

awareness and understanding of trafficking.

By adding the term “child sex trafficking,” including “child prostitution,” the Missing Children’s Assistance Act will continue to fight the perception that sex trafficking is a voluntary, victimless crime.

Child sex trafficking is an issue of abuse and exploitation of children.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. BASS).

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5111, a bill to improve the response to victims of child trafficking.

First, I would like to commend my colleague, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, for her commitment to transforming the language that we use to discuss child victims of sex trafficking and for taking the lead on this important legislation.

While antitrafficking advocates and organizations have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that the framework and language that we use to describe child victims of trafficking recognize that they are, in fact, victims, we still have a long way to go.

For example, men who exploit the children, we call them “johns.” We arrest the traffickers, we arrest the victims, but the men are seldom arrested, and when they are, it is for soliciting.

As we change the way we speak about the girls, we must change the way we speak about the men, the men who are not johns, but child molesters.

Representative BEATTY’s bill is another critical building block to transforming the framework and dialogue around child victims of sex trafficking. I look forward to continuing to change the conversation and urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me conclude by saying that I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to support H.R. 5111.

This is a very important piece of legislation that will help the victims of child sex trafficking. It will decriminalize their behavior. It will help rescue them from the horrible situations that we have heard tonight.

Let me also share that it is not only about H.R. 5111, but it is about all of the bills that we are hearing tonight that I ask this House to support.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not thank the House leadership on both sides of the aisle for allowing us to bring these important bills forward and

also my entire staff, but specifically my legislative director for all of her hard work.

Lastly, to Congresswoman BASS, let me say thank you for being someone who has led this charge and has been willing to work with me and others on helping bring all of our bills forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

The passage of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, shows the House’s commitment to not only bolstering enforcement efforts against human traffickers, but also ensuring that we properly identify victims.

I urge all Members to lead efforts in their districts, to continue the conversation, as I have done in mine, about human trafficking, to learn what more we can do in our communities to curtail this hideous crime.

During the human trafficking roundtables I have held in my district, law enforcement officials have consistently raised the need to make community members aware of the real and present threat of human trafficking. We must work to not only educate children, but also families and the general public about the safety risks.

H.R. 5111 is another step to educating our communities about human trafficking victims, and it continues our work to ensure that we are doing what we can to help reduce this horrible crime.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 5111, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5111, “An Act to Improve the Response To Victims Of Child Sex Trafficking.” I would like to congratulate Representative BEATTY for her work.

Youth sexual exploitation and trafficking is a major issue in this country that affects more than 293,000 young Americans.

As a Representative of Texas, this issue is close to my heart as my state is plagued by this problem. For example, multiple sporting events, conventions, and other large festivities make Houston a prime location for trafficking.

Another metric demonstrating the high level of trafficking in Houston is the high volume of calls to National Trafficking Hotline coming from Houston.

I have worked on this issue for a very long time as a member of the Anti-Human Trafficking Caucus and recognize the enormous damage that human trafficking does to its victim and to society.

There have been many efforts made to improve how our system addresses the issue of sex trafficking. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done to reframe the issue as one of abuse and exploitation of children rather than one of teenage prostitution.

The legal definition of sex trafficking states that “any individual induced or caused to engage in commercial sex activity who is under 18 is a victim of trafficking.”

But what about those who are teenagers and voluntarily engage in this sort of activity?

We need to update the Missing Children’s Assistance Act so that it better recognizes these young people as victims of a serious crime and reports the information accordingly.

Under current law, (42 U.S.C. 5773 (b)(1)(P)), the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operates a cyber tipline to provide online users and electronic service providers a means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation in many areas, including child prostitution.

Children, who are sex trafficked or sexually exploited, even if they are in their teens, are victims. They are not criminals and should not be categorized as such.

H.R. 5111 would replace the term “child prostitution” with “child sex trafficking” in order to reinforce that children who are sex trafficked or sexually exploited are victims whose situation should be taken seriously when reported on the online tipline.

I believe that this bill is a step in the right direction for recognizing the broad impact of sex trafficking in the United States and assisting those who are exploited by it.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 5111 so we can all work towards a society where we no longer have to worry about our children being exploited by the sex trade.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5111, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4980) to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4980

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act”.

##### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

**TITLE I—PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK OF SEX TRAFFICKING**

**Subtitle A—Identifying and Protecting Children and Youth at Risk of Sex Trafficking**

- Sec. 101. Identifying, documenting, and determining services for children and youth at risk of sex trafficking.
- Sec. 102. Reporting instances of sex trafficking.
- Sec. 103. Including sex trafficking data in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.
- Sec. 104. Locating and responding to children who run away from foster care.
- Sec. 105. Increasing information on children in foster care to prevent sex trafficking.

**Subtitle B—Improving Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Supporting Permanency**

- Sec. 111. Supporting normalcy for children in foster care.
- Sec. 112. Improving another planned permanent living arrangement as a permanency option.
- Sec. 113. Empowering foster children age 14 and older in the development of their own case plan and transition planning for a successful adulthood.
- Sec. 114. Ensuring foster children have a birth certificate, Social Security card, health insurance information, medical records, and a driver's license or equivalent State-issued identification card.
- Sec. 115. Information on children in foster care in annual reports using AFCARS data; consultation.

**Subtitle C—National Advisory Committee**

- Sec. 121. Establishment of a national advisory committee on the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States.

**TITLE II—IMPROVING ADOPTION INCENTIVES AND EXTENDING FAMILY CONNECTION GRANTS**

**Subtitle A—Improving Adoption Incentive Payments**

- Sec. 201. Extension of program through fiscal year 2016.
- Sec. 202. Improvements to award structure.
- Sec. 203. Renaming of program.
- Sec. 204. Limitation on use of incentive payments.
- Sec. 205. Increase in period for which incentive payments are available for expenditure.
- Sec. 206. State report on calculation and use of savings resulting from the phase-out of eligibility requirements for adoption assistance; requirement to spend 30 percent of savings on certain services.
- Sec. 207. Preservation of eligibility for kinship guardianship assistance payments with a successor guardian.
- Sec. 208. Data collection on adoption and legal guardianship disruption and dissolution.
- Sec. 209. Encouraging the placement of children in foster care with siblings.
- Sec. 210. Effective dates.

**Subtitle B—Extending the Family Connection Grant Program**

- Sec. 221. Extension of family connection grant program.

**TITLE III—IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT RECOVERY**

- Sec. 301. Amendments to ensure access to child support services for international child support cases.
- Sec. 302. Child support enforcement programs for Indian tribes.
- Sec. 303. Sense of the Congress regarding offering of voluntary parenting time arrangements.
- Sec. 304. Data exchange standardization for improved interoperability.
- Sec. 305. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 306. Required electronic processing of income withholding.

**TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

- Sec. 401. Determination of budgetary effects.

**SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, wherever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the amendment shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Social Security Act.

**TITLE I—PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK OF SEX TRAFFICKING**

**Subtitle A—Identifying and Protecting Children and Youth at Risk of Sex Trafficking**

**SEC. 101. IDENTIFYING, DOCUMENTING, AND DETERMINING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK OF SEX TRAFFICKING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 471(a)(9) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(9)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and”;
- (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) not later than—

“(i) 1 year after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, demonstrate to the Secretary that the State agency has developed, in consultation with State and local law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, health care providers, education agencies, and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk children and youth, policies and procedures (including relevant training for caseworkers) for identifying, documenting in agency records, and determining appropriate services with respect to—

“(I) any child or youth over whom the State agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision and who the State has reasonable cause to believe is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim (including children for whom a State child welfare agency has an open case file but who have not been removed from the home, children who have run away from foster care and who have not attained 18 years of age or such older age as the State has elected under section 475(8) of this Act, and youth who are not in foster care but are receiving services under section 477 of this Act); and

“(II) at the option of the State, any individual who has not attained 26 years of age, without regard to whether the individual is or was in foster care under the responsibility of the State; and

“(ii) 2 years after such date of enactment, demonstrate to the Secretary that the State agency is implementing the policies and procedures referred to in clause (i).”

(b) DEFINITION OF SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM.—Section 475 (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) The term ‘sex trafficking victim’ means a victim of—

“(A) sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000); or

“(B) a severe form of trafficking in persons described in section 103(9)(A) of such Act.”

**SEC. 102. REPORTING INSTANCES OF SEX TRAFFICKING.**

(a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 471(a) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (32);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (33) and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(34) provides that, for each child or youth described in paragraph (9)(C)(i)(I), the State agency shall—

“(A) not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, report immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after receiving information on children or youth who have been identified as being a sex trafficking victim, to the law enforcement authorities; and

“(B) not later than 3 years after such date of enactment and annually thereafter, report to the Secretary the total number of children and youth who are sex trafficking victims.”

(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 471 (42 U.S.C. 671) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ANNUAL REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORTED BY STATES TO BE SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the Congress and make available to the public on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services the number of children and youth reported in accordance with subsection (a)(34)(B) of this section to be sex trafficking victims (as defined in section 475(9)(A)).”

**SEC. 103. INCLUDING SEX TRAFFICKING DATA IN THE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS AND REPORTING SYSTEM.**

Section 479(c)(3) (42 U.S.C. 679(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(iii), by striking “and” after the comma; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) the annual number of children in foster care who are identified as sex trafficking victims—

“(i) who were such victims before entering foster care; and

“(ii) who were such victims while in foster care; and”

**SEC. 104. LOCATING AND RESPONDING TO CHILDREN WHO RUN AWAY FROM FOSTER CARE.**

Section 471(a) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)), as amended by section 102(a) of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (34) and inserting “; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(35) provides that—

“(A) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the State shall develop and implement specific protocols for—

“(i) expeditiously locating any child missing from foster care;

“(ii) determining the primary factors that contributed to the child's running away or otherwise being absent from care, and to the extent possible and appropriate, responding to those factors in current and subsequent placements;

“(iii) determining the child's experiences while absent from care, including screening the child to determine if the child is a possible sex trafficking victim (as defined in section 475(9)(A)); and

“(iv) reporting such related information as required by the Secretary; and

“(B) not later than 2 years after such date of enactment, for each child and youth described in paragraph (9)(C)(i)(I) of this subsection, the State agency shall report immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after receiving, information on missing or abducted children or youth to the law enforcement authorities for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, established pursuant to section 534 of title 28, United States Code, and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.”.

**SEC. 105. INCREASING INFORMATION ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE TO PREVENT SEX TRAFFICKING.**

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Congress a written report which summarizes the following:

(1) Information on children who run away from foster care and their risk of becoming sex trafficking victims, using data reported by States under section 479 of the Social Security Act and information collected by States related to section 471(a)(35) of such Act, including—

(A) characteristics of children who run away from foster care;

(B) potential factors associated with children running away from foster care (such as reason for entry into care, length of stay in care, type of placement, and other factors that contributed to the child’s running away);

(C) information on children’s experiences while absent from care; and

(D) trends in the number of children reported as runaways in each fiscal year (including factors that may have contributed to changes in such trends).

