



Chafee Foster Care Reforms

Improving Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Members of the Ways and Means Committee introduced bills to modernize the *John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood* (“Chafee”). These bipartisan reforms would improve outcomes for youth aging out of foster care by creating stronger connections to housing, education and workforce programs, and other critical supports.

- **H.R.7432, “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act” – Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI):** Improves access to housing for youth aging out of foster care, and former foster youth, by strengthening coordination between Chafee and the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing voucher program. Aligns age eligibility between both programs, updates the existing 30 percent cap on room or board to exclude housing supportive services, and requires joint federal guidance to clarify rules and coordination of child welfare and housing services at the local level.
- **H.R.7343, “Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act” – Rep. Max Miller (R-OH) and Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA):** Expands flexibility in the Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) program to allow youth to access short-term workforce and vocational training and credentialing programs. Further expands ETVs for the costs of apprenticeships, GED, and remedial education, and provides one additional year of eligibility if used for remedial education.
- **H.R.7463, “Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act” – Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) and Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX):** Increases the individual cap on ETV vouchers from \$5,000 to \$12,000 per student annually, while maintaining current funding levels for ETVs and permits states to establish a grace period for youth to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward completion of a program, after an assessment and consultation with the youth.
- **H.R.7529, “Fresh Starts for Foster Youth Act” – Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) and Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL):** Improves access to legal services for youth and ensures states have processes in place to take into consideration legal issues impacting foster youth, such as housing, education, employment entry, and family conditions, as part of case planning in their transition to adulthood.
- **H.R.7655, “Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act” – Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL):** Improves access to home visiting services offered through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program for youth in foster care who are expecting or parenting. Permits states to use Chafee funds to provide specialized case management to expectant and parenting foster youth.
- **H.R.7995, “Chafee Opportunities for New Networks and Existing Connection Trust (CONNECT) Act” – Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH):** Updates Chafee purposes to reflect the importance of foster youth establishing meaningful connections with adults and other lifelong support networks. Adds a new purpose to clarify that Chafee funds may be used to help foster youth engage in their own permanency process and planning for independence.