

FOSTER YOUTH HOUSING OPPORTUNITY ACT

MAY 11, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SMITH of Missouri, from the Committee on Ways and Means,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 7432]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 7432) to amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to improve coordination with Federal housing assistance programs for youth who have experienced foster care, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR FOSTER YOUTH.

Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “and preventive” and inserting “preventive”; and

(B) by inserting “, and access to housing for youth age 18 or older” before the semicolon;

(2) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “current and” before “former”;

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “, including by collaborating with public housing agencies that administer Federal housing programs serving foster youth under section 8(x)(2)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and receive funding to partner with public child welfare agencies to serve youth who have experienced foster care” before the period;

(4) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a fiscal year” and inserting “an average of not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for the 5 fiscal years covered by the application submitted by the State pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection”;

(5) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(6) HOUSING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may use amounts from its allotment under subsection (c) to provide supportive services to assist eligible youth who experienced foster care to obtain or retain suitable housing.

“(B) DEFINITIONS.—

“(i) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible youth’ means an individual who receives assistance provided under section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

“(ii) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term ‘supportive services’ may include—

“(I) basic life skills information and counseling on financial literacy, use of credit, and money management;

“(II) counseling on rental lease contracts and assistance with rental insurance; and

“(III) assistance with security deposits, utility connection fees, moving costs, and other fees associated with establishing tenancy.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—Expenditures in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered expenditures for room and board for purposes of subsection (b)(3)(B).

“(D) ALIGNING AGE ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), a State may use funds from its allotment under subsection (c) to provide supportive services to eligible youth who have not attained 26 years of age for the purpose of supporting continued access to housing.”; and

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “access to housing,” before “and personal”.

SEC. 3. JOINT AGENCY GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall develop and issue joint guidance to State public child welfare agencies and public housing authorities to improve alignment and coordination of housing supportive services provided under section 477 of the Social Security Act and housing assistance provided under section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

(b) CONTENTS.—The joint guidance shall include the following:

(1) Clarification and alignment of Federal policies to improve access to housing for youth who have experienced foster care, including youth who are in independent living arrangements while in extended foster care.

(2) Guidance on State use of funds provided under section 477 of the Social Security Act for supportive services (as defined in subsection (d)(6) of such section) to improve access to housing programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) Best practices for building partnerships between public child welfare agencies and public housing authorities, including ways to improve access to supportive services.

(4) Additional information the Secretaries deem necessary to effectively coordinate Federal programs serving current and former foster youth.

(c) **PRODUCTION.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall designate an official of the Department of Health and Human Services to lead development of the joint guidance in collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Within 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report that sets forth—

(1) aggregate data on the number of eligible youth who have experienced foster care who are receiving Federal housing assistance;

(2) a description of the outcomes for the youth, including the extent to which youth are able to access stable housing and rates of homelessness;

(3) the findings from any evaluations of State programs conducted pursuant to section 477(g)(1) of the Social Security Act; and

(4) statutory recommendations for improving coordination between public child welfare agencies and Federal housing programs.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

A. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 7432, as amended, the “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act,” as ordered reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on April 29, 2026, makes changes to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (“Chafee”) in Section 477 of Part IV–E of the Social Security Act. Introduced by Rep. Darin LaHood (R–IL) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D–WI), this bill strengthens coordination between Chafee and the Department of Housing Development’s (HUD) Family Unification Program (FUP) and Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing vouchers. This bill also provides states more flexibility in using Chafee funds for “room or board” and requires federal guidance to states to improve coordination between public child welfare agencies and federal housing assistance programs.

B. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1999, Congress created the Chafee program which provides states, territories, and tribes with flexible funding grants to provide current and former foster youth with independent living services as they transition to adulthood. Chafee is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF). According to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, each year, nearly 16,000 foster youth “age out” of the foster care system without permanent connections to family. Access to stable housing is one of the biggest barriers foster youth face as they transition to adulthood. According to one estimate, nearly 35 percent of former foster youth experienced homelessness by age 21.

Most federally-supported housing for older foster youth is provided via Title IV–E Extended Foster Care or, if the youth qualify, public housing vouchers. Chafee program spending for “housing” is capped at 30 percent of total state expenditures. Many states struggle to stay under the cap.

Since 2019, FUP and FYI housing vouchers, which are funded by annual appropriations and administered by public housing agencies (PHA) have provided eligible former foster youth with dedicated vouchers to obtain stable housing. The vouchers require participants to be offered “supportive services” such as lease counseling, counseling on use of credit, and assistance with security deposits. A 2023 report published by HUD’s Office of Inspector General found PHAs could not always secure supportive services or guarantee the services for the duration of the voucher.