(2) Information on State efforts to provide specialized services, foster family homes, child care institutions, or other forms of placement for children who are sex trafficking victims.

(3) Information on State efforts to ensure children in foster care form and maintain long-lasting connections to caring adults, even when a child in foster care must move to another foster family home or when the child is placed under the supervision of a new caseworker.

**Subtitle B—Improving Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Supporting Permanency**

**SEC. 111. SUPPORTING NORMALCY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.**

(a) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD.—

(1) DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE STANDARD.—Section 475 (42 U.S.C. 675), as amended by section 101(b) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10)(A) The term ‘reasonable and prudent parent standard’ means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the State to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘caregiver’ means a foster parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed or a designated official for a child care institution in which a child in foster care has been placed.

“(11)(A) The term ‘age or developmentally-appropriate’ means—

“(i) activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally-appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group; and

“(ii) in the case of a specific child, activities or items that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child.

“(B) In the event that any age-related activities have implications relative to the academic curriculum of a child, nothing in this part or part B shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of the Federal Government to mandate, direct, or control a State or local educational agency, or the specific instructional content, academic achievement standards and assessments, curriculum, or program of instruction of a school.”.

(2) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 471(a)(24) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(24)) is amended—

(A) by striking “include” and inserting “includes”;

(B) by striking “and that such preparation” and inserting “that the preparation”;

(C) by inserting “, and that the preparation shall include knowledge and skills relating to the reasonable and prudent parent standard for the participation of the child in age or developmentally-appropriate activities, including knowledge and skills relating to the developmental stages of the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of a child, and knowledge and skills relating to applying the standard to decisions such as whether to allow the child to engage in social, extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities, including sports, field trips, and overnight activities lasting 1 or more days, and to decisions involving the signing of permission slips and arranging of transportation for the child to and from extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities” before the semicolon.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide assistance to the States on best practices for devising strategies to assist foster parents in applying a reasonable and prudent parent standard in a manner that protects child safety, while also allowing children to experience normal and beneficial activities, including methods for appropriately considering the concerns of the biological parents of a child in decisions related to participation of the child in activities (with the understanding that those concerns should not necessarily determine the participation of the child in any activity).

(b) NORMALCY FOR CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS.—Section 471(a)(10) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(10)) is amended to read as follows:

“(10) provides—

“(A) for the establishment or designation of a State authority or authorities that shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for foster family homes and child care institutions which are reasonably in accord with recommended standards of national organizations concerned with standards for the institutions or homes, including standards related to admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights, and which shall permit use of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard;

“(B) that the standards established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be applied by the State to any foster family home or child care institution receiving funds under this part or part B and shall require, as a condition of each contract entered into by a child care institution to provide foster care, the presence on-site of at least 1 official who, with respect to any child placed at the child care institution, is designated to be the caregiver who is authorized to apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard to decisions involving the participation of the child in age or developmentally-appropriate activities, and who is provided with training in how to use and apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard in the same manner as prospective foster parents are provided the training pursuant to paragraph (24);

“(C) that the standards established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include policies related to the liability of foster parents and private entities under contract by the State involving the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard, to ensure appropriate liability for caregivers when a child participates in an approved activity and the caregiver approving the activity acts in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent standard; and

“(D) that a waiver of any standards established pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be made only on a case-by-case basis for non-safety standards (as determined by the State) in relative foster family homes for specific children in care;”.

(c) SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN AGE-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) Section 477(a) (42 U.S.C. 677(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (6);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) to ensure children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age have regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities as defined in section 475(11).”.

(2) Section 477(h)(1) (42 U.S.C. 677(h)(1)) is amended by inserting “or, beginning in fiscal year 2020, \$143,000,000” after “\$140,000,000”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan developed pursuant to part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the 1st regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**SEC. 112. IMPROVING ANOTHER PLANNED PERMANENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT AS A PERMANENCY OPTION.**

(a) ELIMINATION OF ANOTHER PLANNED PERMANENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 16.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 475(5)(C)(i) (42 U.S.C. 675(5)(C)(i)) is amended by inserting

“only in the case of a child who has attained 16 years of age” before “(in cases where)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 422(b)(8)(A)(iii)(II) (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(8)(A)(iii)(II)) is amended by inserting “, subject to the requirements of sections 475(5)(C) and 475A(a)” after “arrangement”.

(3) DELAYED APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN CHILDREN.—In the case of children in foster care under the responsibility of an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium (either directly or under supervision of a State), the amendments made by this subsection shall not apply until the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title IV (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 475 the following:

**“SEC. 475A. ADDITIONAL CASE PLAN AND CASE REVIEW SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.**

**“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ANOTHER PLANNED PERMANENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT.**—In the case of any child for whom another planned permanent living arrangement is the permanency plan determined for the child under section 475(5)(C), the following requirements shall apply for purposes of approving the case plan for the child and the case system review procedure for the child:

“(1) DOCUMENTATION OF INTENSIVE, ONGOING, UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS FOR FAMILY PLACEMENT.—At each permanency hearing held with respect to the child, the State agency documents the intensive, ongoing, and, as of the date of the hearing, unsuccessful efforts made by the State agency to return the child home or secure a placement for the child with a fit and willing relative (including adult siblings), a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, including through efforts that utilize search technology (including social media) to find biological family members for the children.

“(2) REDETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATENESS OF PLACEMENT AT EACH PERMANENCY HEARING.—The State agency shall implement procedures to ensure that, at each permanency hearing held with respect to the child, the court or administrative body appointed or approved by the court conducting the hearing on the permanency plan for the child does the following:

“(A) Ask the child about the desired permanency outcome for the child.

“(B) Make a judicial determination explaining why, as of the date of the hearing, another planned permanent living arrangement is the best permanency plan for the child and provide compelling reasons why it continues to not be in the best interests of the child to—

“(i) return home;

“(ii) be placed for adoption;

“(iii) be placed with a legal guardian; or

“(iv) be placed with a fit and willing relative.

“(3) DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR ENGAGING IN AGE OR DEVELOPMENTALLY-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS.—At each permanency hearing held with respect to the child, the State agency shall document the steps the State agency is taking to ensure that—

“(A) the child’s foster family home or child care institution is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard; and

“(B) the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities (including by consulting with the child in an age-appropriate manner about the opportunities of the child to participate in the activities).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) PART B.—Section 422(b)(8)(A)(ii) (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(8)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “and in accordance with the requirements of section 475A” after “section 475(5)”.

(ii) PART E.—Section 471(a)(16) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(16)) is amended—

(I) by inserting “and in accordance with the requirements of section 475A” after “section 475(1)”; and

(II) by striking “section 475(5)(B)” and inserting “sections 475(5) and 475A”.

(B) DEFINITIONS.—Section 475 (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “meets the requirements of section 475A and” after “written document which”; and

(ii) in paragraph (5)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following “and, for a child for whom another planned permanent living arrangement has been determined as the permanency plan, the steps the State agency is taking to ensure the child’s foster family home or child care institution is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard and to ascertain whether the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities (including by consulting with the child in an age-appropriate manner about the opportunities of the child to participate in the activities);”; and

(II) in subparagraph (C)—

(aa) by inserting “, as of the date of the hearing,” after “compelling reason for determining”; and

(bb) by inserting “subject to section 475A(a),” after “another planned permanent living arrangement.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan developed pursuant to part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the 1st regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**SEC. 113. EMPOWERING FOSTER CHILDREN AGE 14 AND OLDER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN CASE PLAN AND TRANSITION PLANNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 475(1)(B) (42 U.S.C. 675(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “With respect to a child who has attained 14 years of age, the plan developed for the child in accordance with this paragraph, and any revision or addition to the plan, shall be developed in consultation with the child and, at the option of the child, with up to 2 members of the case planning team who are chosen by the child and who are not a foster parent of, or caseworker for, the child. A State may reject an individual selected by a child to be a member of the case planning team at any time if the State has good cause to believe that the individual

would not act in the best interests of the child. One individual selected by a child to be a member of the child’s case planning team may be designated to be the child’s advisor and, as necessary, advocate, with respect to the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to the child.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO INCLUDE CHILDREN 14 AND OLDER IN TRANSITION PLANNING.—Section 475 (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “Where appropriate, for a child age 16” and inserting “For a child who has attained 14 years of age”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “16” and inserting “14”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end of clause (ii); and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“and (iv) if a child has attained 14 years of age, the permanency plan developed for the child, and any revision or addition to the plan, shall be developed in consultation with the child and, at the option of the child, with not more than 2 members of the permanency planning team who are selected by the child and who are not a foster parent of, or caseworker for, the child, except that the State may reject an individual so selected by the child if the State has good cause to believe that the individual would not act in the best interests of the child, and 1 individual so selected by the child may be designated to be the child’s advisor and, as necessary, advocate, with respect to the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to the child;”; and

(B) in subparagraph (I), by striking “16” and inserting “14”.

(c) TRANSITION PLANNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD.—Paragraphs (1)(D), (5)(C)(i), and (5)(C)(iii) of section 475 (42 U.S.C. 675) are each amended by striking “independent living” and inserting “a successful adulthood”.

(d) LIST OF RIGHTS.—Section 475A, as added by section 112(b)(1) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

“(1) a document that describes the rights of the child with respect to education, health, visitation, and court participation, the right to be provided with the documents specified in section 475(5)(I) in accordance with that section, and the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation; and

“(2) a signed acknowledgment by the child that the child has been provided with a copy of the document and that the rights contained in the document have been explained to the child in an age-appropriate way.”.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to Congress regarding the implementation of the amendments made by this section. The report shall include—

(1) an analysis of how States are administering the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (5)(C) of section 475 of the Social Security Act, as amended by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, that a child in foster care who has attained 14 years of age be permitted to select up to 2 members of the case planning team or permanency planning team for the child from individuals who are not a foster parent of, or caseworker for, the child; and

(2) a description of best practices of States with respect to the administration of the requirements.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan developed pursuant to part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the 1st regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**SEC. 114. ENSURING FOSTER CHILDREN HAVE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SOCIAL SECURITY CARD, HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION, MEDICAL RECORDS, AND A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR EQUIVALENT STATE-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

(a) CASE REVIEW SYSTEM REQUIREMENT.—Section 475(5)(I) (42 U.S.C. 675(5)(I)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and receives assistance” and inserting “receives assistance”; and

(2) by inserting “, and, if the child is leaving foster care by reason of having attained 18 years of age or such greater age as the State has elected under paragraph (8), unless the child has been in foster care for less than 6 months, is not discharged from care without being provided with (if the child is eligible to receive such document) an official or certified copy of the United States birth certificate of the child, a social security card issued by the Commissioner of Social Security, health insurance information, a copy of the child's medical records, and a driver's license or identification card issued by a State in accordance with the requirements of section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005” before the period.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan developed pursuant to part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the 1st regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**SEC. 115. INFORMATION ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN ANNUAL REPORTS USING AFCARS DATA; CONSULTATION.**

Section 479A (42 U.S.C. 679b) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) include in the report submitted pursuant to paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2016 or any succeeding fiscal year, State-by-State data on—

“(A) children in foster care who have been placed in a child care institution or other setting that is not a foster family home, including—

“(i) the number of children in the placements and their ages, including separately, the number and ages of children who have a permanency plan of another planned permanent living arrangement;

“(ii) the duration of the placement in the settings (including for children who have a permanency plan of another planned permanent living arrangement);

“(iii) the types of child care institutions used (including group homes, residential treatment, shelters, or other congregate care settings);

“(iv) with respect to each child care institution or other setting that is not a foster family home, the number of children in foster care residing in each such institution or non-foster family home;

“(v) any clinically diagnosed special need of such children; and

“(vi) the extent of any specialized education, treatment, counseling, or other services provided in the settings; and

“(B) children in foster care who are pregnant or parenting.

