



DIVISION X—SUPPORTING FOSTER YOUTH AND FAMILIES THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Prepared by Staff of the House Committee on Ways & Means

Section 1001. This section provides for the short title.

Section 1002. This section defines terms used throughout the section, including the “public health emergency period,” which begins April 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021.

Section 1003. This section provides an additional \$350 million for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee), and an additional \$50 million for the John H. Chafee Educational and Training Vouchers Program for Youths Aging out of Foster Care (Chafee ETV) without additional appropriations action, and waives the state match requirement for these additional funds. It also increases the maximum Chafee ETV award amount from \$5,000 up to \$12,000 per youth per year for training and postsecondary education for eligible foster youth, exempts National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) penalty assessments from these additional funds, and raises the maximum age through 26 for Chafee-eligible former foster youth. It also reserves funding for technical assistance, evaluation, and monitoring of state child welfare programs, including \$500,000 to help them set up youth driving programs. It temporarily provides the following necessary programmatic flexibilities for older youth in foster care:

- Suspends certain training and postsecondary education requirements,
- Clarifies that under these provisions the Chafee ETV vouchers may be used to maintain training and postsecondary education costs, as well as to support programs to allow foster youth to drive, and
- Lifts the 30 percent spending cap on housing costs

Section 1004. This section provides older foster youth who would normally “age out” with the assurance that they may continue to receive foster care supports and services during the pandemic, or, if they left, may return. It permits states to use pandemic Chafee funds to offset the cost of meeting this requirement for youth for whom federal foster care matching is not available.



Section 1005. This section temporarily waives the match for Family First Prevention Services until the end of the public health emergency period.

Section 1006. This section provides an additional \$85 million in emergency FY 2021 funding for the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, which would be available through the end of FY 2021, waives state matching requirements for the emergency funds, and specifies that FY 2022 funding would be provided at the non-emergency level.

Section 1007. This section reserves \$10 million from the \$85 million in the preceding section for the federal Court Improvement Program and waives the state matching requirement for the emergency funds.

Section 1008. This section temporarily waives the required state match and the requirement that the specific model be in the federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse for kinship navigator programs funded with FY 2020 funds. The section maintains requires that programs which are not in the Clearinghouse be under evaluation, or begin an evaluation, in order to be funded. The evaluation costs are included in the costs federal funds

Section 1009. This section makes a technical correction to Title IV-E treatment of the 6.2% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate increase from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act such that it applies to the baseline based on annual average FMAP rate in the state for FY2020 and FY2021, to ensure access to Funding Certainty Grants.

Section 1010. This section provides needed flexibilities to home visiting programs funded by the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program, to allow them to serve at-risk pregnant women and families during the pandemic, for the duration of the public health emergency period.

Section 1011. This section makes a technical correction to provide the District of Columbia with the same adjustment to their matching rate for services provided under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act as states.