

Child Abuse and Neglect and Foster Care Legislation in the 113th U.S. Congress

[S. 3472: Uninterrupted Scholars Act \(USA\)](#)

Introduced: 08/01/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Expands a provision set forth by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which prohibits the Dept. of Education from funding agencies or institutions that release student educational records to any individual, agency, or organization without written parental consent. FERPA now includes agency caseworkers, other state representatives, local child welfare agencies, and tribal organizations authorized to access a student's case plan when they are legally responsible for the student. However, it does permit the release of records if the child is in a court proceeding involving child abuse, neglect, or dependency matters. *Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 112-278) by the President 1/14/2013*

[H.R. 102: Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 01/03/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Conyers, John

Provides that upon a child's removal from parental custody, all adults and relatives of a child will be notified. The communication will seek to discover whether the relatives or adults would be eligible to provide foster care for the child. Within 90 days after a state has made a decision about a child's custody, all adults or relatives interested in caring for the child will be notified of the decision. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources.*

[S. 237: Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act](#)

Introduced: 02/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa

Amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention and Services Program. Repurposes resources to educate adoption and foster care agency officials about available and necessary services for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Many of these programs are designed specifically to identify, treat, and educate those with FASD. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

H.R. 680: Rilya Wilson Act

Introduced: 02/13/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Frederica S.

Amends Title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that State child welfare agencies will have to report information on missing or abducted children to law enforcement authorities. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.*

H.R. 1690: Child Protection Act of 2013

Introduced: 04/23/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Vargas, Juan

Strengthens the statute barring sex trafficking of minors by eliminating the “knowledge of age” element of the crime. Known as *Hazel’s Law*, the bill is named after a child sex trafficking victim whose case was delayed while prosecutors struggled to prove that the trafficker knew the victim was a minor. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.*

H.R. 1732: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013

Introduced: 04/25/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better equip the State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

H.Res. 203: Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: Rep. Bass, Karen

Sponsor: 05/7/2013

Supports the designation of National Foster Care Month and recognizes this month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children in the foster care system face. Also encourages Congress to implement policy that will improve the lives of children in the foster care system. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

H.R. 2036: Foster Children Opportunity Act

Introduced: 05/16/2013

Sponsor: Rep. O'Rourke, Beto

To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to help alien children in the child welfare system apply for all available forms of immigration relief before exiting foster care. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Nutrition.*

S.Res. 147: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 05/16/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Supports the designation of May 2013 as National Foster Care Month. Recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children in the foster care system face. Encourages Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of these children in the foster care system. *Status: Passed Senate without amendment on May 16, 2013.*

H.R. 2028: Every Child Deserves a Family Act

Introduced: 05/16/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status for a prospective adoptive or foster parent. Also prohibits discrimination regarding placement of a child based on the child's sexual orientation or gender identity. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Companion Bill to S. 1069.*

H.R. 2108: Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act

Introduced: 05/22/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Amends Title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to inform students who indicate on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form that they are or were in the foster care system that they may be eligible for federal aid, including the specific programs they may be eligible for. Requires the Secretary to provide foster youth with that information on the Dept. of Education's website. *Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Training.*

H.R. 2111: Look-back Elimination Act of 2013

Introduced: 05/22/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to eliminate the requirement that, to be eligible for foster care maintenance payments, a child would have been eligible for aid under the former program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children at the time of removal from the home. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

[S. 1069: Every Child Deserves a Family Act](#)

Introduced: 05/23/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E.

Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status for a prospective adoptive or foster parent. Also prohibits discrimination regarding placement of a child based on the child's sexual orientation or gender identity. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion Bill to H.R. 2028.*

[S. 1047: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 05/23/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck

A bill to increase funding for effective programs aimed at improving permanency outcomes for foster care youth by providing for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the U.S. Postal Service. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Companion Bill to H.R. 2149.*

[H.R. 2149: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 05/23/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Conyers, John, Jr.

A bill to increase funding for effective programs aimed at improving permanency outcomes for foster care youth by providing for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the U.S. Postal Service. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Companion Bill to S. 1047.*

[H.R. 2144: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 05/23/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Braley, Bruce L.