“(b) CONSULTATION ON OTHER ISSUES.—The Secretary shall consult with States and organizations with an interest in child welfare, including organizations that provide adoption and foster care services, and shall take into account requests from Members of Congress, in selecting other issues to be analyzed and reported on under this section using data available to the Secretary, including data reported by States through the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System and to the National Youth in Transition Database.”

**Subtitle C—National Advisory Committee**

**SEC. 121. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Title XI (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1114 the following:

“NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES

“SEC. 1114A. (a) OFFICIAL DESIGNATION.—This section relates to the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’).

“(b) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish and appoint all members of the Committee.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall be composed of not more than 21 members whose diverse experience and background enable them to provide balanced points of view with regard to carrying out the duties of the Committee.

“(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and National Governors Association, shall appoint the members to the Committee. At least 1 Committee member shall be a former sex trafficking victim. 2 Committee members shall be a Governor of a State, 1 of whom

shall be a member of the Democratic Party and 1 of whom shall be a member of the Republican Party.

“(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Committee. A vacancy in the Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall not affect the powers or duties of the Committee.

“(4) COMPENSATION.—Committee members shall serve without compensation or per diem in lieu of subsistence.

“(d) DUTIES.—

“(1) NATIONAL RESPONSE.—The Committee shall advise the Secretary and the Attorney General on practical and general policies concerning improvements to the Nation's response to the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States.

“(2) POLICIES FOR COOPERATION.—The Committee shall advise the Secretary and the Attorney General on practical and general policies concerning the cooperation of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, child welfare agencies, social service providers, physical health and mental health providers, victim service providers, State or local courts with responsibility for conducting or supervising proceedings relating to child welfare or social services for children and their families, Federal, State, and local police, juvenile detention centers, and runaway and homeless youth programs, schools, the gaming and entertainment industry, and businesses and organizations that provide services to youth, on responding to sex trafficking, including the development and implementation of—

“(A) successful interventions with children and youth who are exposed to conditions that make them vulnerable to, or victims of, sex trafficking; and

“(B) recommendations for administrative or legislative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources owned, operated, or funded by the Federal Government to provide safe housing for children and youth who are sex trafficking victims and provide support to entities that provide housing or other assistance to the victims.

“(3) BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 2 years after the establishment of the Committee, the Committee shall develop 2 tiers (referred to in this subparagraph as ‘Tier I’ and ‘Tier II’) of recommended best practices for States to follow in combating the sex trafficking of children and youth. Tier I shall provide States that have not yet substantively addressed the sex trafficking of children and youth with an idea of where to begin and what steps to take. Tier II shall provide States that are already working to address the sex trafficking of children and youth with examples of policies that are already being used effectively by other States to address sex trafficking.

“(B) DEVELOPMENT.—The best practices shall be based on multidisciplinary research and promising, evidence-based models and programs as reflected in State efforts to meet the requirements of sections 101 and 102 of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

“(C) CONTENT.—The best practices shall be user-friendly, incorporate the most up-to-date technology, and include the following:

“(i) Sample training materials, protocols, and screening tools that, to the extent possible, accommodate for regional differences among the States, to prepare individuals who administer social services to identify and serve children and youth who are sex

trafficking victims or at-risk of sex trafficking.

“(ii) Multidisciplinary strategies to identify victims, manage cases, and improve services for all children and youth who are at risk of sex trafficking, or are sex trafficking victims, in the United States.

“(iii) Sample protocols and recommendations based on current States’ efforts, accounting for regional differences between States that provide for effective, cross-system collaboration between Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, child welfare agencies, social service providers, physical health and mental health providers, victim service providers, State or local courts with responsibility for conducting or supervising proceedings relating to child welfare or social services for children and their families, the gaming and entertainment industry, Federal, State, and local police, juvenile detention centers and runaway and homeless youth programs, housing resources that are appropriate for housing child and youth victims of trafficking, schools, and businesses and organizations that provide services to children and youth. These protocols and recommendations should include strategies to identify victims and collect, document, and share data across systems and agencies, and should be designed to help agencies better understand the type of sex trafficking involved, the scope of the problem, the needs of the population to be served, ways to address the demand for trafficked children and youth and increase prosecutions of traffickers and purchasers of children and youth, and the degree of victim interaction with multiple systems.

“(iv) Developing the criteria and guidelines necessary for establishing safe residential placements for foster children who have been sex trafficked as well as victims of trafficking identified through interaction with law enforcement.

“(v) Developing training guidelines for caregivers that serve children and youth being cared for outside the home.

“(D) INFORMING STATES OF BEST PRACTICES.—The Committee, in coordination with the National Governors Association, Secretary and Attorney General, shall ensure that State Governors and child welfare agencies are notified and informed on a quarterly basis of the best practices and recommendations for States, and notified 6 months in advance that the Committee will be evaluating the extent to which States adopt the Committee’s recommendations.

“(E) REPORT ON STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Within 3 years after the establishment of the Committee, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the Attorney General, as part of its final report as well as for online and publicly available publication, a description of what each State has done to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

“(e) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall submit an interim and a final report on the work of the Committee to—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the Attorney General;

“(C) the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

“(D) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

“(2) REPORTING DATES.—The interim report shall be submitted not later than 3 years after the establishment of the Committee. The final report shall be submitted not later than 4 years after the establishment of the Committee.

“(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) AGENCY SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall direct the head of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide all necessary support for the Committee.

“(2) MEETINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee will meet at the call of the Secretary at least twice each year to carry out this section, and more often as otherwise required.

“(B) ACCOMMODATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON.—The Secretary shall create a process through which Committee members who are unable to travel to a Committee meeting in person may participate remotely through the use of video conference, teleconference, online, or other means.

“(3) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may establish subcommittees or working groups, as necessary and consistent with the mission of the Committee. The subcommittees or working groups shall have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the Committee, nor shall they report directly to any official or entity listed in subsection (d).

“(4) RECORDKEEPING.—The records of the Committee and any subcommittees and working groups shall be maintained in accordance with appropriate Department of Health and Human Services policies and procedures and shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

“(g) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate 5 years after the date of its establishment, but the Secretary shall continue to operate and update, as necessary, an Internet website displaying the State best practices, recommendations, and evaluation of State-by-State implementation of the Secretary’s recommendations.

“(h) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section, the term ‘sex trafficking’ includes the definition set forth in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) and ‘severe form of trafficking in persons’ described in section 103(9)(A) of such Act.”

## TITLE II—IMPROVING ADOPTION INCENTIVES AND EXTENDING FAMILY CONTRIBUTION GRANTS

### Subtitle A—Improving Adoption Incentive Payments

#### SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2016.

Section 473A (42 U.S.C. 673b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5), by striking “2008 through 2012” and inserting “2013 through 2015”; and

(2) in each of paragraphs (1)(D) and (2) of subsection (h), by striking “2013” and inserting “2016”.

#### SEC. 202. IMPROVEMENTS TO AWARD STRUCTURE.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARD.—Section 473A(b) (42 U.S.C. 673b(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (4), respectively.

(b) DATA REQUIREMENTS.—Section 473A(c)(2) (42 U.S.C. 673b(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “NUMBERS OF ADOPTIONS” and inserting “RATES OF ADOPTIONS AND GUARDIANSHIPS”;

(2) by striking “the numbers” and all that follows through “section,” and inserting “each of the rates required to be determined under this section with respect to a State and a fiscal year.”; and

(3) by inserting before the period the following: “, and, with respect to the determination of the rates related to foster child

guardianships, on the basis of information reported to the Secretary under paragraph (12) of subsection (g)”.

(c) AWARD AMOUNT.—Section 473A(d) (42 U.S.C. 673b(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following:

“(A) \$5,000, multiplied by the amount (if any) by which—

“(i) the number of foster child adoptions in the State during the fiscal year; exceeds

“(ii) the product (rounded to the nearest whole number) of—

“(I) the base rate of foster child adoptions for the State for the fiscal year; and

“(II) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year;

“(B) \$7,500, multiplied by the amount (if any) by which—

“(i) the number of pre-adolescent child adoptions and pre-adolescent foster child guardianships in the State during the fiscal year; exceeds

“(ii) the product (rounded to the nearest whole number) of—

“(I) the base rate of pre-adolescent child adoptions and pre-adolescent foster child guardianships for the State for the fiscal year; and

“(II) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year who have attained 9 years of age but not 14 years of age; and

“(C) \$10,000, multiplied by the amount (if any) by which—

“(i) the number of older child adoptions and older foster child guardianships in the State during the fiscal year; exceeds

“(ii) the product (rounded to the nearest whole number) of—

“(I) the base rate of older child adoptions and older foster child guardianships for the State for the fiscal year; and

“(II) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year who have attained 14 years of age; and

“(D) \$4,000, multiplied by the amount (if any) by which—

“(i) the number of foster child guardianships in the State during the fiscal year; exceeds

“(ii) the product (rounded to the nearest whole number) of—

“(I) the base rate of foster child guardianships for the State for the fiscal year; and

“(II) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) INCREASED ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP INCENTIVE PAYMENT FOR TIMELY ADOPTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If for any of fiscal years 2013 through 2015, the total amount of adoption and legal guardianship incentive payments payable under paragraph (1) of this subsection are less than the amount appropriated under subsection (h) for the fiscal year, then, from the remainder of the amount appropriated for the fiscal year that is not required for such payments (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘timely adoption award pool’), the Secretary shall increase the adoption incentive payment determined under paragraph (1) for each State that the Secretary determines is a timely adoption award State for the fiscal year by the award amount determined for the fiscal year under subparagraph (C).

“(B) **TIMELY ADOPTION AWARD STATE DEFINED.**—A State is a timely adoption award State for a fiscal year if the Secretary determines that, for children who were in foster care under the supervision of the State at the time of adoptive placement, the average number of months from removal of children from their home to the placement of children in finalized adoptions is less than 24 months.

“(C) **AWARD AMOUNT.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the award amount determined under this subparagraph with respect to a fiscal year is the amount equal to the timely adoption award pool for the fiscal year divided by the number of timely adoption award States for the fiscal year.”

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 473A(g) (42 U.S.C. 673b(g)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (8) and inserting the following:

“(1) **FOSTER CHILD ADOPTION RATE.**—The term ‘foster child adoption rate’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the percentage determined by dividing—

“(A) the number of foster child adoptions finalized in the State during the fiscal year; by

“(B) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year.