The lack of coordination between federal programs such as Chafee and FYI and public child welfare programs has made it difficult for former foster youth to utilize the vouchers as intended. Youth in non-public housing also often struggle to secure and retain housing. The Committee believes that permitting states to use Chafee funds to pay for the voucher’s supportive services up to age 26 and to provide supportive services to youth in private housing will reduce program fragmentation, help maximize the usage of the vouchers, and allow the Chafee program to play a helpful role in stabilizing housing. In effect, these changes will provide former foster youth with critical supports to achieve stability, self-sufficiency and economic independence.

C. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Background

H.R. 7432 was introduced on February 9, 2026, and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Financial Services.

Committee Hearings

The Committee on Ways and Means held the following hearing(s) concerning the policy in H.R. 7432:

On June 12, 2025, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing titled, “Aging Out is Not a Plan: Reimagining Futures for Foster Youth.”

On November 18, 2025, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing titled, “Leaving the Sticky Notes Behind: Harnessing Innovation and New Technology to Help America’s Foster Youth Succeed.”

Committee Action

The Committee on Ways and Means marked up H.R. 7432, the “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act”, on April 29, 2026, and favorably reported the bill, as amended, to the House of Representatives (with quorum being present).

D. DESIGNATED HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop and consider H.R. 7432, the “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act”:

“Aging Out is Not a Plan: Reimagining Futures for Foster Youth,” hearing held on June 12, 2025 and “Leaving the Sticky Notes Behind: Harnessing Innovation and New Technology to Help America’s Foster Youth Succeed,” hearing held on November 18, 2025.

II. EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

A. REASONS FOR CHANGE

Section 1. The Committee believes the title accurately reflects the content of the bill.

Section 2. The Committee believes that expanding the purposes of Chafee will direct states in spending Chafee funds to support access to housing for foster youth. Adding a state plan requirement will improve planning and purposeful collaboration between PHAs and public child welfare agencies to better support transition-age youth.

The Committee believes that modifying the cap on “room or board” to be a rolling average of 30 percent over five years will enable a state that is currently underspending for this purpose, to utilize more funds for purpose without fear of exceeding the cap.

The Committee believes permitting a state to use funds from its Chafee allotment for housing “supportive services,” while aligning the age eligibility across Chafee and the FUP and FYI vouchers, will reduce program fragmentation, improve access to vouchers, and help stabilize housing for youth in both private and public housing.

The Committee believes adding housing as an area that must be studied by HHS as part of innovative state programs receiving Chafee funds will provide greater information on programs that are effective at reducing homelessness.

The Committee believes housing is a critical need for current and former foster youth and requiring joint guidance from HUD and HHS will improve federal -level coordination of services provided by Chafee and HUD administered housing programs. Requiring a Report to Congress with data on the impact of federal housing assistance on foster youth and additional legislation is needed to inform efforts to improve the coordination between child welfare agencies and housing programs.

B. EXPLANATION OF PROVISIONS

Section 1. Provides the short title of the bill, “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act”.

Section 2. Expands purposes of the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (“Chafee”) to include access to housing for youth age 18 or older.

Adds a condition to the state plan to include a description of how the public child welfare agency will collaborate with public housing agencies (PHAs) administering the Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher for youth who have experienced foster care.

Provides more flexibility by permitting a state to spend a rolling average of 30 percent of its Chafee allotment on “room or board”

over five fiscal years, as opposed to a limit of 30 percent for each fiscal year.

Provides additional flexibility for states to use Chafee funds to provide housing supportive services to youth, including those receiving an FUP or FYI housing voucher by excluding such services from the 30 percent cap on “room or board.”

- Creates a new definition for “supportive services” provided to youth receiving an FUP or FYI voucher, which may include use of funds for counseling on financial literacy, use of credit, money management, counseling on rental lease contracts and assistance with rental insurance, security deposits, utility connection fees, and moving costs.

- Aligns the age eligibility between the Chafee program and FUP and FYI vouchers by allowing supportive services to be offered to an eligible youth until age 26.

- Adds access to housing as an area the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must consider when evaluating innovative state programs receiving Chafee funds.

Section 3. Within 1 year of enactment, the HHS Secretary and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall develop and issue joint guidance to improve alignment and coordinate services under Chafee and the FUP and FYI housing vouchers for youth who have experienced foster care. The joint guidance must include:

- Clarification of federal policies to improve housing access for youth who have experienced foster care, including youth who are in independent living arrangements while in extended foster care.

- Guidance on how state child welfare agencies can use Chafee funds to improve access to HUD administered housing programs.

- Best practices for building partnerships between PHAs and public child welfare agencies, including ways to improve access to supportive services.

