

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 476

Supporting the establishment of a national Children's Bill of Rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the establishment of a national Children's Bill
of Rights.

Whereas all children and youth have the inalienable right to
live in a just, safe, and supportive society; and

Whereas this right belongs to all children, regardless of gen-
der, class, race, ethnicity, national origin, culture, reli-
gion, immigration status, sexual orientation, or ability:

Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, it is the sense of the House of Representa-
- 2 tives that every child is entitled to—
- 3 (1) physical well-being, including—

1 (A) the right to be free from all forms of
2 physical, psychological, or sexual abuse, neglect,
3 and exploitation;

4 (B) the right to have the child's essential
5 needs met, including nutritious food, safe and
6 accessible shelter, clothing, health care, and ac-
7 cessible transportation;

8 (C) the right to a safe and healthy environ-
9 ment, including homes, schools, neighborhoods,
10 and communities;

11 (D) the right to the care and protection of
12 the State in which the child resides if there is
13 no parent, legal guardian, or other caregiver
14 willing and able to assume responsibility for the
15 care and well-being of the child; and

16 (E) the right to receive appropriate med-
17 ical treatment, and the right to access afford-
18 able health insurance coverage, including effec-
19 tive therapeutic interventions for behavioral
20 health;

21 (2) social and emotional well-being, including—

22 (A) the right to develop a healthy attach-
23 ment to a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver,
24 and the right to an ongoing relationship with a
25 caring and supportive adult;

1 (B) the right to remain with a parent,
2 legal guardian, or caregiver, except when au-
3 thorities determine separation is in the best in-
4 terest of the child;

5 (C) the right to be reunited with a parent,
6 legal guardian, or caregiver should separation
7 occur, with priority given to keeping children
8 with their family or with kin in a home setting,
9 whenever it remains in the child's best interest
10 to do so;

11 (D) the right to maintain direct contact
12 with parents on a regular basis when a child is
13 separated from a parent, including cases in
14 which a parent is incarcerated or detained,
15 whenever it remains in the child's best interest
16 to do so;

17 (E) the right to access sports and other ex-
18 tracurricular activities that support the child's
19 healthy social, emotional, and physical develop-
20 ment;

21 (F) the right to a voice in matters that af-
22 fect the child, and the right to participation in
23 age-appropriate forums, including representa-
24 tion on youth councils and other decisionmaking
25 bodies;

1 (G) the right to have the child's best inter-
2 est taken into consideration with regards to de-
3 cisions that affect the child;

4 (H) the right to have appropriate legal
5 representation and a child advocate in legal pro-
6 ceedings to represent the interest of the child;

7 (I) the right to rehabilitative services and
8 periodic review if detained or incarcerated as a
9 juvenile; and

10 (J) the right to have parents, elected offi-
11 cials, and other adults consider the effect that
12 their decisions will have on a child's care and
13 community; and

14 (3) educational and life skills, including—

15 (A) the right to a well-rounded, high-qual-
16 ity, and culturally competent education that
17 promotes success in life and in future careers;

18 (B) the right to access educational services
19 and supports necessary to accommodate the
20 child's needs;

21 (C) the right to a safe learning environ-
22 ment, and the right to be free from bullying;

23 (D) the right to an education that is suffi-
24 ciently funded to provide the child with the

1 tools and technology necessary for a successful
2 learning experience;

3 (E) the right to be heard in age-appro-
4 priate ways on issues regarding the education
5 of the child and to be represented on school
6 boards and other decisionmaking bodies;

7 (F) the right of access to training in life
8 skills that will prepare the child to live inde-
9 pendently and contribute to the child's commu-
10 nity; and

11 (G) the right to protections from unfair
12 and unsafe labor practices in the workforce.

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