

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4556

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to modify case plan requirements for children in foster care, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2026

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to modify case plan requirements for children in foster care, and for other purposes.

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 “Informed Foster Youth  
5       Act of 2026”.

6       **SEC. 2. CASE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 475 of the Social Security  
8       Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended—

9               (1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking the period  
10       at the end and inserting “, including any services

1 that meet the child's needs and are available to the  
2 child under the State program carried out pursuant  
3 to section 477."; and

4 (2) in paragraph (5)—

5 (A) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-  
6 serting the following:

7 “(D) a child's health and education record  
8 (as described in paragraph (1)(C)) is reviewed  
9 and updated, and a copy of the record is sup-  
10 plied to the foster parent or foster care provider  
11 with whom the child is placed, at the time of  
12 each placement of the child in foster care, and  
13 is supplied, free of cost, to—

14 “(i) the foster parent or foster care  
15 provider with whom the child is placed, at  
16 the time of each placement of the child in  
17 foster care;

18 “(ii) the child, if the child has at-  
19 tained 14 years of age, at the time of each  
20 placement of the child in foster care or not  
21 less often than once every 12 months; and

22 “(iii) the child at the time the child  
23 leaves foster care if the child is leaving fos-  
24 ter care by reason of having attained the  
25 age of majority under State law;”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (H)—

2 (i) by striking “that is personalized”  
3 and all that follows through “; and”; and  
4 inserting “that—

5 “(i) is personalized at the direction of  
6 the child, includes specific options on hous-  
7 ing, health insurance, education, local op-  
8 portunities for mentors and continuing  
9 support services, and work force supports  
10 and employment services;

11 “(ii) includes information about—

12 “(I) the eligibility of former fos-  
13 ter children for medical assistance  
14 under title XIX and on how to enroll  
15 in a State plan or waiver under such  
16 title for such assistance and on how to  
17 obtain assistance with enrolling in  
18 such plan or waiver; and

19 “(II) the importance of desig-  
20 nating another individual to make  
21 health care treatment decisions on be-  
22 half of the child if the child becomes  
23 unable to participate in such decisions  
24 and the child does not have, or does  
25 not want, a relative who would other-

1 wise be authorized under State law to  
2 make such decisions; and

3 “(iii) provides the child with the op-  
4 tion to execute a health care power of at-  
5 torney, health care proxy, or other similar  
6 document recognized under State law, and  
7 is as detailed as the child may elect; and”;  
8 and

9 (C) by striking subparagraph (I) and in-  
10 serting the following:

11 “(I) each child in foster care under the re-  
12 sponsibility of the State who—

13 “(i) has attained 14 years of age—

14 “(I) is informed in an age-appro-  
15 priate way of services available to the  
16 child under the State program carried  
17 out pursuant to section 477, including  
18 in every meeting between a case-  
19 worker and the child and at every  
20 court or administrative hearing held  
21 with respect to the child that requires  
22 the attendance of the child; and

23 “(II) receives without cost—

24 “(aa) a copy of any con-  
25 sumer report (as defined in sec-

tion 603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act) pertaining to the child, each year until the child is discharged from care, and assistance (including, when feasible, from any court-appointed advocate for the child) in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the consumer report;

“(bb) if the child is eligible to receive such document, an official or certified copy of the United States birth certificate of the child and a Social Security card issued by the Commissioner of Social Security, except that the child may request that 1 or both of such documents be safely retained by the State for any length of time while the child remains in foster care under the responsibility of the State;

“(cc) if the child is eligible to receive such a document, a driver’s license or identification

1 card issued by a State in accord-  
2 ance with the requirements of  
3 section 202 of the REAL ID Act  
4 of 2005, or assistance with ob-  
5 taining such license or card; and

6 “(dd) official documentation  
7 necessary to prove the child is in  
8 foster care; and

9 “(ii) is leaving foster care by reason  
10 of having attained 18 years of age or such  
11 greater age as the State has elected under  
12 paragraph (8) is not discharged from care  
13 without being provided with, at no cost to  
14 the child—

15 “(I) a copy of any consumer re-  
16 port (as defined in section 603(d) of  
17 the Fair Credit Reporting Act) per-  
18 taining to the child and assistance (in-  
19 cluding, when feasible, from any  
20 court-appointed advocate for the  
21 child) in interpreting and resolving  
22 any inaccuracies in the consumer re-  
23 port;

24 “(II) if the child is eligible to re-  
25 ceive such document, an official or

1 certified copy of the United States  
2 birth certificate of the child;

3 “(III) if the child is eligible to re-  
4 ceive such document, a social security  
5 card issued by the Commissioner of  
6 Social Security;

7 “(IV) if the child is eligible to re-  
8 ceive such document, a driver’s license  
9 or identification card issued by a  
10 State in accordance with the require-  
11 ments of section 202 of the REAL ID  
12 Act of 2005;

13 “(V) information on health insur-  
14 ance available to the child (as de-  
15 scribed in subparagraph (H)(ii));

16 “(VI) copies of the child’s health  
17 and education records (as described in  
18 paragraph (1)(C)); and

19 “(VII) official documentation  
20 necessary to prove that the child was  
21 previously in foster care.”.

22 (b) LIST OF RIGHTS.—Section 475A of such Act (42  
23 U.S.C. 675a) is amended by striking subsection (b) and  
24 inserting the following:

1       “(b) LIST OF RIGHTS.—The case plan for any child  
 2 in foster care under the responsibility of the State who  
 3 has attained 14 years of age shall include—

4               “(1) a document that describes the rights of the  
 5 child—

6                       “(A) with respect to education, health care,  
 7 visitation, court participation, and consultation  
 8 on case planning, development of a permanency  
 9 plan, and determining transition services;

10                      “(B) to be informed, in accordance with  
 11 section 475(5)(I)(i)(I), of services available to  
 12 the child under the State program carried out  
 13 pursuant to section 477;

14                      “(C) to be provided with the documents  
 15 specified in clauses (i)(II) and (ii) of section  
 16 475(5)(I) in accordance with that section;

17                      “(D) to stay safe and avoid exploitation;

18                      “(E) to seek redress for a violation of a  
 19 right of the child under this section; and

20               “(2) for each year that the child remains in fos-  
 21 ter care under the responsibility of the State, a  
 22 signed and dated acknowledgment by the child  
 23 that—



1           “(A) the child has been provided with a  
2           copy of the document described in paragraph  
3           (1);

4           “(B) the rights contained in such docu-  
5           ment have been explained to the child in an  
6           age-appropriate way; and

7           “(C) the child has been provided with a  
8           separate written description of any require-  
9           ments necessary to receive the documents speci-  
10          fied in clauses (i)(II) and (ii) of section  
11          475(5)(I), along with notice of any assistance  
12          available to the child to meet such require-  
13          ments.”.

14       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
16          graph (2), the amendments made by this section  
17          shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year  
18          beginning on or after the date of enactment of this  
19          Act and shall apply to payments under part E of  
20          title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670  
21          et seq.) for calendar quarters beginning on or after  
22          such date.

23           (2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION  
24          REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human  
25          Services determines that State legislation (other

1       than legislation appropriating funds) is required in  
2       order for any State plan approved under part E of  
3       title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the addi-  
4       tional requirements imposed by the amendments  
5       made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded  
6       as failing to meet any of the additional requirements  
7       before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter begin-  
8       ning after the 1st regular session of the State legis-  
9       lature that begins after the date of the enactment of  
10      this Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if  
11      the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year  
12      of the session is deemed to be a separate regular  
13      session of the State legislature.

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