Section 4. Within 3 years of enactment, HHS and HUD must submit a report to relevant Congressional Committees that includes aggregate data on the number of youth who have experienced foster care receiving federal housing assistance, outcomes for such youth, findings from evaluations of state programs, and any statutory recommendations for improving coordination between child welfare and housing programs.

C. EFFECTIVE DATE

The bill would become effective 1 year after enactment.

III. VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 7432, the “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act” on April 29, 2026.

H.R. 7432 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives as amended by a roll call vote of 40 yeas to 0 nays (with a quorum being present). The vote was as follows:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Present	Representative	Yea	Nay	Present
Mr. Smith (MO)	X	.....	.....	Mr. Neal	X	.....	.....
Mr. Buchanan	X	.....	.....	Mr. Doggett .....	.....	.....	.....
Mr. Smith (NE)	X	.....	.....	Mr. Thompson	X	.....	.....
Mr. Kelly	X	.....	.....	Mr. Larson	X	.....	.....
Mr. Schweikert	X	.....	.....	Mr. Davis	X	.....	.....
Mr. LaHood	X	.....	.....	Ms. Sánchez	X	.....	.....
Mr. Arrington	X	.....	.....	Ms. Sewell .....	.....	.....	.....
Mr. Estes	X	.....	.....	Ms. DelBene	X	.....	.....
Mr. Smucker	X	.....	.....	Ms. Chu	X	.....	.....
Mr. Hern	X	.....	.....	Ms. Moore (WI)	X	.....	.....
Mrs. Miller (WV)	X	.....	.....	Mr. Boyle	X	.....	.....
Dr. Murphy	X	.....	.....	Mr. Beyer	X	.....	.....
Mr. Kustoff	X	.....	.....	Mr. Evans .....	.....	.....	.....
Mr. Fitzpatrick	X	.....	.....	Mr. Schneider	X	.....	.....
Mr. Steube	X	.....	.....	Mr. Panetta	X	.....	.....
Ms. Tenney	X	.....	.....	Mr. Gomez .....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. Fischbach	X	.....	.....	Mr. Horsford	X	.....	.....
Mr. Moore (UT)	X	.....	.....	Ms. Plaskett .....	.....	.....	.....
Ms. Van Dyne	X	.....	.....	Mr. Suozzi	X	.....	.....
Mr. Feenstra	X	.....	.....				
Ms. Malliotakis	X	.....	.....				
Mr. Carey	X	.....	.....				
Mr. Yakym	X	.....	.....				
Mr. Miller (OH)	X	.....	.....				
Mr. Bean	X	.....	.....				
Mr. Moran	X	.....	.....				

IV. BUDGET EFFECTS OF THE BILL

A. COMMITTEE ESTIMATE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

With respect to clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the effects on the budget of the bill, H.R. 7432, as reported. The estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office is included below.

B. STATEMENT REGARDING NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES BUDGET AUTHORITY

In compliance with clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that the bill involved no new or increased budget authority. The Committee states further that the bill involves no new or increased tax expenditures.

C. COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, requiring a cost estimate prepared by the CBO, the following statement by CBO is provided.

At a Glance			
Foster Care Legislation			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on April 29, 2026			
On April 29, 2026, the House Committee on Ways and Means ordered six bills to be reported. Each of the bills is related to the administration of the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood. Details of the estimated costs of the bills are discussed in the text.			
CBO estimates that none of the bills would affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.			
CBO estimates that H.R. 7432, H.R. 7463, and H.R. 7995 would each increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2026-2031 period.			
CBO estimates that none of the bills would increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.			
Bill	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Over the 2026-2036 Period (Millions of Dollars)	Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation Over the 2026-2031 Period (Outlays, Millions of Dollars)	Mandate Effects?
H.R. 7343	0	0	No
H.R. 7432	0	*	No
H.R. 7463	0	*	No
H.R. 7529	0	0	No
H.R. 7655	0	0	No
H.R. 7995	0	*	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

Summary of legislation: On April 29, 2026, the House Committee on Ways and Means ordered six bills to be reported. This document provides estimates for those bills. Each of the bills would amend section 447 of the Social Security Act to broaden the purpose of funding provided for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program).

Estimated Federal cost: The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 600 (income security).

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bills will be enacted in 2026 and that the estimated amounts will be appropriated each year. This cost estimate does not include any effects of interactions among the legislation. If all six bills were combined and enacted as a single piece of legislation, the effects could be different from the sum of the separate estimates.

Background: The Chafee program provides funding to states, the District of Columbia, tribes, and U.S. territories to support the educational, employment, family, and housing needs of certain foster youth who are transitioning to independent adult life. The program is authorized under section 477 of the Social Security Act, which permanently provides \$143 million annually for the program, which is classified as direct (or mandatory) spending. That law also authorizes the appropriation of \$60 million annually to provide foster youth with education and training vouchers, which can be used toward qualified education or employment training expenses. In CBO's baseline projections, states spend all of the funding provided.

