

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3802

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration grant program to provide emergency relief to foster youth and improve pre-placement services offered by foster care stabilization agencies, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration grant program to provide emergency relief to foster youth and improve pre-placement services offered by foster care stabilization agencies, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Foster Care Stabiliza-  
5       tion Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO IMPROVE PRE-PLACEMENT SERVICES**  
2 **FOR FOSTER YOUTH.**

3 Section 426 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 626) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(d) GRANTS TO IMPROVE PRE-PLACEMENT SERV-  
6 ICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall  
8 award 3 demonstration grants of not more than  
9 \$1,000,000 to foster care stabilization agencies for  
10 the purpose of providing emergency relief to foster  
11 youth and improving pre-placement services for fos-  
12 ter youth waiting for placement.

13 “(2) DURATION.—A foster care stabilization  
14 agency that receives a grant under this subsection  
15 shall have 3 years to spend funds awarded by the  
16 grant and return any unused grant funds to the Sec-  
17 retary.

18 “(3) APPLICATION.—A foster care stabilization  
19 agency that desires to receive a grant under this  
20 subsection shall submit to the Secretary an applica-  
21 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing  
22 such information as the Secretary may require, that  
23 shall include the following:

24 “(A) A description of how grant funds will  
25 be used to provide emergency relief to foster  
26 youth by the foster care stabilization agency.

1           “(B) A description of how grant funds will  
2           be used to improve pre-placement services of-  
3           fered by the foster care stabilization agency.

4           “(4) APPLICATION DISSEMINATION.—The Sec-  
5           retary shall ensure that the solicitation of applica-  
6           tions for a grant under this subsection is posted  
7           publicly on the website of the Administration for  
8           Children and Families and shall make special dis-  
9           semination efforts to rural areas and among Indian  
10          Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian  
11          organizations.

12          “(5) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under  
13          this subsection may be used to carry out any of the  
14          following activities:

15                 “(A) Hiring of personnel necessary to pro-  
16                 vide emergency relief to foster youth and ensure  
17                 that services, resources, and assistance reach  
18                 such youth.

19                 “(B) Provision of clothing and other per-  
20                 sonal necessities to a foster youth for a total  
21                 not to exceed \$250 per foster youth, per year.

22                 “(C) Purchase of food and equipment  
23                 needed to prepare food for foster youth.

1           “(D) Provision of service and support to  
2 prevent and respond to occurrences of child  
3 abuse and neglect with respect to foster youth.

4           “(E) Any other extraordinary or emer-  
5 gency assistance needed to promote the safety  
6 and self-sufficiency of foster youth.

7           “(F) Any other purpose that the Secretary  
8 determines appropriate.

9           “(6) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall re-  
10 serve \$45,000 of any amounts referred to in para-  
11 graph (9) for administration, oversight, and tech-  
12 nical assistance activities related to this subsection.

13           “(7) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to  
14 the Congress a report that—

15           “(A) describes how grants awarded under  
16 this subsection have been used to provide emer-  
17 gency relief to foster youth;

18           “(B) describe how grants awarded under  
19 this subsection have been used on pre-place-  
20 ment services;

21           “(C) contains data on the extent of cloth-  
22 ing and other necessities purchased with grant  
23 funds awarded under this subsection that have  
24 been provided to foster youth;

1           “(D) provides an evaluation of case out-  
2 comes for foster youth who have benefitted  
3 from grant funds; and

4           “(E) states the number of home transfers  
5 for each foster youth that has benefitted from  
6 grant funds.

7           “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8           “(A) FOSTER CARE STABILIZATION AGEN-  
9 CY.—The term ‘foster care stabilization agency’  
10 means a local public or private nonprofit entity,  
11 including a community or faith-based organiza-  
12 tion, with expertise and experience providing di-  
13 rect services to 1 or more of the following:

14           “(i) Children who are under the care  
15 and placement responsibility of a State or  
16 tribal agency that administers a plan  
17 under this part or part E.

18           “(ii) Foster youth who have not at-  
19 tained 18 years of age.

20           “(iii) Foster youth who have attained  
21 18 years of age.

22           “(B) FOSTER YOUTH.—The term ‘foster  
23 youth’ means an individual in foster care who  
24 has not attained 26 years of age.

1           “(C) HOME TRANSFER.—The term ‘home  
2           transfer’ means the initial placement of a foster  
3           youth in foster care, and any subsequent place-  
4           ment of that foster youth while in foster care.

5           “(9) FUNDING.—To the extent that the total of  
6           the amounts made available under subsection (a) for  
7           a fiscal year exceeds \$5,000,000 more than the  
8           amount so made available for the previous fiscal  
9           year, the Secretary shall use the amounts to carry  
10          out this subsection.”.

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