



ON THE FLOOR THIS WEEK:

Ways and Means Legislation to Strengthen Families and Help Americans Move from Welfare to Work

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Our nation's child welfare system helps ensure our most vulnerable children can grow up in a safe, stable home. Today's system focuses on using foster care as the ultimate solution – instead of keeping families together and delivering the best results for children. House Republicans have been working to improve the system so that it strengthens families and keeps more children safely at home, rather than in foster care. This week we will consider five bills that take action to strengthen America's families and communities.

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

Sponsored by Reps. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and Danny Davis (D-IL)

Reduces the time it takes to place foster children across state lines with a family member, foster parent, or adoptive parent by requiring states to implement the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) system for exchanging information

Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act (H.R. 2866)

Sponsored by Reps. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Terri Sewell (D-AL)

Reinforces flexibility in foster care licensing rules to place more children with relatives rather than with foster parents

Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act (H.R. 2847)

Sponsored by Reps. John Faso (R-NY) and Karen Bass (D-CA)

Maximizes the availability of support for older foster youth making the transition to adulthood by updating the Chafee Foster Care program

Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act (H.R. 2857)

Sponsored by Reps. Kristi Noem (R-SD) and Judy Chu (D-CA)

Allows children to remain with a parent who is in a residential-based family substance abuse treatment facility

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

Sponsored by Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL) and Kristi Noem (R-SD)

Strengthens regional partnership grants to more effectively help communities address the impacts of substance abuse

HELPING MORE AMERICANS MOVE FROM WELFARE TO WORK

House Republicans know that the surest way out of poverty is a job. However, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the labor force participation rate is at a near forty-year low while job openings are at the highest level since the government began tracking in 2000. The question is – how do we connect out-of-work Americans with employers who want and need to fill job openings?

This week we are moving forward with solutions to bridge the gap, helping low-income Americans transition out of welfare and into the workforce.

Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act (H.R. 2842)

Sponsored by Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) and Danny Davis (D-IL)

Encourages employer-led partnerships with state and local agencies to hire recipients from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, providing recipients with highly-valued work experience and on-the-job training, including apprenticeships

House Republicans will continue our efforts to reform our nation's welfare system based on four key principles laid out in "A Better Way to Fight Poverty":

- **Expect those who can work to work in exchange for benefits:** Work—especially full-time work—is the surest way out of poverty. Many welfare programs provide benefits to alleviate immediate need, yet few provide low-income individuals the tools they need to succeed in the workforce and move up the economic ladder. Our welfare system should encourage work-capable welfare recipients to work or prepare for work in exchange for benefits and states should be held accountable for helping welfare recipients find jobs and stay employed.
- **Get incentives right:** Under our current system, states and other service providers may lose money when someone leaves welfare for work, meaning they're better off failing than succeeding. And given the way our welfare system works now, some welfare recipients become financially worse off from working. Our welfare system should ensure everyone is better off when someone leaves welfare for work.
- **Focus on results of welfare programs:** Under our current system, the success of federal welfare programs is often defined by how many recipients are enrolled and how much money is spent. Yet very few programs, if any, are measured by whether or not they are delivering their intended results of helping people out of poverty. If our welfare system is going to be successful, we must ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent on programs that are proven to make a difference for individuals and families. Success should be defined not by how many welfare recipients there are but by how many people move off welfare and into the workforce for the long-term.
- **Improve integrity to preserve welfare benefits for those most in need:** Our current welfare system is too complex, outdated, and inefficient. According to government watchdogs, the system spends millions of dollars in welfare benefits on individuals who are ineligible for the programs—reducing resources for those who truly need assistance and frustrating taxpayers who are expected to foot the bill. By using technology to prevent fraud and abuse, our nation's welfare programs can be better focused on those who truly need help to move their families forward.