

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 41

Supporting a uniform adoption process for foster youth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Supporting a uniform adoption process for foster youth.

Whereas there are over 400,000 children in foster care in the United States and 107,000 children waiting to be adopted;

Whereas the median age for foster children waiting to be adopted is 7 years old;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas domestic adoptions with public child welfare agency involvement represent approximately 40 percent of all adoptions;

Whereas families seeking to adopt are expected to undergo a home study, which serves to ensure their suitability;

Whereas the adoption application and content of a home study varies from State-to-State, it always involves personal interviews by an adoption case worker, an examination of their home, training related to adoption, and information on their health history and family income;

Whereas while 4 in 10 people in the United States have considered adoption, but are concerned about the complexity and length of time adopting children from foster care;

Whereas the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of more than 300 lawyers, legislators, judges, and academics who propose legislation to the States in areas subject to State authority, including all aspects of family law;

Whereas after nearly 5 years of drafting, debate, and discussions with adoption and child welfare experts, in August 1994 the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws approved a proposed Uniform Adoption Act for submission to State legislatures;

Whereas in 2005, the Uniform Laws Commission designated the Adoption Act from 1994 as a “model” rather than a uniform law keeping State adoption policies varied and incongruent;

Whereas the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children has only been enacted by 9 States and cannot be considered nationally in effect until passed by 35 States;

Whereas there is a need for coordination between the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance and other compacts af-

fecting the placement of and which provide services to children;

Whereas the Federal Government should provide for a State's continuing legal jurisdiction and responsibility for placement and care of a child that it would have had if the placement were intrastate; and

Whereas Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have sought to remove barriers to intrastate and interstate adoptions and encourage a national standard for the adoption process and it has not been acted on legislatively: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) supports a uniform adoption process of chil-
- 3 dren from foster care; and
- 4 (2) promotes the enactment by all States of the
- 5 Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children to
- 6 ensure more children in the United States are placed
- 7 in safe, loving, and permanent homes.

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