H.R. 7343, the Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act, would expand eligibility for education and training vouchers to youth who left foster care at age 14 or older for kinship guardianship or adoption. Under current law, eligibility for vouchers is limited to youth

who experienced foster care at age 14 or older, who aged out of foster care, or who were adopted or left for kinship guardianship after age 16. The bill also would expand the allowable uses for education and training vouchers to permit youth to use vouchers for short-term workforce or vocational training, credentialing programs, apprenticeships, and general or remedial education.

The bill would not change the amount authorized to be appropriated for training vouchers. Thus, CBO estimates that H.R. 7343 would have no effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 7432, the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act, would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to issue guidance to states for coordinating with federal housing programs to improve services for youth aging out of foster care. The bill also would allow states to use mandatory funds for the Chafee program to provide various supportive services, including financial assistance for security deposits and moving costs. Finally, H.R. 7432 would require the Secretary of HHS to submit a report to the Congress on housing outcomes for foster youth.

The bill would not increase the amount of funding provided for the Chafee program. Thus, CBO estimates that allowing those funds to be used for additional purposes under H.R. 7432 would not affect direct spending.

According to information provided by HHS, the agency is currently implementing many of the activities required under H.R. 7432 to comply with an executive order that was issued on November 13, 2025.¹ Those activities include collecting data from the National Youth in Transition Database dashboard and issuing joint letters from HHS and HUD to clarify rules and promote the availability of housing-related resources for foster youth. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing the administrative and reporting requirements of H.R. 7432 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2031 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 7463, the Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act, would increase the annual limit on education and training vouchers from \$5,000 to \$12,000 per student. The bill also would permit states, under certain conditions, to establish a grace period for foster youth to maintain their eligibility for vouchers by demonstrating progress toward completion of an education or training program. In addition, the bill would require states to make a reasonable effort to ensure that eligible youth are aware of the voucher program and would require them to use a simple, standardized application for the program. H.R. 7463 also would require HHS to issue guidance to states for carrying out the changes required under the bill.

In fiscal year 2024, states provided 14,400 vouchers averaging nearly \$3,100. Because the bill would not change the amount authorized to be appropriated for the voucher program, CBO estimates that increasing the annual limit on vouchers would not affect spending for that program.

¹ Executive Order 14359, “Fostering the Future for American Children and Families,” 90 Fed. Reg. 52227 (November 13, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/4t58duxm>.

Using information on the cost to issue guidance similar to that required by H.R. 7463, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2031 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 7529, the Fresh Starts for Foster Youth Act, would require states, when planning for foster youth to transition to adulthood, to help foster youth identify the legal issues that affect education, entry into the workforce, family relationships, and housing. The bill also would permit states to use mandatory funds for the Chafee program to help those youth access legal services and counseling. The bill would not change the amount of funding provided for the Chafee program each year. Thus, CBO estimates that H.R. 7529 would have no effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 7655, the Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act, would require states to provide information about the services offered through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program to foster youth who are expecting or parenting a child. That additional information would be required one year after enactment.

Funding for the MIECHV program is provided through mandatory budget authority. The Health Resources and Services Administration at HHS administers the program, which is authorized under section 511 of the Social Security Act and provides grants to states, the District of Columbia, tribes, and U.S. territories to support voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services for pregnant women and families with young children. The program was most recently reauthorized in the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which provided \$650 million for 2026 and \$800 million for 2027. There is no funding or authorization for the program after 2027. In CBO's estimation, because the additional information would not be required until late in 2027, enacting the bill would not affect spending for the MIECHV program.

H.R. 7655 also would permit states to use mandatory funds for the Chafee program to provide tailored case management services to youth who are expecting or parenting a child. The bill would not change the amount of funding provided for the Chafee program each year. Thus, CBO estimates that H.R. 7655 would have no effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 7995, the Chafee Opportunities for New Networks and Existing Connection Trust Act, would permit states to use mandatory funds for the Chafee program to help foster youth establish and maintain connections with family, mentors, peers, and supportive adults, and to help them plan for living independently. The bill would require the Secretary of HHS to issue guidance to states for carrying out those activities.

The bill would not change the amount of funding provided for the Chafee program each year. Thus, CBO estimates that H.R. 7995 would not increase direct spending.

Using information on the cost to issue guidance similar to that required by H.R. 7995, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions of the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2031 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: None of the bills would affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Increase in long-term net direct spending and deficits: CBO estimates that enacting the bills would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.

