

House Resolution 21EX

By: Representative Jones of the 60th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for children in foster care; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, even more than for other children, society has a responsibility, along with
3 parents, for the well-being of children in foster care. Citizens are responsible for acting to
4 ensure their welfare; and

5 WHEREAS, every child in foster care is endowed with the rights inherently belonging to all
6 children. In addition, because of the temporary or permanent separation from, and loss of,
7 parents and other family members, the child requires special safeguards, resources, and care;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to be cherished by a family of
10 his own, either his family helped by readily available services and supports to resume his
11 care, or an adoptive family or, by plan, a continuing foster family; and

12 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to be nurtured by foster parents
13 who have been selected to meet his individual needs and who are provided services and
14 supports, including specialized education, so that they can grow in their ability to enable the
15 child to reach his potentiality; and

H. R. 21EX

- 1 -

16 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to receive sensitive, continuing
17 help in understanding and accepting the reasons for his own family's inability to take care of
18 him, and in developing confidence in his own self worth; and

19 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to receive continuing loving care
20 and respect as a unique human being, a child growing in trust in himself and others; and

21 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to grow up in freedom and
22 dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept him with understanding, respect, and
23 friendship; and

24 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to receive help in overcoming
25 deprivation or whatever distortion in his emotional, physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual
26 growth may have resulted from his early experiences; and

27 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to receive education, training,
28 and career guidance to prepare for a useful and satisfying life; and

29 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to receive preparation for
30 citizenship and parenthood through interaction with foster parents and other adults who are
31 consistent role models; and

32 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to be represented by an
33 attorney-at-law in administrative or judicial proceedings with access to fair hearings and
34 court review of decisions so that his best interests are safeguarded; and

35 WHEREAS, every child in foster care has the inherent right to receive a high quality of child
36 welfare services, including involvement of the natural parents and his own involvement in
37 major decisions that affect his life.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body support the aforementioned rights of foster children.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
42 public and the press.