“(2) **BASE RATE OF FOSTER CHILD ADOPTIONS.**—The term ‘base rate of foster child adoptions’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the lesser of—

“(A) the foster child adoption rate for the State for the then immediately preceding fiscal year; or

“(B) the foster child adoption rate for the State for the average of the then immediately preceding 3 fiscal years.

“(3) **FOSTER CHILD ADOPTION.**—The term ‘foster child adoption’ means the final adoption of a child who, at the time of adoptive placement, was in foster care under the supervision of the State.

“(4) **PRE-ADOLESCENT CHILD ADOPTION AND PRE-ADOLESCENT FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIP RATE.**—The term ‘pre-adolescent child adoption and pre-adolescent foster child guardianship rate’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the percentage determined by dividing—

“(A) the number of pre-adolescent child adoptions and pre-adolescent foster child guardianships finalized in the State during the fiscal year; by

“(B) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year, who have attained 9 years of age but not 14 years of age.

“(5) **BASE RATE OF PRE-ADOLESCENT CHILD ADOPTIONS AND PRE-ADOLESCENT FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIPS.**—The term ‘base rate of pre-adolescent child adoptions and pre-adolescent foster child guardianships’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the lesser of—

“(A) the pre-adolescent child adoption and pre-adolescent foster child guardianship rate for the State for the then immediately preceding fiscal year; or

“(B) the pre-adolescent child adoption and pre-adolescent foster child guardianship rate for the State for the average of the then immediately preceding 3 fiscal years.

“(6) **PRE-ADOLESCENT CHILD ADOPTION AND PRE-ADOLESCENT FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIP.**—The term ‘pre-adolescent child adoption and pre-adolescent foster child guardianship’ means the final adoption, or the placement into foster child guardianship (as defined in paragraph (12)) of a child who has attained 9 years of age but not 14 years of age if—

“(A) at the time of the adoptive or foster child guardianship placement, the child was in foster care under the supervision of the State; or

“(B) an adoption assistance agreement was in effect under section 473(a) with respect to the child.

“(7) **OLDER CHILD ADOPTION AND OLDER FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIP RATE.**—The term ‘older child adoption and older foster child guardianship rate’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the percentage determined by dividing—

“(A) the number of older child adoptions and older foster child guardianships finalized in the State during the fiscal year; by

“(B) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year, who have attained 14 years of age.

“(8) **BASE RATE OF OLDER CHILD ADOPTIONS AND OLDER FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIPS.**—The term ‘base rate of older child adoptions and older foster child guardianships’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the lesser of—

“(A) the older child adoption and older foster child guardianship rate for the State for the then immediately preceding fiscal year; or

“(B) the older child adoption and older foster child guardianship rate for the State for the average of the then immediately preceding 3 fiscal years.

“(9) **OLDER CHILD ADOPTION AND OLDER FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIP.**—The term ‘older child adoption and older foster child guardianship’ means the final adoption, or the placement into foster child guardianship (as defined in paragraph (12)) of a child who has attained 14 years of age if—

“(A) at the time of the adoptive or foster child guardianship placement, the child was in foster care under the supervision of the State; or

“(B) an adoption assistance agreement was in effect under section 473(a) with respect to the child.

“(10) **FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIP RATE.**—The term ‘foster child guardianship rate’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the percentage determined by dividing—

“(A) the number of foster child guardianships occurring in the State during the fiscal year; by

“(B) the number of children in foster care under the supervision of the State on the last day of the preceding fiscal year.

“(11) **BASE RATE OF FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIPS.**—The term ‘base rate of foster child guardianships’ means, with respect to a State and a fiscal year, the lesser of—

“(A) the foster child guardianship rate for the State for the then immediately preceding fiscal year; or

“(B) the foster child guardianship rate for the State for the average of the then immediately preceding 3 fiscal years.

“(12) **FOSTER CHILD GUARDIANSHIP.**—The term ‘foster child guardianship’ means, with respect to a State, the exit of a child from foster care under the responsibility of the State to live with a legal guardian, if the State has reported to the Secretary—

“(A) that the State agency has determined that—

“(i) the child has been removed from his or her home pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement or as a result of a judicial determination to the effect that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child;

“(ii) being returned home or adopted are not appropriate permanency options for the child;

“(iii) the child demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective legal guardian, and the prospective legal guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child; and

“(iv) if the child has attained 14 years of age, the child has been consulted regarding the legal guardianship arrangement; or

“(B) the alternative procedures used by the State to determine that legal guardianship is the appropriate option for the child.”

#### SEC. 203. RENAMING OF PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The section heading of section 473A (42 U.S.C. 673b) is amended to read as follows:

“**SEC. 473A. ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.**”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 473A is amended in each of subsections (a), (d)(1), (d)(2)(A), and (d)(2)(B) (42 U.S.C. 673b(a), (d)(1), (d)(2)(A), and (d)(2)(B)) by inserting “and legal guardianship” after “adoption” each place it appears.

(2) The heading of section 473A(d) (42 U.S.C. 673b(d)) is amended by inserting “AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP” after “ADOPTION”.

#### SEC. 204. LIMITATION ON USE OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.

Section 473A(f) (42 U.S.C. 673b(f)) is amended in the 1st sentence by inserting “, and shall use the amount to supplement, and not supplant, any Federal or non-Federal funds used to provide any service under part B or E” before the period.

#### SEC. 205. INCREASE IN PERIOD FOR WHICH INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE.

Section 473A(e) (42 U.S.C. 673b(e)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “24-MONTH” and inserting “36-MONTH”; and

(2) by striking “24-month” and inserting “36-month”.

#### SEC. 206. STATE REPORT ON CALCULATION AND USE OF SAVINGS RESULTING FROM THE PHASE-OUT OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION ASSISTANCE; REQUIREMENT TO SPEND 30 PERCENT OF SAVINGS ON CERTAIN SERVICES.

Section 473(a)(8) (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

“(8)(A) A State shall calculate the savings (if any) resulting from the application of paragraph (2)(A)(ii) to all applicable children for a fiscal year, using a methodology specified by the Secretary or an alternate methodology proposed by the State and approved by the Secretary.

“(B) A State shall annually report to the Secretary—

“(i) the methodology used to make the calculation described in subparagraph (A), without regard to whether any savings are found;

“(ii) the amount of any savings referred to in subparagraph (A); and

“(iii) how any such savings are spent, accounting for and reporting the spending separately from any other spending reported to the Secretary under part B or this part.

“(C) The Secretary shall make all information reported pursuant to subparagraph (B) available on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services in a location easily accessible to the public.

“(D)(i) A State shall spend an amount equal to the amount of the savings (if any) in State expenditures under this part resulting from the application of paragraph (2)(A)(ii) to all applicable children for a fiscal year, to provide to children of families any service

that may be provided under part B or this part. A State shall spend not less than 30 percent of any such savings on post-adoption services, post-guardianship services, and services to support and sustain positive permanent outcomes for children who otherwise might enter into foster care under the responsibility of the State, with at least ⅓ of the spending by the State to comply with such 30 percent requirement being spent on post-adoption and post-guardianship services.

“(ii) Any State spending required under clause (i) shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any Federal or non-Federal funds used to provide any service under part B or this part.”

**SEC. 207. PRESERVATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS WITH A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN.**

Section 473(d)(3) (42 U.S.C. 673(d)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ELIGIBILITY NOT AFFECTED BY REPLACEMENT OF GUARDIAN WITH A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN.—In the event of the death or incapacity of the relative guardian, the eligibility of a child for a kinship guardianship assistance payment under this subsection shall not be affected by reason of the replacement of the relative guardian with a successor legal guardian named in the kinship guardianship assistance agreement referred to in paragraph (1) (including in any amendment to the agreement), notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and section 471(a)(28).”

**SEC. 208. DATA COLLECTION ON ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP DISRUPTION AND DISSOLUTION.**

Section 479 (42 U.S.C. 679) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) To promote improved knowledge on how best to ensure strong, permanent families for children, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations providing for the collection and analysis of information regarding children who enter into foster care under the supervision of a State after prior finalization of an adoption or legal guardianship. The regulations shall require each State with a State plan approved under this part to collect and report as part of such data collection system the number of children who enter foster care under supervision of the State after finalization of an adoption or legal guardianship and may include information concerning the length of the prior adoption or guardianship, the age of the child at the time of the prior adoption or guardianship, the age at which the child subsequently entered foster care under supervision of the State, the type of agency involved in making the prior adoptive or guardianship placement, and any other factors determined necessary to better understand factors associated with the child’s post-adoption or post-guardianship entry to foster care.”

**SEC. 209. ENCOURAGING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WITH SIBLINGS.**

(a) STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—

(1) NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OF SIBLINGS.—Section 471(a)(29) (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(29)) is amended by striking “all adult grandparents” and inserting “the following relatives: all adult grandparents, all parents of a sibling of the child, where such parent has legal custody of such sibling.”

(2) SIBLING DEFINED.—Section 475 (42 U.S.C. 675), as amended by sections 101(b) and 111(a)(1) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) The term ‘sibling’ means an individual who satisfies at least one of the following conditions with respect to a child:

“(A) The individual is considered by State law to be a sibling of the child.

“(B) The individual would have been considered a sibling of the child under State law but for a termination or other disruption of parental rights, such as the death of a parent.”

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as subordinating the rights of foster or adoptive parents of a child to the rights of the parents of a sibling of that child.

**SEC. 210. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the amendments made by this subtitle shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2013.

(b) RESTRUCTURING AND RENAMING OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by sections 202 and 203 shall take effect on October 1, 2014, subject to paragraph (2).

(2) TRANSITION RULE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total amount payable to a State under section 473A of the Social Security Act for fiscal year 2014 shall be an amount equal to ½ of the sum of—

(i) the total amount that would be payable to the State under such section for fiscal year 2014 if the amendments made by section 202 of this Act had not taken effect; and

(ii) the total amount that would be payable to the State under such section for fiscal year 2014 in the absence of this paragraph.

(B) PRO RATA ADJUSTMENT IF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS AVAILABLE.—If the total amount otherwise payable under subparagraph (A) for fiscal year 2014 exceeds the amount appropriated pursuant to section 473A(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673b(h)) for that fiscal year, the amount payable to each State under subparagraph (A) for fiscal year 2014 shall be—

(i) the amount that would otherwise be payable to the State under subparagraph (A) for fiscal year 2014; multiplied by

(ii) the percentage represented by the amount so appropriated for fiscal year 2014, divided by the total amount otherwise payable under subparagraph (A) to all States for that fiscal year.

(c) USE OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS; ELIGIBILITY FOR KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS WITH A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN; DATA COLLECTION.—The amendments made by sections 204, 207, and 208 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) CALCULATION AND USE OF SAVINGS RESULTING FROM THE PHASE-OUT OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION ASSISTANCE.—The amendment made by section 206 shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OF SIBLINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by section 209 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, subject to paragraph (2).

