



H.R. 7655, *Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act* **Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN), Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)**

Background:

- The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (“Chafee”) supports current and former foster youth, ages 14 to 21, as they transition to independence in adulthood.
- Nearly **70% of females in foster care experience pregnancy by age 21** compared to just 34% of their peers. However, many have limited parenting skills and knowledge of child development.
- States often fail to identify these youth and miss opportunities to connect them to existing resources provided by **the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program**. MIECHV funds evidence-based home visiting models that serve expectant and new parents with the goal of improving the health and well-being of the child and family.
- Connecting expectant and parenting foster youth to programs like MIECHV can **prevent an intergenerational cycle of child welfare involvement** and improve maternal and child health outcomes for this vulnerable population.

H.R. 7655, *Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act:*

- Adds a new purpose to the Chafee program to include connecting expectant and parenting foster youth to **home visiting and support services offered by MIECHV**.
- Adds a new state plan requirement to include a certification that the state has processes in place to ensure that a foster youth who is expectant or parenting is provided with **information about how to access MIECHV-funded services in their state**.
- Permits a state to use Chafee funds to provide expectant or parenting foster youth with **tailored, specialized case management services**.

Endorsed By: More than 150 national, state, and local organizations including Chagent (formerly Nurse-Family Partnership), Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families America, National Coalition for Child and Family Well-Being, Journey to Success, Think of Us, iFoster, Child Welfare League of America, FosterClub, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Human Services Association, and National Association of Counties.