Mandates: None of the bills contain intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Susanne Mehlman (General Chafee program), Delaney Smith (Education and Training Voucher program), Carolyn Ugolino (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program); Mandates: Andrew Laughlin.

Estimate reviewed by: Elizabeth Cove Delisle, Chief, Income Security Cost Estimates Unit; Kathleen FitzGerald, Chief, Public and Private Mandates Unit; Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Estimate approved by: Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

V. OTHER MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

A. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee made findings and recommendations that are reflected in this report.

B. STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the bill does not authorize funding, so no statement of general performance goals and objectives is required.

C. INFORMATION RELATING TO UNFUNDED MANDATES

This information is provided in accordance with section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995* (Pub. L. No. 104–4).

The Committee has determined that the bill does not contain Federal mandates on the private sector. The Committee has determined that the bill does not impose a Federal intergovernmental mandate on State, local, or tribal governments.

D. CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

With respect to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has carefully reviewed the provisions of the bill, and states that the provisions of the bill do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits within the meaning of the rule.

E. DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that no provision of the bill establishes or reauthorizes: (1) a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program; (2) a program included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139; or (3) a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Pub. L. No. 95–220, as amended by Pub. L. No. 98–169).

VI. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

* * * * *

TITLE IV—GRANTS TO STATES FOR AID AND SERVICES TO NEEDY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND FOR CHILD-WELFARE SERVICES

* * * * *

PART E—FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE, PREVENTION, AND PERMANENCY

* * * * *

SEC. 477. JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide States with flexible funding that will enable programs to be designed and conducted—

(1) to support all youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood through transitional services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma and post-secondary education, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training and opportunities to practice daily living skills (such as financial literacy training and driving instruction), substance abuse prevention, [and preventive] *preventive* health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and preg-

nancy prevention), *and access to housing for youth age 18 or older*;

(2) to help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older achieve meaningful, permanent connections with a caring adult;

(3) to help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience;

(4) to provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to *current and former* foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained such age, in accordance with such subsection) to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood;

(5) to make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care;

(6) to provide the services referred to in this subsection to children who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption; and

(7) 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).

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may apply for funds from its allotment under subsection (c) for a period of five consecutive fiscal years by submitting to the Secretary, in writing, a plan that meets the requirements of paragraph (2) and the certifications required by paragraph (3) with respect to the plan.

(2) STATE PLAN.—A plan meets the requirements of this paragraph if the plan specifies which State agency or agencies will administer, supervise, or oversee the programs carried out under the plan, and describes how the State intends to do the following:

(A) Design and deliver programs to achieve the purposes of this section.

(B) Ensure that all political subdivisions in the State are served by the program, though not necessarily in a uniform manner.

(C) Ensure that the programs serve children of various ages and at various stages of achieving independence.

(D) Involve the public and private sectors in helping youth in foster care achieve independence, *including by collaborating with public housing agencies that administer Federal housing programs serving foster youth under section 8(x)(2)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and receive funding to partner with public child welfare agencies to serve youth who have experienced foster care.*

(E) Use objective criteria for determining eligibility for benefits and services under the programs, and for ensuring fair and equitable treatment of benefit recipients.

(F) Cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the programs in achieving the purposes of this section.

(3) CERTIFICATIONS.—The certifications required by this paragraph with respect to a plan are the following:

(A)(i) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age.

(ii) If the State has elected under section 475(8)(B) to extend eligibility for foster care to all children who have not attained 21 years of age, or if the Secretary determines that the State agency responsible for administering the State plans under this part and part B uses State funds or any other funds not provided under this part to provide services and assistance for youths who have aged out of foster care that are comparable to the services and assistance the youths would receive if the State had made such an election, the certification required under clause (i) may provide that the State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 23 years of age.

(B) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that ~~not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a fiscal year~~ *an average of not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for the 5 fiscal years covered by the application submitted by the State pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection* will be expended for room or board for youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under subparagraph (A)(i) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained such age, in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii)).

(C) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that none of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age.

(D) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance to provide training including training on youth development to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting youth preparing for a successful transition to adulthood and making a permanent connection with a caring adult.

(E) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan and that the

State has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan.

(F) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will make every effort to coordinate the State programs receiving funds provided from an allotment made to the State under subsection (c) with other Federal and State programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974), abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies.

(G) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that each Indian tribe in the State has been consulted about the programs to be carried out under the plan; that there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such tribes; that benefits and services under the programs will be made available to Indian children in the State on the same basis as to other children in the State; and that the State will negotiate in good faith with any Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium in the State that does not receive an allotment under subsection (j)(4) for a fiscal year and that requests to develop an agreement with the State to administer, supervise, or oversee the programs to be carried out under the plan with respect to the Indian children who are eligible for such programs and who are under the authority of the tribe, organization, or consortium and to receive from the State an appropriate portion of the State allotment under subsection (c) for the cost of such administration, supervision, or oversight.