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan approved under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by section 209, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the close of the 1st regular session of the State legislature that ends after the 1-year period begin-

ning with the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**Subtitle B—Extending the Family Connection Grant Program**

**SEC. 221. EXTENSION OF FAMILY CONNECTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 427(h) (42 U.S.C. 627(h)) is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

(b) ELIGIBILITY OF UNIVERSITIES FOR MATCHING GRANTS.—Section 427(a) (42 U.S.C. 627(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(1) by striking “and” before “private”; and

(2) by inserting “and institutions of higher education (as defined under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)),” after “arrangements.”

(c) FINDING FAMILIES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WHO ARE PARENTS.—Section 427(a)(1)(E) (42 U.S.C. 627(a)(1)(E)) is amended by inserting “and other individuals who are willing and able to be foster parents for children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who are themselves parents” after “kinship care families”.

(d) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Section 427(g) (42 U.S.C. 627(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2013.

**TITLE III—IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT RECOVERY**

**SEC. 301. AMENDMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT CASES.**

(a) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF HHS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH MULTILATERAL CHILD SUPPORT CONVENTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 452 (42 U.S.C. 652) is amended—

(A) by redesignating the second subsection (1) (as added by section 7306 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005) as subsection (m); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) The Secretary shall use the authorities otherwise provided by law to ensure the compliance of the United States with any multilateral child support convention to which the United States is a party.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 453(k)(3) (42 U.S.C. 653(k)(3)) is amended by striking “452(l)” and inserting “452(m)”.

(b) ACCESS TO THE FEDERAL PARENT LOCATOR SERVICE.—Section 453(c) (42 U.S.C. 653(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) an entity designated as a Central Authority for child support enforcement in a foreign reciprocating country or a foreign treaty country for purposes specified in section 459A(c)(2).”

(c) STATE OPTION TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO APPLY THROUGH THEIR COUNTRY’S APPROPRIATE CENTRAL AUTHORITY.—Section 454 (42 U.S.C. 654) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), by inserting before the semicolon “(except that, if the individual applying for the services resides in a foreign reciprocating country or foreign treaty country, the State may opt to require



the individual to request the services through the Central Authority for child support enforcement in the foreign reciprocating country or the foreign treaty country, and if the individual resides in a foreign country that is not a foreign reciprocating country or a foreign treaty country, a State may accept or reject the application"; and

(2) in paragraph (32)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "a foreign treaty country," after "a foreign reciprocating country"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "or foreign obligee" and inserting "foreign treaty country, or foreign individual".

(d) AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.—Section 459A (42 U.S.C. 659a) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) REFERENCES.—In this part:

"(1) FOREIGN RECIPROCATING COUNTRY.—The term 'foreign reciprocating country' means a foreign country (or political subdivision thereof) with respect to which the Secretary has made a declaration pursuant to subsection (a).

"(2) FOREIGN TREATY COUNTRY.—The term 'foreign treaty country' means a foreign country for which the 2007 Family Maintenance Convention is in force.

"(3) 2007 FAMILY MAINTENANCE CONVENTION.—The term '2007 Family Maintenance Convention' means the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "foreign countries that are the subject of a declaration under this section" and inserting "foreign reciprocating countries or foreign treaty countries"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "and foreign treaty countries" after "foreign reciprocating countries"; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking "the subject of a declaration pursuant to subsection (a)" and inserting "foreign reciprocating countries or foreign treaty countries".

(e) COLLECTION OF PAST-DUE SUPPORT FROM FEDERAL TAX REFUNDS.—Section 464(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 664(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking "under section 454(4)(A)(ii)" and inserting "under paragraph (4)(A)(ii) or (32) of section 454".

(f) STATE LAW REQUIREMENT CONCERNING THE UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT (UIFSA).—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 466(f) (42 U.S.C. 666(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking "on and after January 1, 1998,";

(B) by striking "and as in effect on August 22, 1996,"; and

(C) by striking "adopted as of such date" and inserting "adopted as of September 30, 2008".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 1738B of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d), by striking "individual contestant" and inserting "individual contestant or the parties have consented in a record or open court that the tribunal of the State may continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify its order,";

(B) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking "individual contestant" and inserting "individual contestant and the parties have not consented in a record or open court that the tribunal of the other State may continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify its order"; and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking "'child' means" and inserting "(1) The term 'child' means";

(ii) by striking "'child's State' means" and inserting "(2) The term 'child's State' means";

(iii) by striking "'child's home State' means" and inserting "(3) The term 'child's home State' means";

(iv) by striking "'child support' means" and inserting "(4) The term 'child support' means";

(v) by striking "'child support order' and inserting "(5) The term 'child support order'";

(vi) by striking "'contestant' means" and inserting "(6) The term 'contestant' means";

(vii) by striking "'court' means" and inserting "(7) The term 'court' means";

(viii) by striking "'modification' means" and inserting "(8) The term 'modification' means"; and

(ix) by striking "'State' means" and inserting "(9) The term 'State' means".

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE; GRACE PERIOD FOR STATE LAW CHANGES.—

(A) PARAGRAPH (1).—(i) The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect with respect to a State no later than the effective date of laws enacted by the legislature of the State implementing such paragraph, but in no event later than the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(ii) For purposes of clause (i), in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

(B) PARAGRAPH (2).—(i) The amendments made by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date on which the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance enters into force for the United States.

(ii) The amendments made by subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 302. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS FOR INDIAN TRIBES.**

(a) TRIBAL ACCESS TO THE FEDERAL PARENT LOCATOR SERVICE.—Section 453(c)(1) (42 U.S.C. 653(c)(1)) is amended by inserting "or Indian tribe or tribal organization (as defined in subsections (e) and (l) of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), after "any State".

(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS.—Section 1115(b) (42 U.S.C. 1315(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and realigning the left margin of subparagraph (C) so as to align with subparagraphs (A) and (B) (as so redesignated);

(2) by inserting "(1)" after "(b)"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) An Indian tribe or tribal organization operating a program under section 455(f) shall be considered a State for purposes of authority to conduct an experimental, pilot, or demonstration project under subsection (a) to assist in promoting the objectives of part D of title IV and receiving payments under the second sentence of that subsection. The Secretary may waive compliance with any requirements of section 455(f) or regulations promulgated under that section to the extent and for the period the Sec-

retary finds necessary for an Indian tribe or tribal organization to carry out such project. Costs of the project which would not otherwise be included as expenditures of a program operating under section 455(f) and which are not included as part of the costs of projects under section 1110, shall, to the extent and for the period prescribed by the Secretary, be regarded as expenditures under a tribal plan or plans approved under such section, or for the administration of such tribal plan or plans, as may be appropriate. An Indian tribe or tribal organization applying for or receiving start-up program development funding pursuant to section 309.16 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not be considered to be an Indian tribe or tribal organization operating a program under section 455(f) for purposes of this paragraph."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 453(f) (42 U.S.C. 653(f)) is amended by inserting "and tribal" after "State" each place it appears.

**SEC. 303. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING OFFERING OF VOLUNTARY PARENTING TIME ARRANGEMENTS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The separation of a child from a parent does not end the financial or other responsibilities of the parent toward the child.

(2) Increased parental access and visitation not only improve parent-child relationships and outcomes for children, but also have been demonstrated to result in improved child support collections, which creates a double win for children—a more engaged parent and improved financial security.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) establishing parenting time arrangements when obtaining child support orders is an important goal which should be accompanied by strong family violence safeguards; and

(2) States should use existing funding sources to support the establishment of parenting time arrangements, including child support incentives, Access and Visitation Grants, and Healthy Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood Grants.

**SEC. 304. DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDIZATION FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 452 (42 U.S.C. 652), as amended by section 301(a)(1) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(o) DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY.—

"(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with an interagency work group established by the Office of Management and Budget and considering State government perspectives, by rule, designate data exchange standards to govern, under this part—

"(A) necessary categories of information that State agencies operating programs under State plans approved under this part are required under applicable Federal law to electronically exchange with another State agency; and

"(B) Federal reporting and data exchange required under applicable Federal law.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The data exchange standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

"(A) incorporate a widely accepted, non-proprietary, searchable, computer-readable format, such as the eXtensible Markup Language;

"(B) contain interoperable standards developed and maintained by intergovernmental partnerships, such as the National Information Exchange Model;

“(C) incorporate interoperable standards developed and maintained by Federal entities with authority over contracting and financial assistance;

“(D) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles;

“(E) be implemented in a manner that is cost-effective and improves program efficiency and effectiveness; and

“(F) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary.

“(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a change to existing data exchange standards found to be effective and efficient.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue a proposed rule within 24 months after the date of the enactment of this section. The rule shall identify federally required data exchanges, include specification and timing of exchanges to be standardized, and address the factors used in determining whether and when to standardize data exchanges. It should also specify State implementation options and describe future milestones.

**SEC. 305. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) in conjunction with the strategic plan, review and provide recommendations for cost-effective improvements to the child support enforcement program under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act, and ensure that the plan addresses the effectiveness and performance of the program, analyzes program practices, identifies possible new collection tools and approaches, and identifies strategies for holding parents accountable for supporting their children and for building the capacity of parents to pay child support, with specific attention given to matters including front-end services, ongoing case management, collections, Tribal-State partnerships, interstate and intergovernmental interactions, program performance, data analytics, and information technology;

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), consult with and include input from—

(A) State, tribal, and county child support directors;

(B) judges who preside over family courts or other State or local courts with responsibility for conducting or supervising proceedings relating to child support enforcement, child welfare, or social services for children and their families, and organizations that represent the judges;

(C) custodial parents and organizations that represent them;

(D) noncustodial parents and organizations that represent them; and

(E) organizations that represent fiduciary entities that are affected by child support enforcement policies; and

(3) in developing the report required by paragraph (4), solicit public comment;

(4) not later than June 30, 2015, submit to the Congress a report that sets forth policy options for improvements in child support enforcement, which report shall include the following:

(A) A review of the effectiveness of State child support enforcement programs, and the collection practices employed by State agencies administering programs under such part, and an analysis of the extent to which the practices result in unintended consequences or performance issues associated with the programs and practices.

(B) Recommendations for methods to enhance the effectiveness of child support enforcement programs and collection practices.

(C) A review of State best practices in regards to establishing and operating State and multistate lien registries.

(D) A compilation of State recovery and distribution policies.

(E) Options, with analysis, for methods to engage noncustodial parents in the lives of their children through consideration of parental time and visitation with children.

(F) An analysis of the role of alternative dispute resolution in making child support determinations.

(G) Identification of best practices for—

(i) determining which services and support programs available to custodial and noncustodial parents are non-duplicative, evidence-based, and produce quality outcomes, and connecting custodial and noncustodial parents to those services and support programs;

(ii) providing employment support, job training, and job placement for custodial and noncustodial parents; and

(iii) establishing services, supports, and child support payment tracking for noncustodial parents, including options for the prevention of, and intervention on, uncollectible arrearages, such as retroactive obligations.

(H) Options, with analysis, for methods for States to use to collect child support payments from individuals who owe excessive arrearages as determined under section 454(31) of such Act.

