



## **H.R. 7432, *Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act*** Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)

### **Background:**

- Access to stable housing is one of the biggest barriers for youth aging out of foster care. One estimate found that nearly **35% of former foster youth experienced homelessness by age 21**.
- The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (“Chafee”) is a federal program that supports current and former foster youth, ages 14 to 21, in their transition to independence in adulthood.
- Federal housing assistance is also available for former foster youth, ages 18 to 26, through the Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher program, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **Lack of coordination between these key Federal programs has made housing vouchers difficult to access** and many youth are unaware of the programs. Another barrier is **lack of supportive services** which are required by FUP and FYI as a condition of eligibility.
  - In 2023, HUD’s Office of Inspector General found many public housing authorities could not secure supportive services needed from child welfare agencies for the full duration of a voucher due to differences in age eligibility.

### **H.R.7432, *Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act*:**

- Improves alignment between Chafee and Federal housing programs to expand access to vouchers and supportive services by:
  - **Aligning age eligibility between Chafee and housing vouchers** by allowing states to use Chafee funds for supportive services until **age 26**.
  - **Permitting states to use Chafee funds to pay for supportive services** for youth receiving a FUP or FYI voucher, outside of the 30% cap on room or board.
  - **Provides additional flexibility** by allowing states to spend a rolling average over five years on room or board as opposed to 30% for each fiscal year.
- Strengthens Federal coordination by requiring **joint guidance from HUD and HHS** to clarify policies to improve access to housing for youth who have experienced foster care and share best practices.

**Endorsed By:** More than 150 national, state, and local organizations including the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, Journey to Success, Think of Us, and iFoster.