

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3160

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States that provide foster care for children up to age 21 to serve former foster youths through age 23 under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2015

Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. KEATING, and Mrs. HARTZLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States that provide foster care for children up to age 21 to serve former foster youths through age 23 under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Foster Youth Inde-
3 pendence Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN STATES TO SERVE**
5 **FORMER FOSTER YOUTHS UP TO AGE 23**
6 **UNDER THE JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE**
7 **INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(b)(3) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(b)(3)) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (A) by inserting “(i)” before “A certifi-
12 cation”;

13 (B) by striking “children who have left fos-
14 ter care” and all that follows through the pe-
15 riod and inserting “youths who have aged out
16 of foster care and have not attained 21 years of
17 age.”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(ii) If the State has elected under section
20 475(8)(B) to extend eligibility for foster care to
21 all children who have not attained 21 years of
22 age, or if the Secretary determines that the
23 State agency responsible for administering the
24 State plans under this part and part B uses
25 State funds or any other funds not provided
26 under this part to provide services and assist-

1 ance for youths who have aged out of foster
2 care that are comparable to the services and as-
3 sistance such youths would receive if the State
4 had made such an election, the certification re-
5 quired under clause (i) may provide that the
6 State will provide assistance and services to
7 youths who have aged out of foster care and
8 have not attained 23 years of age.”; and

9 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “children
10 who have left foster care” and all that follows
11 through the period and inserting “youths who have
12 aged out of foster care and have not attained 21
13 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a
14 State with a certification under clause (i) of sub-
15 paragraph (A) to provide assistance and services to
16 youths who have aged out of foster care and have
17 not attained such age, in accordance with clause (ii)
18 of subparagraph (A)).”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 477(a)(5)
20 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(a)(5)) is amended by inserting
21 “(or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certifi-
22 cation under clause (i) of subsection (b)(3)(A) to provide
23 assistance and services to youths who have aged out of
24 foster care and have not attained such age, in accordance

1 with clause (ii) of such subsection)” after “21 years of
2 age”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section take effect on October 1, 2015.