(H) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will ensure that youth participating in the program under this section participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and that the youth accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program.

(I) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan.

(J) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State educational and training voucher program under this section is in compliance with the conditions specified in subsection (i), including a statement describing methods the State will use—

(i) to ensure that the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under this section and under other Federal and Federally supported programs does not exceed the limitation specified in subsection (i)(5); and

(ii) to avoid duplication of benefits under this and any other Federal or Federally assisted benefit program.

(K) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will ensure that a youth participating in the program under this section are provided with education about the importance of designating another individual to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the youth if the youth becomes unable to participate in such decisions and the youth does not have, or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized under State law to make such decisions, whether a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document is recognized under State law, and how to execute such a document if the youth wants to do so.

(4) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve an application submitted by a State pursuant to paragraph (1) for a period if—

(A) the application is submitted on or before June 30 of the calendar year in which such period begins; and

(B) the Secretary finds that the application contains the material required by paragraph (1).

(5) AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN AMENDMENTS; NOTIFICATION.—A State with an application approved under paragraph (4) may implement any amendment to the plan contained in the application if the application, incorporating the amendment, would be approvable under paragraph (4). Within 30 days after a State implements any such amendment, the State shall notify the Secretary of the amendment.

(6) AVAILABILITY.—The State shall make available to the public any application submitted by the State pursuant to paragraph (1), and a brief summary of the plan contained in the application.

(c) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.—

(1) GENERAL PROGRAM ALLOTMENT.—From the amount specified in subsection (h)(1) that remains after applying subsection (g)(2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State with an application approved under subsection (b) for the fiscal year the amount which bears the ratio to such remaining amount equal to the State foster care ratio, as adjusted in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) HOLD HARMLESS PROVISION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allot to each State whose allotment for a fiscal year under paragraph (1) is less than the greater of \$500,000 or the amount payable to the State under this section for fiscal year 1998, an additional amount equal to the difference between such allotment and such greater amount.

(B) RATABLE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN ALLOTMENTS.—In the case of a State not described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reduce the amount allotted to the State for the fiscal year under paragraph (1) by the amount that bears the same ratio to the sum of the differences determined under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for the fiscal year as the excess of the amount so allotted over the greater of \$500,000 or the amount payable to the State under this section for fiscal

year 1998 bears to the sum of such excess amounts determined for all such States.

(3) VOUCHER PROGRAM ALLOTMENT.—From the amount, if any, appropriated pursuant to subsection (h)(2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may allot to each State with an application approved under subsection (b) for the fiscal year an amount equal to the State foster care ratio multiplied by the amount so specified.

(4) STATE FOSTER CARE RATIO.—In this subsection, the term “State foster care ratio” means the ratio of the number of children in foster care under a program of the State in the most recent fiscal year for which the information is available to the total number of children in foster care in all States for the most recent fiscal year.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

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

(2) NO SUPPLANTATION OF OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SAME GENERAL PURPOSES.—The amounts paid to a State from its allotment under subsection (c) shall be used to supplement and not supplant any other funds which are available for the same general purposes in the State.

(3) TWO-YEAR AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Payments made to a State under this section for a fiscal year shall be expended by the State in the fiscal year or in the succeeding fiscal year.

(4) REALLOCATION OF UNUSED FUNDS.—If a State does not apply for funds under this section for a fiscal year within such time as may be provided by the Secretary or does not expend allocated funds within the period at the end of the time sentence specified under section 477(d)(3), the funds to which the State would be entitled for the fiscal year shall be reallocated to 1 or more other States on the basis of their relative need for additional payments under this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.—

(A) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—To the extent that amounts paid to States under this section in a fiscal year remain unexpended by the States at the end of the succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary may make the amounts available for redistribution in the second succeeding fiscal year among the States that apply for additional funds under this section for that second succeeding fiscal year.

(B) REDISTRIBUTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall redistribute the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year among eligible applicant States. In this subparagraph, the term “eligible applicant State” means a State that has applied for additional funds for the fiscal year under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the State will use the funds for the purpose for which originally allotted under this section.

(ii) AMOUNT TO BE REDISTRIBUTED.—The amount to be redistributed to each eligible applicant State shall be the amount so made available multiplied by the State foster care ratio, (as defined in subsection (c)(4), except that, in such subsection, “all eligible applicant States (as defined in subsection (d)(5)(B)(i))” shall be substituted for “all States”).

