the lives of foster care children. *Status: Passed Senate 6/4/12.*

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**H.Res.659: Recognizing the goals and ideals of National Foster Care Month**

Introduced: 5/16/2012

Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

Supports the goals and ideals of May as National Foster Care Month and recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness of the ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience of foster youth children facing life challenges, to honor the efforts of those involved in improving the foster care system, and to reaffirm the need for Congress to address programs to support vulnerable children and families. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**H.Res.660: Expressing support for designation of December 12, 2012, as Foster Children's Day**

Introduced: 5/16/2012  
Sponsor: Rep. Pallone, Frank Jr.

A resolution expressing support for the designation of Foster Children's Day to recognize the unique needs and experiences of children in the foster care system and to provide an opportunity for the government, private organizations, and the general public to engage in charitable efforts focused on acknowledging that these foster children are important and loved. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.*

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**S.3231: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act of 2012**

Introduced: 5/23/2012  
Sponsor: Sen. Kerry, John F.

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. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.*

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**H.R.5868: Fostering Success in Education Act**

Introduced: 5/30/2012  
Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

A bill to provide foster care children with school stability and equal access to educational opportunities by requiring that each state receiving school improvement funds under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ensure that fair and impartial procedures are used to promptly resolve school selection disputes, and to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require that state child welfare agencies provide for the transportation necessary for children in foster care to remain in their previous school. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means.*

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**H.R.5876: Increasing Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care Act**

Introduced: 5/31/2012  
Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K.

A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to provide educational stability for foster care children by including obligations to collaborate with child welfare agencies, procedures for credit transfer, and transportation assistance. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services and Ways and Means.*

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**S.3295: Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013**

Introduced: 6/14/2012  
Sponsor: Sen. Harkin, Thomas

Makes appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for Fiscal Year 2013, including payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV-E of the Social Security Act for foster care and permanency. *Status: Reported by Committee.*

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**S. 3321: Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2012**

Introduced: 6/20/2012  
Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Companion bill to H.R. 6035. Establishes a National Responsible Father Registry and encourages States to agree to establish an automated State Responsible Father Registry and centers that make registration forms easily accessible to possible fathers. *Status: Referred to Committee on Finance.*

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**S.3331: Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012**

Introduced: 6/21/2012  
Sponsor: Sen. Kerry, John F.

Promotes universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards by requiring that title II and section 404 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 apply to any person providing child adoption services to the same extent as they apply to a Convention adoption. *Status: Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Sent to Senate for consideration as a whole on 9/19/2012.*

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**H.R.6027: Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012**

Introduced: 6/26/2012  
Sponsor: Rep. Sires, Albio

Promotes universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards by requiring that title II and section 404 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 apply to any person providing child adoption services to the same extent as they apply to a Convention adoption. *Status: Referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.*

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**H.R.6035: Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2012**

Introduced: 6/27/2012  
Sponsor: Rep. Richardson, Laura

Companion bill to S. 3321. Establishes a National Responsible Father Registry and encourages States to agree to establish an automated State Responsible Father Registry and centers that make registration forms easily accessible to possible fathers. *Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Human Resources.*

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**S.3616 Making Adoption Affordable Act**

Introduced: 9/21/2012  
Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the expansion of tax benefits for adoption enacted in 2001 and reinstate permanently the tax benefits for adoption enacted in 2010. *Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.*

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