



## **H.R. 7463, *Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act***

Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX)

### **Background:**

- Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) provide current and former foster youth with up to \$5,000 per year for postsecondary education.
- **Only 8% to 12% of foster youth earn a two-or four-year degree by their mid-20s compared to 49% of their peers.** ETVs help offset the costs of higher education for youth to support academic success and completion.
- Foster youth face unique challenges as they transition to college. For example, at a Ways and Means Work and Welfare Subcommittee roundtable on the Chafee program, a former foster youth shared how she worked three jobs while in college and tried to support her siblings still in foster care.
- **Many foster youth are also unaware of Chafee ETVs** causing them to forgo attending college altogether.

### **H.R. 7463, *Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act:***

- Provides greater educational support for foster youth by increasing the maximum individual ETV cap from **\$5,000 to \$12,000** per student annually, while **maintaining current funding levels.**
- Permits a state to establish a **grace period** for foster youth not meeting satisfactory academic progress requirements, after an assessment and consultation with the youth and a determination that reasonable circumstances warrant a grace period.
- Requires a state to make reasonable efforts to inform youth about ETVs and to **create a simple, user-friendly standardized application form**, which must be available electronically.

**Endorsed By:** More than 150 national, state, and local organizations including Journey to Success, Think of Us, iFoster, Child Welfare League of America, and FosterClub.