(iii) TREATMENT OF REDISTRIBUTED AMOUNT.—Any amount made available to a State under this paragraph shall be regarded as part of the allotment of the State under this section for the fiscal year in which the redistribution is made.

(C) TRIBES.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “State” includes an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium that receives an allotment under this section.

(6) HOUSING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may use amounts from its allotment under subsection (c) to provide supportive services to assist eligible youth who experienced foster care to obtain or retain suitable housing.

(B) DEFINITIONS.—

(i) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this subsection, the term “eligible youth” means an individual who receives assistance provided under section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

(ii) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term “supportive services” may include—

(I) basic life skills information and counseling on financial literacy, use of credit, and money management;

(II) counseling on rental lease contracts and assistance with rental insurance; and

(III) assistance with security deposits, utility connection fees, moving costs, and other fees associated with establishing tenancy.

(C) EXCEPTION.—Expenditures in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered expenditures for room and board for purposes of subsection (b)(3)(B).

(D) ALIGNING AGE ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), a State may use funds from its allotment under subsection (c) to provide supportive services to eligible youth who have not attained 26 years of age for the purpose of supporting continued access to housing.

(e) PENALTIES.—

(1) USE OF GRANT IN VIOLATION OF THIS PART.—If the Secretary is made aware, by an audit conducted under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, or by any other means, that a program receiving funds from an allotment made to a State under subsection (c) has been operated in a manner that is inconsistent with, or not disclosed in the State application approved under subsection (b), the Secretary shall assess a penalty against the State in an amount equal to not less than 1 percent and not more than 5 percent of the amount of the allotment.

(2) **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall assess a penalty against a State that fails during a fiscal year to comply with an information collection plan implemented under subsection (f) in an amount equal to not less than 1 percent and not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted to the State for the fiscal year.

(3) **PENALTIES BASED ON DEGREE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.**—The Secretary shall assess penalties under this subsection based on the degree of noncompliance.

(f) **DATA COLLECTION AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with State and local public officials responsible for administering independent living and other child welfare programs, child welfare advocates, Members of Congress, youth service providers, and researchers, shall—

(A) develop outcome measures (including measures of educational attainment, high school diploma, employment, avoidance of dependency, homelessness, nonmarital child-birth, incarceration, and high-risk behaviors) that can be used to assess the performance of States in operating independent living programs;

(B) identify data elements needed to track—

(i) the number and characteristics of children receiving services under this section;

(ii) the type and quantity of services being provided; and

(iii) State performance on the outcome measures; and

(C) develop and implement a plan to collect the needed information beginning with the second fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this section.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than October 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the National Youth in Transition Database and any other databases in which States report outcome measures relating to children in foster care and children who have aged out of foster care or left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption. The report shall include the following:

(A) A description of the reasons for entry into foster care and of the foster care experiences, such as length of stay, number of placement settings, case goal, and discharge reason of 17-year-olds who are surveyed by the National Youth in Transition Database and an analysis of the comparison of that description with the reasons for entry and foster care experiences of children of other ages who exit from foster care before attaining age 17.

(B) A description of the characteristics of the individuals who report poor outcomes at ages 19 and 21 to the National Youth in Transition Database.

(C) Benchmarks for determining what constitutes a poor outcome for youth who remain in or have exited from foster care and plans the executive branch will take to incorporate these benchmarks in efforts to evaluate child

welfare agency performance in providing services to children transitioning from foster care.

(D) An analysis of the association between types of placement, number of overall placements, time spent in foster care, and other factors, and outcomes at ages 19 and 21.

(E) An analysis of the differences in outcomes for children in and formerly in foster care at age 19 and 21 among States.

(g) EVALUATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct evaluations of such State programs funded under this section as the Secretary deems to be innovative or of potential national significance. The evaluation of any such program shall include information on the effects of the program on education, employment, *access to housing*, and personal development. To the maximum extent practicable, the evaluations shall be based on rigorous scientific standards including random assignment to treatment and control groups. The Secretary is encouraged to work directly with State and local governments to design methods for conducting the evaluations, directly or by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

(2) FUNDING OF EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall reserve 1.5 percent of the amount specified in subsection (h) for a fiscal year to carry out, during the fiscal year, evaluation, technical assistance, performance measurement, and data collection activities related to this section, directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with appropriate entities.

(h) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section and for payments to States under section 474(a)(4), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each fiscal year—

(1) \$140,000,000 or, beginning in fiscal year 2020, \$143,000,000, which shall be available for all purposes under this section; and

(2) an additional \$60,000,000, which are authorized to be available for payments to States for education and training vouchers for youths who age out of foster care, to assist the youths to develop skills necessary to lead independent and productive lives.

