

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7463

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to increase the maximum education and training voucher amount and provide greater support for foster youth pursuing postsecondary education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Ms. CHU (for herself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to increase the maximum education and training voucher amount and provide greater support for foster youth pursuing postsecondary education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foster Youth Postsec-
5 ondary Education Access and Success Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
 2 **VOUCHER AMOUNT AND PROVISION OF**
 3 **GREATER SUPPORT FOR FOSTER YOUTH**
 4 **PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(i) of the Social Secu-
 6 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) by striking “training program” and in-
 9 serting “training program (except that the
 10 State may establish a grace period to allow a
 11 youth to continue participation in activities de-
 12 scribed in subsection (i)(4)(A), after an assess-
 13 ment and consultation with the youth, if the
 14 State determines that reasonable circumstances
 15 warrant the grace period),”;

16 (B) by striking “that program” and insert-
 17 ing “that education or training program”; and

18 (C) by striking “the program” and insert-
 19 ing “the voucher program”; and

20 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “\$5,000”
 21 and inserting “\$12,000”.

22 (b) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Health and
 23 Human Services, in consultation with youth who have ex-
 24 perience foster care, shall develop and issue model guid-
 25 ance to States and jurisdictions receiving allotments under
 26 section 477(c) of the Social Security Act for implementa-

tion of the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) of this section.

SEC. 3. IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND YOUTH AWARENESS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) The State shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that eligible youth are aware of potential benefits provided under this subsection, including by coordinating with programs funded under subsection (h)(1).

“(8) The program shall include a simplified, user-tested, and standard form for youth to use to apply for vouchers under the program, using standard terminology, that is easily accessible and available electronically.”.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 477(d)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State to which an amount is paid from its allotment under subsection (c)(1) may use the amount in any manner that is reasonably calculated to accomplish the purposes of this section, including outreach related to subsection

1 (i)(7). A State to which an amount is paid from its
2 allotment under subsection (c)(3) may use the
3 amount for any purpose related to the program de-
4 scribed in subsection (i)(7).”.

5 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
7 on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act.

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