(I) A review of State practices under 454(31) of such Act used to determine which individuals are excluded from the requirements of section 452(k) of such Act, including the extent to which individuals are able to successfully contest or appeal decisions.

(J) Options, with analysis, for actions as are determined to be appropriate for improvement in child support enforcement.

**SEC. 306. REQUIRED ELECTRONIC PROCESSING OF INCOME WITHHOLDING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 454A(g)(1) (42 U.S.C. 654a(g)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “, to the maximum extent feasible,”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of clause (i);

(B) by adding “and” at the end of clause (ii); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) at the option of the employer, using the electronic transmission methods prescribed by the Secretary;”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

**TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

**SEC. 401. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this legislation, which is designed to prevent sex trafficking of youth in foster care, encourage the adoption of more children from foster care, and increase child support collected to support children, among other important purposes.

I will focus my comments on the important adoption provisions in the legislation and then recognize subcommittee Chairman REICHERT to discuss the provisions designed to prevent sex trafficking.

I have spent much of my professional career promoting adoption of children by loving parents. As an attorney in private practice, I worked with parents and children in the foster care system. Those sorts of experiences provided much of the background for changes in landmark adoption legislation Congress has approved in recent years.

In 1997, my colleagues and I on the Ways and Means Committee crafted the Adoption and Safe Families Act. That legislation streamlined the adoption process to help more children in foster care quickly move into permanent adoptive homes. It also, for the first time, offered incentives to States to safely increase the number of children from foster care. It worked.

In the decade following that legislation, the number of U.S. children adopted from foster care increased by 71 percent. In the years since, adoptions have continued to remain higher, even as the foster care caseload started to decline.

Overall, almost 300,000 children have been adopted as a result of the increase in adoptions starting in 1997. While placing children in permanent loving homes is the most important benefit of the legislation, one study estimated the Federal Government saved \$1 billion over 8 years by ensuring people were adopted, instead of remaining in foster care.

That is the successful incentive program this legislation extends and updates. With this bill today, we add a new award for States that increase adoptions of older children, who are the hardest to adopt and have the worst outcomes if they “age out” of foster care without a family to call their own.

We also add a new award for increases in guardianship when family members step up to care for their nieces and nephews, grandsons and

granddaughters. This bill ensures that States maintain their commitment to post-adoption and related services, so children truly have a forever family.

Finding a forever family is the goal of this legislation, and forever homes are possible. Just last year, I met with the Johns family of Midland, Michigan. The Johns family has adopted three children and was honored during their visit to Washington as an Angels in Adoption family, but before they adopted, they were foster parents to Austin and Katie, their first two children.

They adopted them and later adopted their third child, Aliyah. The Johns family made a safe, permanent, and loving home a reality for three children, and with this legislation, we can continue to build on that success.

I note that this legislation is fully paid for by expecting all States to use electronic methods that will do a better job collecting child support, increasing family incomes, and reducing the amount of welfare benefits taxpayers pay.

Those savings not only cover the cost of this legislation, but reduce the deficit by \$19 million over the next 10 years. That is a win-win for children, families, and hardworking taxpayers alike.

This legislation reflects bipartisan, bicameral agreements on all these policy areas, and I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this legislation: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. REICHERT of Washington, and Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, as well as the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senators WYDEN and HATCH.

They are all leaders on these issues, and I value their help in developing and advancing this legislation.

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This bill was crafted the way legislation is supposed to be: through hearings, markups, public comments, and negotiations with our colleagues in the Senate. The bill we are considering today incorporates many suggestions from experts in the child welfare field, as well as just interested citizens and adoptive parents. We are grateful for the public's comments and their participation in this process.

The bottom line is this: children in foster care deserve a place to call home not just for a few months or years, but for good. We have already seen great progress in increasing adoptions since the Adoption Incentives program was created in 1997, and it is our hope that we can continue this progress once this bill is signed into law.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill in the House, and I hope and expect the Senate to also act soon on this bill so we can continue to move more foster children into permanent, loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have a special responsibility to protect vulnerable children. This is bipartisan legislation that takes some important, though modest, steps toward meeting that responsibility by addressing three issues: combating the exploitation of at-risk children, promoting permanent homes for foster children, and strengthening international enforcement of child support obligations.

With a bipartisan, bicameral agreement between the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, this legislation combines modified versions of three bills that we previously passed here in the House earlier in the session. This measure has been endorsed by a number of important child advocacy groups, including the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Welfare League of America, and Voice for Adoptions.

I was pleased to work with Chairman CAMP, Ranking Member LEVIN, and certainly Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman REICHERT, as well as our colleagues in the Senate, as we came together with bipartisan agreement on this legislation.

There are still provisions in the bill that I think could use improvement, including the fact that an important program that helps link children in foster care to relatives, called Family Connection Grants, is extended only for a single year; but I think that even with some of its limitations, this legislation does make a positive difference in the lives of many children, particularly those who are vulnerable to sex trafficking.

When children come into foster care, they already have issues. They have suffered abuse or neglect. They have been exploited. They have suffered. They have a sense of isolation, and they often feel that they have been removed from one home and put out in a place with which they are not familiar. They are especially at prey for sex traffickers and are targets in that condition.

This bipartisan legislation attempts to combat trafficking in the foster care system by screening at-risk children and providing services, when necessary; by reporting the incidence of trafficking so we will have a clear indication of that among foster children; and by expediting the location of children who run away from foster care.

Additionally, this bill attempts to help children live more normal lives

while in foster care by allowing them to more fully participate in the activities that most children enjoy, such as playing sports and an occasional sleepover at a friend's house.

This legislation also extends and adopts changes in the Adoption Incentives program to encourage States to find permanent homes for children in foster care, which is certainly the best approach. The bill increases the program's focus on promoting the adoption of older children in foster care.

It also, for the first time, provides an incentive for States to increase the number of children leaving foster care to live with a legal guardian. It includes a provision that I authored ensuring children won't lose their eligibility for Federal guardianship assistance if the guardian dies or becomes incapacitated.

Finally, the legislation would take necessary steps to implement a very important international treaty on enforcing child support obligations abroad so that leaving this country doesn't allow individuals to leave behind their responsibility for the children that they parented that are here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we still have much to do to ensure that the well-being of vulnerable children is receiving the attention that it deserves, but I think this is a good start with this bill. I urge its passage and swift action by the Senate in accord with our agreement to see that it gets to the President's desk soon for signature.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington.

I rise today in strong support of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and the other antitrafficking bills we have on the floor today in furtherance of our efforts to bring an end to this abhorrent crime.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking continues to be one of the world's great dangers, threatening millions of innocent lives, including right here at home in the United States. Our very own Department of Homeland Security describes human trafficking as "a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that between 100,000 and 300,000 children in America may be trafficked for commercial sex every year. These children represent the most vulnerable among us, and it is our responsibility to act now and do what we can to stop these heinous crimes. Ending human trafficking is a goal that both parties share, and today we can take one step closer to achieving that goal.

Some of the most vulnerable to this crime are America's foster children, as the gentleman from Texas just discussed. All too frequently, they fall through the cracks and become victims in these criminal schemes. The legislation before us today takes this problem head-on, encouraging States to tackle the issue of trafficking foster children and to ensure their placement into loving adoptive homes.

This is a great opportunity for us in the House to stand together to show the people that sent us here and the rest of this country and the world that our House is united to bringing an end to human trafficking.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Washington, Chairman REICHERT, Ranking Members LEVIN and DOGGETT, and the rest of the members of the Ways and Means Committee for their hard work on this issue, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a minute to thank the gentleman from Michigan, Chairman DAVE CAMP, one of our great leaders in Congress, who has not only led on this issue, but has been a tireless champion for families and children throughout his career.

Over the years, Chairman CAMP has advocated and succeeded in bringing much-needed reforms to our foster care system. The Adoption and Safe Families Act, which Chairman CAMP introduced in the House and President Clinton then signed, streamlined the adoption process, making it easier for kids to move out of foster care and into more permanent homes. In 2003, President Bush signed then-Congressman, now-Chairman, CAMP's Adoption Promotion Act, which provides financial incentives for States that increase adoption among older children. These are just a few of Chairman CAMP's many great accomplishments, and today's bill is just another example of his heartfelt dedication to putting America's kids first.

Few have had the impact on creating a better future for our children than DAVE CAMP. Because of Chairman CAMP, children all over America have the opportunity to live in safe homes and to pursue their dreams. I have been very proud to call him my colleague and honored to call him a dear friend.

Though I know we have still got several months before the end of this Congress, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate DAVE CAMP on a terrific and wonderful career. I want to thank the gentleman for his service and wish him the very best in his retirement. The Congress will certainly miss the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. BASS), who cochairs the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. I don't know another Member of this Congress who has ex-

pressed more concern in going all over the country to work and seek improvements in the lives of our foster children.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

First, I would like to commend Chairmen CAMP and REICHERT and Ranking Members LEVIN and DOGGETT for their work on this important legislation and for their ongoing commitment to our Nation's foster youth.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I have had the opportunity to hear stories from youth across the country during our listening tour. Many of the young people I have heard from share similar stories—from Washington State to Missouri—that they just want to be a part of loving families and have the ability to participate in sports, hang out with their friends, and have the same experiences as their peers. I strongly believe this legislation will help bring a greater sense of stability to foster youth and give kids a chance to be just like their friends.

Since 1997, when the adoption incentives legislation became law, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of kids in foster care. By improving adoption incentives, we help children find their forever families. This is why it is so critical to highlight this legislation's investment in legal guardianship and relative caregivers.

More than half of the youth in the child welfare system are placed with a relative caregiver: a grandmother, an aunt, uncle, or older sibling. Guardianship is often the preferred type of family permanence for relative caregivers.

In addition, parts of H.R. 4980 include the funding for Family Connection Grants, which provide critical resources to ensure children find permanent homes, oftentimes with relatives.

In my Los Angeles district, relative caregivers are the largest group of foster care providers. Research shows that foster placement with relatives are good for children. They allow children to stay in their schools, receive continued support from their community and culture, and feel connected to families that continue to love them.

Despite the importance of relative caregivers, they face unique obstacles. Becoming a caregiver changes lives in every way: physically, emotionally, and financially. Stable middle class families or seniors who live on their life savings are often pushed to the brink of poverty because they have accepted the unexpected financial burden of caring for a child.

I am greatly encouraged by the critical work this legislation before us encourages—children having forever families through both adoption and guardianship throughout the country—and hope to continue this work with my colleagues in the House.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also add my compliments to Chairman CAMP.

Not to be repetitive, I think it is important to mention some of the fine work that Chairman CAMP has done in his time here in Congress, which has inspired all of us, I think, to move the legislation that we are discussing today. He has left an indelible stamp on our Nation's child welfare policy during the years he has served in Congress, and especially throughout his service on the Ways and Means Committee. He has a whole list of bills and initiatives and amendments that he has been associated with to champion this cause, but I think, suffice it to say, Mr. CAMP has probably done more than most in the last 20 years of his service here for the people of America to help children, and especially focused on foster care and adoption.