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Companion Bill to S. 1056.*

[S. 1056: Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 05/23/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr.

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion Bill to H.R. 2144.*

[S. 1094: Strengthening America's Schools Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/04/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Harkin, Thomas

A bill to create better stability for a child that has to move to a new school district as a result of placement in foster care. *Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 218.*

[S. 1118: Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable state child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Companion Bill to H.R. 2744.*

[H.R. 2604: Help Separated Families Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 06/28/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that immigration status alone does not disqualify a parent, legal guardian, or relative from being a placement for a foster child. Authorizing discretion to a State, county, or other political subdivision of a State to delay filing for termination of parental rights in foster care cases in which an otherwise fit and willing parent or legal guardian has been deported or is involved in (including detention pursuant to) an immigration proceeding. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

[H.R. 2744: Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 07/18/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Paulsen, Erik

To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Companion Bill to S. 1118.*

[S. 1511: Removing Barriers to Adoption and Supporting Families Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 09/17/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Rockefeller, John D.

A bill to amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove barriers to the adoption of children in foster care through reauthorizations of adoption incentive payments, and other improvements including post-adoption services and sibling placements. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance*

[S. 1518: Improving Outcomes for Youth At Risk for Sex Trafficking Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 09/18/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G.

A bill that addresses the risks that makes youth vulnerable to sex trafficking, and introduces different means to prevent sex trafficking. Focus on improvements in the foster care system: the need for stable placements and normalcy. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.*

[H.R. 3124: Investing in Permanency for Youth in Foster Care Act](#)

Introduced: 09/18/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K.

To amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentive payments program to incentive payments for foster child exits to reunification, adoption, and guardianship, and for other purposes. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

[H.R. 3491: Internet Gambling Regulation and Tax Enforcement Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 11/14/2013

Sponsor: Rep. McDermott, Jim

Section 2202(C)(1) and (2): Transitional assistance grant program. Provides for expanded education opportunities and job training opportunities for individuals who are, or were formerly, in foster care. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

[S. 1722: National Child Protecting Training Act](#)

Introduced: 11/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Pryor, Mark L.

A bill to improve the training of child protection professionals through establishments of regional training centers. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

H.R. 3530: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014

Introduced: 11/19/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Poe, Ted

Amends criminal code to impose additional penalty for persons convicted for sexual exploitation and other abuse of children. Allots funds for victims of child pornography. Authorizes grants for programs that rescue and restore victims of trafficking. *Status: Passed House. Received in the Senate 5/21/2014. Companion bill to S. 1738.*

S. 1738: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014

Introduced: 11/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John

Amends criminal code to impose additional penalty for persons convicted for sexual exploitation and other abuse of children. Allots funds for victims of child pornography. Authorizes grants for programs that rescue and restore victims of trafficking. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Companion bill to H.R. 3530.*

H.R. 3547: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014

Introduced: 11/20/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Lamar

Sets the federal budget for fiscal year 2014. Expands a provision that apportions four million dollars to the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services for the creation of child-focused adoptive parent recruitment grants. Also, none of the funds under the "International Military Education and Training" may be verified for assistance for the Guatemalan children and American adoptive parents pending since 2007. (Section 7045,C) Amends Sec, 7083 Section 101 b1fi of the Immigration and Nationality Act by striking "at least twenty-five years of age, at least 1 of whom personally saw and observed the child before and during the adoption proceedings." The definition of "orphan" has also been changed found in INA. (Sec. 416) *Status: Signed into law (Pub.L. 113-76) by the President on 1/17/2014.*

S. 1754: Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

Introduced: 11/21/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty

A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and foster children. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

[S. 1823: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013](#)

Introduced: 12/13/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco

Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Companion bill to H.R. 1732.*

[S. 1876: Strengthening And Finding Families for Children Act](#)

Introduced: 12/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to revise the adoption incentives grant program to determine the payments using a new formula and extend the program through FY2016. *Status: Referred to Senate committee. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

[S. 1878: Protecting Youth At-Risk for Sex Trafficking Act](#)

Introduced: 12/19/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Baucus, Max