(i) EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING VOUCHERS.—The following conditions shall apply to a State educational and training voucher program under this section:

(1) Vouchers under the program may be available to youths otherwise eligible for services under the State program under this section who have attained 14 years of age.

(2) For purposes of the voucher program, youths who, after attaining 16 years of age, are adopted from, or enter kinship guardianship from, foster care may be considered to be youths otherwise eligible for services under the State program under this section.

(3) The State may allow youths participating in the voucher program to remain eligible until they attain 26 years of age, as long as they are enrolled in a postsecondary education or

training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program, but in no event may a youth participate in the program for more than 5 years (whether or not consecutive).

(4) The voucher or vouchers provided for an individual under this section—

(A) may be available for the cost of attendance at an institution of higher education, as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and

(B) shall not exceed the lesser of \$5,000 per year or the total cost of attendance, as defined in section 472 of that Act.

(5) The amount of a voucher under this section may be disregarded for purposes of determining the recipient's eligibility for, or the amount of, any other Federal or Federally supported assistance, except that the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under this section and under other Federal and Federally supported programs shall not exceed the total cost of attendance, as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and except that the State agency shall take appropriate steps to prevent duplication of benefits under this and other Federal or Federally supported programs.

(6) The program is coordinated with other appropriate education and training programs.

(j) AUTHORITY FOR AN INDIAN TRIBE, TRIBAL ORGANIZATION, OR TRIBAL CONSORTIUM TO RECEIVE AN ALLOTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium with a plan approved under section 479B, or which is receiving funding to provide foster care under this part pursuant to a cooperative agreement or contract with a State, may apply for an allotment out of any funds authorized by paragraph (1) or (2) (or both) of subsection (h) of this section.

(2) APPLICATION.—A tribe, organization, or consortium desiring an allotment under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary to directly receive such allotment that includes a plan which—

(A) satisfies such requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) as the Secretary determines are appropriate;

(B) contains a description of the tribe's, organization's, or consortium's consultation process regarding the programs to be carried out under the plan with each State for which a portion of an allotment under subsection (c) would be redirected to the tribe, organization, or consortium; and

(C) contains an explanation of the results of such consultation, particularly with respect to—

(i) determining the eligibility for benefits and services of Indian children to be served under the programs to be carried out under the plan; and

(ii) the process for consulting with the State in order to ensure the continuity of benefits and services for such children who will transition from receiving benefits and services under programs carried out under a State plan under subsection (b)(2) to receiving

benefits and services under programs carried out under a plan under this subsection.

(3) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall pay an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium with an application and plan approved under this subsection from the allotment determined for the tribe, organization, or consortium under paragraph (4) of this subsection in the same manner as is provided in section 474(a)(4) (and, where requested, and if funds are appropriated, section 474(e)) with respect to a State, or in such other manner as is determined appropriate by the Secretary, except that in no case shall an Indian tribe, a tribal organization, or a tribal consortium receive a lesser proportion of such funds than a State is authorized to receive under those sections.

(4) ALLOTMENT.—From the amounts allotted to a State under subsection (c) of this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium with an application and plan approved under this subsection for that fiscal year an amount equal to the tribal foster care ratio determined under paragraph (5) of this subsection for the tribe, organization, or consortium multiplied by the allotment amount of the State within which the tribe, organization, or consortium is located. The allotment determined under this paragraph is deemed to be a part of the allotment determined under section 477(c) for the State in which the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium is located.

(5) TRIBAL FOSTER CARE RATIO.—For purposes of paragraph (4), the tribal foster care ratio means, with respect to an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium, the ratio of—

(A) the number of children in foster care under the responsibility of the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium (either directly or under supervision of the State), in the most recent fiscal year for which the information is available; to

(B) the sum of—

(i) the total number of children in foster care under the responsibility of the State within which the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium is located; and

(ii) the total number of children in foster care under the responsibility of all Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal consortia in the State (either directly or under supervision of the State) that have a plan approved under this subsection.

* * * * *

LETTERS OF EXCHANGE

FRENCH HILL, AR
CHAIRMAN



MAXINE WATERS, CA
RANKING MEMBER

United States House of Representatives
One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2026

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing to you concerning H.R. 7432, the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the Financial Services Committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Financial Services Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill that fall within its jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Please include this letter in the committee report on H.R. 7432 or in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,


French Hill
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services
The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

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U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2026

The Honorable French Hill
Chairman
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mast,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Financial Services' jurisdictional interest in H.R. 7432, the "Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act," and your willingness to forego consideration by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Financial Services has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of the bill and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the committee report on H.R. 7432 or in the *Congressional Record* during the floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means

cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
The Maxine Waters, Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services
Mr. Jason Smith, Parliamentarian, U.S. House of Representatives