Again, I want to join in praising and thanking the chairman for his service and dedication to the children of this country and families in general.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

□ 1845

This bill, as the chairman said, reflects bipartisan agreement and bicameral agreement. So, after we pass this bill tonight, it goes back to the Senate, and this will go to the President's desk, I am sure, and be signed within, I hope, the next month or so.

This bill is designed to prevent sex trafficking involving youth in foster care. It is designed to strengthen families by increasing adoptions from foster care, and it is designed to improve child support collections.

This issue is a very personal issue for me. I have listened to the speeches tonight, and I appreciate the enthusiasm and the dedication and the focus that Members of Congress have put on this issue over the last year especially. This is our second week this month, I think, that we have focused on human trafficking in foster care.

Mr. Speaker, some people know that my previous career was in law enforcement. I spent 33 years in the sheriff's office. Many of those years were spent investigating a case that has been entitled the Green River murder case. We finally arrested that person. He says that he killed somewhere between 60 and 70 young girls in Seattle—60 to 70 children's lives taken. I collected a lot of those bodies, Mr. Speaker. I remember them, where they lay, 15-year-old girls.

We are not talking about a bill today, ladies and gentlemen and Mr. Speaker. We are not talking about a bill—legislation—that is just a piece of fluff, that is just a piece of legislation, that is just words. We are talking

about the lives of children and the monsters who are out there—and they have been discussed tonight—who are ready to prey on them, who are ready to take their lives, even if it is just to take a piece of their lives away from them for a moment, or maybe 20 times a night they take a piece of their lives. They survive physically, but mentally and emotionally, their lives have been ripped apart and so have the families'.

If you were to just drive down this street and see 10 young ladies standing on a street corner, Mr. Speaker, who were involved in human trafficking, six out of those 10 would be foster kids. These are kids we have responsibility for, whom we as a nation have the responsibility for—all of us in each one of our States who take care of foster children. We place them in foster homes, and they run away, and we don't find them, and we don't search for them, and they go on the streets, and they get scooped up by somebody who says: I love you. Stay with me. I will buy you clothes. I will buy you jewelry. I will put you on the street, too, and that is how you are going to make the money to buy those things—and guess what. You are going to provide me with some of those things, too.

It just makes me sick. It should make every American sick to his stomach. We need to stop this.

I have seen it with my own eyes for 19 years in having been involved in this case, trying to bring this monster, who not only took away their souls, but who also eventually ended up taking away their lives. He ripped those lives out of the families' hands—gone. My 15-year-old daughter—gone. Can you imagine?

That is why we need to help folks. This is such an important piece of legislation. One of the young ladies who was one of the first victims in this case was Wendy Coffield. She was a foster kid. She ran away from her foster home, and she ended up on the street, but nobody looked for Wendy Coffield until we found her one day, floating in the river just south of Seattle—dead.

One of the things that I wanted to do as the chair of the Human Resources Subcommittee was to help educate this country and other Members about this issue. We held hearings, and we had experts from DSHS and the State of Washington and human resources all across the country who were directors of DSHS, and we had social workers. They all provided great information.

But do you know? One of the most powerful witnesses and speakers we had was a young lady named Miss Ortiz Walker Pettigrew. She goes by the name of "T." She was recently named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. She is a young lady who spent the first 18 years of her life in foster care, and 7 of those years were in human trafficking. She is now one of the 100 most

influential people in the world. She was trafficked on the streets. She was trafficked on the Internet. She was trafficked on the back pages of newspapers. Now she is speaking out, and she is the one—and people like her are the ones—who provides us with that information.

I think that we can all agree that our Nation's children deserve better, because her statement was and her comment was: I felt like I was part of a family. I identified with my pimp and with the other young ladies who were out working the street. That was my family—versus having a family that could hold them and love them.

This bill requires States to identify victims of sex trafficking and provide them with the services they need to heal. It will also improve data on instances of child sex trafficking so better policies can be developed to prevent it.

Also, on the prevention front, this bill makes sure that kids can be kids, that foster kids can participate in after-school events, which would, I think, make them less vulnerable, anyway, to getting involved in street activity and getting sucked into the life of human trafficking. It encourages States to move children out of the foster care system and into loving families more quickly.

The approach we are taking is practical. It is bipartisan. It is based on experiences from States around the country. It is evidence-based, and it is also real life experience-based. This bill incorporates a wide range of ideas gleaned from bills introduced by members of the Ways and Means Committee—like from Mr. PAULSEN, who will speak soon—and by other Members of the House and from over 150 pages of public comments received on our December 2013 discussion draft.

I want to thank the subcommittee's ranking member, Mr. DOGGETT, who joins me on the floor today, as well as to thank the chairman, Mr. CAMP, and the ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, for their support of this legislation and for their help throughout its development.

I also want to thank the many outside groups that offered their feedback and their support. As of today, we have received support for this bill from 48 child welfare groups, which is an indication of the high importance of this legislation. I can't think of a more important or a more bipartisan topic than protecting vulnerable children in foster care and working to find loving homes for each of them.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to join in the accolades for our chairman, DAVE CAMP of Michigan, and to particularly recognize the key role he played in helping to create our child abuse commission, which is currently holding hearings. They had the first one down in San Antonio, in my district. They will be

going to Michigan, and they have been in Florida. I think they are collecting data that will provide us another opportunity to act, to deal with some of the same issues that we are concerned with today. I appreciate the leadership that he has shown and, certainly, that Mr. REICHERT has shown.

I am pleased that among those groups that we have heard from is the American Academy of Pediatrics, which plays such a leading role. They say that this legislation is an essential step in improving the health and well-being of foster youths and in expanding their access to appropriate permanency options. The Children's Defense Fund was important in this legislation. It emphasized the importance of permanent placements for children as they leave foster care and of empowering our older youth. I believe that this bipartisan legislation is a good step forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker and Members, while there are many issues that divide Washington, this is absolutely an area where there is agreement and bipartisan and bicameral work being done. We already passed five separate antitrafficking bills just a few months ago, in May, and I am very pleased we are taking additional action on these pieces of legislation tonight.

More than 100,000 children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States. Those most at risk of victimization are the vulnerable, including children from our foster care system. Many of these children face barriers to a real childhood, and they are unable to participate in school activities, to play after-school sports, or to even spend time with friends. Youths that have been involved in the foster care system are much more likely to become runaways or homeless at an early age. The preventative measures in this legislation will make a difference.

On any given night, 2,500 youths in Minnesota—my home State—will experience homelessness, and a majority of those homeless youths is solicited for sex within 48 hours of becoming homeless. In fact, law enforcement will say—and tells me—that the overwhelming majority of trafficking victims is part of that homeless population and that 60 percent of those victims were in foster care or group homes when they ran away.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that trafficking is a very complex problem that

requires many different solutions. It is going after the demand by punishing the johns. It is shutting off access to trafficking victims through Web sites like backpage.com. It is increasing international cooperation and passing safe harbor laws that ensure children are treated as victims of these heinous crimes and not as criminals.

Most importantly, as we have in this legislation, we need to prevent children from becoming potential victims in the first place. This bill takes important steps to improve the sharing of information as to what is happening, where and to whom. By identifying trends and filling in the gaps, we can help these children in foster care before they become victims in the first place.

I really want to thank not only Chairman CAMP, Ranking Member LEVIN and Ranking Member DOGGETT, but I want to thank Subcommittee Chairman REICHERT for his passion, his advocacy, and his hard work on this legislation. We brought this together in a bipartisan manner.

I also want to thank them in particular for including provisions from the legislation, which I authored with Congresswoman SLAUGHTER, that address the lack of reliable data and reporting to law enforcement as it relates to runaway youth from the child welfare system. I look forward to its passage and to the passage of all of these bipartisan bills this evening because, together, we can end trafficking.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, would you report on the time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am so pleased tonight to hear one colleague after another indicate that they are ready to act in a bipartisan way on this issue and that it should be a bipartisan commitment to addressing the vulnerability of our children. I think that needs to apply to all children. This legislation that we are considering at the moment is one of seven bills that we are going to approve here in the House today that deal with trafficking because trafficking remains a serious problem here and around the world.

Several of the bills that we are considering recognize that there is an international dimension to this problem. Therefore, I would particularly urge my Republican colleagues and all of our colleagues tonight to remember next week the statements that are being made this evening and to be as concerned about the vulnerability and the exposure to the trafficking of those children who have recently sought refuge in our country as we are about foster children or any other children in our country.

While the sex trafficking prevention in this bill addresses, specifically,

problems within the foster care system, the scourge of youth sex trafficking extends far beyond this population. As we are all well aware, we have had a recent influx of children come across our southern border, many of whom have been abused at home, abused along the 1,000-plus-mile track, and could be subject to abuse or to being involved again in sex trafficking.

□ 1900

Polaris, a group that works to help end modern-day slavery, notes that undocumented immigrants are “highly vulnerable” to sex trafficking due to their “lack of legal status and protections, language barriers, limited employment options, immigration-related debts, and social isolation.” Most of these vulnerabilities are amplified when the immigrants are children. We have an obligation in this Congress to take their unique situation into account and provide them with the protection and the care that they deserve.

The steady drumbeat to remove the very protections that help vulnerable children from becoming sex slaves or remaining in slavery is wrong, and that is why 37 Latino organizations, including MALDEF, the National Council of La Raza, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, among them, all have urged this Congress to assure due process for these kids rather than stripping away rights that this Congress provided in current United States law.

A diverse group of faith leaders, including the Southern Baptist Convention, the Sojourners, and the National Association of Evangelicals have joined with these Latino groups in calling to assure that these children are not denied their due process rights, and that they do not have rights guaranteed by American law today taken away next week.

Over 50 child development experts from around the country, many of the same people that supported our effort in today’s legislation, wrote this Congress yesterday and urged that we change course before we put thousands of traumatized children into danger. They describe an expedited screening process that would leave children in danger. It is the expedited screening process that applies today to Mexican children, and it is flawed.

Children who fear trafficking, or were previously trafficked, can be returned to Mexico to reenter that trafficking trade and come back again. We shouldn’t subject the Central American children to the same process, yet, that is what has been recommended today.

I am concerned about what happens to children along the Green River, about what happens along the Potomac River, about what happens along the Colorado River, but I am also concerned about what is happening to the many who have just crossed the Rio Grande River.

When children are asked about whether they have been trafficked by a police officer, who may not speak their native language, in a rushed interview in what may be a chaotic situation in a detention center that is much like a police station, where someone who just abused them or who may actually have been involved in the trafficking and smuggling process is nearby and can perhaps overhear these tales, they will be reluctant to articulate the sexual trauma, the very private trauma to which they have been subjected.

These children who have been traumatized, in some cases, multiple times, who may well have left their native country because of abuse, deserve to be interviewed and evaluated in an environment that takes into consideration their youth, their vulnerability, all of the factors that we have been talking about on this piece of legislation, and the other six pieces of legislation that the House is about to approve.

These children deserve the same type of protections, not an intimidating environment that is made all the more unfamiliar to them by virtue of the fact that they are in a land that they have never been to before.