A bill that Supports At-Risk Children Act Title I: Strengthening and finding Families for Children. It Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives grant program through FY 2016. Also repeals the state incentive eligibility requirements, replaces determination of numbers of adoption based on Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data, and creates a new formula for determining adoption incentive payments. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

[H.R. 3915: to direct the Secretary of Education to modify the FAFSA to include a space for the purpose of identifying whether a student is a foster youth, and for other purposes](#)

Introduced: 1/16/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Grayson, Alan

A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to adjust the FAFSA to include whether a student is a foster youth. Its purpose is to amend Section 438(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965. *Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

[S. 1992: Quality Foster Care Services Act of 2014](#)

Introduced: 02/04/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy

Amends Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid. *Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.*

H.R. 4016: Quality Foster Care Service Act of 2014

Introduced: 02/06/2014

Sponsor: Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L.

Quality Foster Care Service Act of 2014. *Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. Companion bill to S. 1992*

H.R. 4058: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act

Introduced: 02/14/2014

Sponsor(s): Rep. Doggett, Lloyd

Rep. Reichert, David

This bill builds on H.R. 2744 and H.R. 1732, and would improve the lives of youth in foster care by ensuring they have more normal opportunities and experiences, while providing them with tools they need to become successful adults. Also includes procedures to identify foster youth who are victims of domestic sex trafficking and to determine appropriate State action and services to provide. *Status: Passed House. Received in the Senate.*

H.Res. 577: Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 05/08/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen

Recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Companion bill S.Res. 442.*

S.Res. 456: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month

Introduced: 5/22/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary L.

Resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care. *Status: Agreed to on May 22, 2014.*

S. 2390: Foster Care Tax Credit Act

Introduced: 5/22/2014

Sponsor: Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi

Amends the Internal Revenue Code by creating a tax credit for foster families. Allows the tax credit for each calendar month that a qualifying foster youth resides in the home of an eligible taxpayer, up to \$1,000 per taxable year. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Finance.*

H.R. 4885: Social Impact Bond Act

Introduced: 6/18/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Young, Todd

Rep. Delaney, John

Encourages and supports partnerships between public and private sectors to improve our nation's social programs. Allows State and local governments to submit proposals to the Secretary of the Treasury for social impact bond projects that produce measurable outcomes, resulting in social benefit and federal savings through: increasing the proportion of children living in two-parent families, reducing incidences of child abuse and neglect, increasing adoptions of children from foster care, reducing dependence of low-income families and individuals, and other positive social outcomes that result in federal savings. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Financial Services.*

H.R. 4909: Permanent Families for All Children Act

Introduced: 6/19/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Langevin, James

To provide States with assistance in finding a permanent home for every child. Limits federal reimbursement to states for foster care maintenance payments for a child not in a legal guardianship, increases funding for caseworker training on child-focused recruitment and retention, reallocates unused savings for child welfare programs, and provides loan forgiveness for social workers. *Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

H.R. 4980: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

Introduced: 6/19/2014

Sponsor: Rep. Camp, Dave

A bill to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve the Adoption Incentives Program, and to improve international child support recovery. It amends the process for identifying, documenting and determining services for children and youth at risk of sex trafficking; requires States to report instances of sex trafficking and include the data in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System. Requires locating runaways from foster care.

Requires child welfare agencies to promote "normalcy" for youth in foster care so that they may participate in age appropriate social, scholastic and enrichment activities. Eliminates the Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) as a permanency plan for foster youth under age 16 and requires documentation of efforts for family

placement of any APPLA youth 16 and older. Reauthorizes the Adoption Incentives Program through FY2016 and improves the award structure through new rate-based and timely adoption incentivizes. Ensures access to child support services for international child support cases. Requires data standardization within the child support enforcement program, improving administration.

Status: Signed into law (Pub. L. 113-183) by President on 9/29/14.

H.R. 2036: Foster Children Opportunity Act

Introduced: 5/16/2014

Sponsor: Rep. O'Rourke, Beto

The bill amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act. This amendment requires state plans for foster care and adoption assistance to have procedures to assist alien children in the child welfare system achieve special immigrant juvenile status and lawful permanent resident status before exiting foster care. *Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.*