This special treatment does not occur and happen if you have an expedited screening process. That is why we unanimously passed the guarantees that are in the 2008 law. If we want to protect these children, we should abandon a plan to throw out these children by the wayside by abandoning those protections.

I believe that we shouldn’t let our desire, the fears of some, perhaps the hate of others, to result in the quick deportation of children and return them to a life of sex slavery. They are vulnerable children. We don’t assure them amnesty. Certainly, we cannot accept every child that wants to enter this country.

I am not in favor of amnesty, but I do think we need a little humanity, a little human decency, and that those children deserve the same respect and due process as any child that we are talking about tonight.

So I am pleased that we are making progress on this piece of legislation and another six bills. I think they are an important step forward in dealing with a serious international problem. But it is critical that this interest in bipartisan concern for the vulnerability of children extend to those children who are now in my home State, and about whom we will be talking in the few days that remain in this Congress, and that we apply the same kind of standard then as we are applying tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I will insert in the RECORD a list of the organizations in support of this legislation. ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT (H.R. 4980)

1. American Academy of Pediatrics (letter)

2. American Psychological Association (letter)
3. Association on American Indian Affairs (email)
4. Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (letter)
5. Cherokee Nation (letter)
6. Children Awaiting Parents (Senate)
7. Children's Defense Fund (letter)
8. Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (letter)
9. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (letter)
10. Eastern Shashone Tribe (letter)
11. First Focus Campaign for Children (letter)
12. Fort Belknap Child Support Program (letter)
13. Foster Club (letter)
14. Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (letter)
15. Generations United (letter)
16. Holt International (letter)
17. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (letter)
18. Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
19. Love 146 (letter)
20. Menominee Tribal Child Support Agency (letter)
21. Mescalero Apache Tribe (letter)
22. Meskwaki Nation Child Support Services (letter)
23. National Adoption Center (letter)
24. National Child Support Enforcement Association (letter with concerns)
25. National Children's Alliance (letter)
26. National Foster Parent Association (letter)
27. National Indian Child Welfare Association (email)
28. Nebraska Families Collaborative (letter)
29. Nez Perce Tribe (letter)
30. North American Council on Adoptable Children (letter)
31. NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children (letter)
32. Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin (letter)
33. Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (letter)
34. Penobscot Nation Child Support Agency (letter)
35. Red Cliff Tribal Child Support Services Agency (letter)
36. Rights4Girls (letter)
37. Stockbridge-Munsee Community (letter)
38. Suquamish Tribe (letter)
39. The Adoption Exchange (email)
40. The Attachment and Trauma Network (Senate)
41. The California Alliance of Child and Family Services (Senate)
42. The Child Welfare League of America (letter)
43. The Donaldson Adoption Institute (letter)
44. The National Crittenton Foundation (email)
45. Tribal Child Support Enforcement, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma (letter)
46. Voice for Adoption (letter)
47. You Gotta Believe (letter)
48. Yurok Tribe (letter).

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, this legislation, as I said earlier, represents bipartisan, bicameral progress in protecting our Nation's most vulnerable children.

So, in plain language, the House of Representatives cooperated together

and developed a bill. The Senate cooperated together, Senators HATCH and WYDEN worked together to develop a bill on the Senate side. They agreed and passed a bill, we agreed and passed a bill.

This bill that we are talking about today is one of those rare moments in history where not only did Democrats and Republicans agree, but the Senate and the House agreed this was a good bill, and here it is today.

After we pass this bill tonight, it will move to the Senate, and we already know we have agreement there. It will be passed in the Senate, hopefully, some time early next week, and move on to the President's desk for signing.

We are focused tonight on this bill, with foster kids, because this is the jurisdiction that I have, as the chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, and that Mr. DOGGETT, as the ranking member, has too. We are focused on foster kids and human trafficking, and helping them find loving homes so they can have a productive life, so they can have hope, hope for the future.

We need to pass this bill tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This bill advances child welfare policy in many important ways. For over a decade, I have advocated via the Stronger Families Act or the Investing in Permanency for Youth in Foster Care Act that federal policy should incentivize permanency for all foster youth regardless of how they exit care—adoption, guardianship, or reunification. I am especially pleased that H.R. 4980 takes a tremendous step forward in recognizing guardianship as an important permanency option for foster children who cannot return home. For the first time, the bill provides incentives for states for placing foster children with legal guardians.

Guardianship and kinship caregiving are very significant for Chicago, for Illinois, and for the African American community. My Congressional District has the highest percentage of children living with grandparent caregivers in the nation, followed closely by two other Congressional Districts in Illinois. Nearly 400,000 children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four (approximately 28%) of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Research clearly shows that kinship foster care families are safer, more stable placements that are more likely to keep children connected with their siblings and communities than non-relative placements.

Adoption is not a viable option for many children to exit foster care, with courts explicitly ruling out this option for thousands of children each year. Moreover, adoption is not equally availed by families of all races and ethnicities, especially those in African-American and Native-American communities. Research—including a report by the Government Accountability Office—indicates that African American children stay in foster care longer

because of difficulties in recruiting adoptive parents and a hesitancy to terminate parental rights, as is required for adoption. Importantly, a study of the Illinois Subsidized Guardianship Demonstration Waiver showed that the offer of subsidized guardianship increased overall rates of family permanency by six percentage points over and above the level of performance in a randomly assigned control group that was limited to the option of adoption only. African American and Native American families tend to choose guardianship as a route to permanency rather than adoption because they do not see a need to legally sever the connection between parent and child. A grandmother raising her grandchild does not want to erase the legal connection of her child to her grandchild. Guardianship affords the same legal responsibility for a child as adoption only without legally severing the familial connection.

Thus, I applaud the bill for including an incentive for guardianship that is four-fifths the incentive for adoption as well as a guardianship incentive equal to that for that for adoption for older youth. Rewarding states for helping foster youth find permanent, loving homes via guardianship or adoption allows families to make the right permanency choice that best fits the particular needs and circumstances of their family, rather than incentivizing states to prioritize adoption alone.

To further support relative caregivers, I am very pleased that the bill extends the Family Connection Grants for one year. These grants provide funding for intensive family finding, kinship navigator programs, family group decision-making meetings, and residential family treatment programs. These programs promote permanency for children in care. In addition to the positive outcomes for foster children in relative care, research shows that kinship care placements are cost effective. In Illinois, cost studies estimated an average of \$4,778 in savings of IV-E administrative expenses over an 8 year period compared to a matched control group that did not have this option. Extrapolating to the 10,000 children in Illinois discharged to guardianship between 1997 and 2007, the projected savings was approximately \$48 million for the state of Illinois. Thus, Family Connection Grants improves the access of foster youth to safer, more stable family placements and reduce costs for state and federal governments.

Further, I am delighted that the bill includes comparable successor-guardian protections for children who exit to guardianship as those protections provided to youth who exit to adoption. Given that guardianship is an important permanency option for grandparent caregivers who are older and have health problems, the issue of continuity of care via successor guardianship is especially needed to protect children. Current law already provides this protection for adoptive parents; extending this protection to children in guardianship is a reasonable step to protect youth and keep them from re-entering the foster care system.

The bill implements many important changes to child welfare law, including: protecting children and youth at risk for sex trafficking; ensuring the foster youth have important documents when exiting care; empowering foster youth in the development of their

own case plans; improving information in child welfare reports; modifying the calculation of permanency incentives based on improvements in rate rather than number to better capture placement success; enhancing reporting requirements related to the use of state dollars; strengthening benefits and services; and increasing funding for the Chafee Independent Living program.

Given the dramatic improvements to child welfare policy made by this bill, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of H.R. 4980, which would prevent the sex trafficking of foster youth, promote adoption, and strengthen international child support

This measure represents an agreement with Senators WYDEN and HATCH on three bipartisan bills that the House passed overwhelmingly: the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act, the International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act, and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act. I voted to approve all three.

While this bill does not address every challenge of foster youth and child sex trafficking facing our nation, it is a positive first step. It also demonstrates Congress can work together to prevent the negative treatment of foster youth that can lead to child sex trafficking. For children involved with the state child welfare agency, states must develop methods to identify, document, and determine services for victims of child sex trafficking and those who are at risk of becoming victims. The legislation also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a national advisory committee which will have two years to review, and recommend best practices to states to address sex trafficking of children and youth.

In my home state of Oregon, 8,686 children were in foster care on an average daily basis last year and 12,366 children spent at least one day in foster care of some kind. Nationally, the average foster child will spend nearly two years in foster care and will change homes an average of three times. The legislation also provides a much needed continuation of adoption incentives and FY14 Family Connection grants. It also includes a number of helpful provisions targeted at protecting our most vulnerable youth from becoming victims and oftentimes repeat victims of trafficking.

I will continue to work towards further efforts in Congress to end child sex trafficking and improve our foster care system so that our communities can be safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4980.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5135) to direct the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to identify strategies to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking and review trafficking prevention efforts, to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5135

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2014”.

##### SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT ON CHILD TRAFFICKING PRIMARY PREVENTION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, established under section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103), shall conduct a review that, with regard to trafficking in persons in the United States—

(1) in consultation with nongovernmental organizations that the Task Force determines appropriate, surveys and catalogues the activities of the Federal Government and State governments to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses and to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(2) surveys academic literature on deterring individuals from committing trafficking offenses, preventing children from becoming victims of trafficking, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other similar topics that the Task Force determines appropriate;

(3) identifies best practices and effective strategies to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses and to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking; and

(4) identifies current gaps in research and data that would be helpful in formulating effective strategies to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses and to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall provide to Congress, and make publicly available in electronic format, a report on the review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

##### SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON INTERVENTION.

On the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report, which shall include—

(1) information on the efforts of Federal and select State law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking in the United States; and

(2) information on each Federal grant program, a purpose of which is to combat human trafficking or assist victims of trafficking, as specified in an authorizing statute or in a guidance document issued by the agency carrying out the grant program.

##### SEC. 4. PROVISION OF HOUSING PERMITTED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including programs that provide housing to victims of trafficking”.

##### SEC. 5. VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED.

In this Act, the term and “victim of trafficking” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5135, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 5135, the Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2014, introduced by Representative KRISTI NOEM.

The crisis of human trafficking is ruinous to the lives of its victims, many of whom are drawn from the ranks of the most vulnerable in our society. This crisis has touched nearly every corner of the globe, and even exists here in the United States.

The Justice Department, and its many State and local partners, have made great strides to rescue children and other victims from the terrible crime of sex trafficking. Last month, the FBI announced a successful nationwide sting that led to the rescue of 168 children and the arrest of 281 pimps in more than 100 cities.

Also last month, the Justice Department seized a major Web site known for promoting illegal sex trafficking and indicted its owner. Both of these cases, and the many other trafficking cases that have been brought in recent years, show that law enforcement is making progress in the fight against child exploitation. But sadly, there remains more work to be done.

Studies suggest that over 290,000 youth are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States. To effectively combat human trafficking, we must cut it off at its root by trying to prevent the trafficking before it can occur.

H.R. 5135 requires the existing Interagency Task Force to Monitor and