

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9316

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to increase awareness among eligible children and youths of, and encourage their participation in, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to increase awareness among eligible children and youths of, and encourage their participation in, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, 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 “Brighter Futures for  
5 Teens and Young Adults in Foster Care Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING AWARENESS OF THE CHAFEE PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) CASE REVIEW SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-  
4 tion 475(5)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 675(5)(I)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(I)(i) each child in foster care under the  
7 responsibility of the State who has attained 14  
8 years of age receives, if the child is eligible to  
9 receive the document and without cost to the  
10 child—

11 “(I) a copy of any consumer report  
12 (as defined in section 603(d) of the Fair  
13 Credit Reporting Act) pertaining to the  
14 child, each year until the child is dis-  
15 charged from care, and assistance (includ-  
16 ing, when feasible, from any court-ap-  
17 pointed advocate for the child) in inter-  
18 preting and resolving any inaccuracies in  
19 the consumer report;

20 “(II) an official or certified copy of  
21 the United States birth certificate of the  
22 child;

23 “(III) a social security card issued by  
24 the Commissioner of Social Security;

25 “(IV) health insurance information;

1           “(V) a copy of the child’s medical  
2 records;

3           “(VI) a driver’s license or identifica-  
4 tion card issued by a State in accordance  
5 with the requirements of section 202 of the  
6 REAL ID Act of 2005; and

7           “(VII) official documentation nec-  
8 essary to prove that the child is in foster  
9 care; and

10          “(ii) each child who is leaving foster care  
11 under the responsibility of the State by reason  
12 of having attained 18 years of age or such  
13 greater age as the State has elected under para-  
14 graph (8), unless the child has been in foster  
15 care for less than 6 months, is not discharged  
16 from care without being provided, without cost  
17 to the child—

18           “(I) official documentation necessary  
19 to prove that the child was in foster care;  
20 and

21           “(II) each document described in sub-  
22 clauses (I) through (VI) of clause (i), if the  
23 child is eligible to receive the document.”.

1 (b) ADDITIONAL CASE PLAN AND CASE REVIEW SYS-  
2 TEM REQUIREMENTS.—Section 475A(b) of such Act (42  
3 U.S.C. 675a(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), to read as follows:

5 “(1) a document that describes the rights of the  
6 child—

7 “(A) with respect to education, health, visi-  
8 tation, and court participation;

9 “(B) to be informed, in an age-appropriate  
10 way, of the services available to the child under  
11 the State programs carried out pursuant to sec-  
12 tion 477, in—

13 “(i) every meeting between a case-  
14 worker and the child; and

15 “(ii) every court or administrative  
16 hearing held with respect to the child re-  
17 quiring the attendance of the child;

18 “(C) to be provided with the documents  
19 specified in section 475(5)(I) in accordance  
20 with that section;

21 “(D) to stay safe and avoid exploitation;  
22 and

23 “(E) to seek redress for a violation of a  
24 right of the child under this section;”;

25 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by inserting “described in paragraph  
2 (1)” after “copy of the document”; and

3 (B) by striking the period and inserting a  
4 semicolon; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) for each year that the child is in foster  
7 care, a document that describes the requirements for  
8 the child to receive each document specified in sec-  
9 tion 475(5)(I) and any assistance available to the  
10 child to meet the requirements; and

11 “(4) a signed and dated acknowledgment by the  
12 child that the child has been provided with a copy  
13 of the document described in paragraph (3), for each  
14 year that the document has been provided.”.

15 (c) JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR  
16 SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.—Section 477  
17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraphs  
19 (1) through (4) and inserting the following:

20 “(1) to support youth who have experienced fos-  
21 ter care at age 14 or older, youth in extended foster  
22 care, former foster care recipients between ages 18  
23 and 23, and youth placed into guardianship or adop-  
24 tion at age 16 or older in their transition to adult-  
25 hood to support them in achieving positive outcomes

1 so that they are able to thrive in adulthood con-  
2 sistent with peers who have not experienced foster  
3 care;

4 “(2) to provide the individuals access to appro-  
5 priate supports, services, and programs, without bar-  
6 riers and with the goal of maximizing engagement,  
7 in order to achieve positive outcomes among the in-  
8 dividuals with respect to—

9 “(A) secure, meaningful, and permanent  
10 connections with family and kin;

11 “(B) secure, meaningful, and permanent  
12 connections with mentors and supportive adults;

13 “(C) healing and wellness, including sub-  
14 stance abuse prevention, preventative health  
15 skills (including smoke avoidance, nutrition  
16 education, and pregnancy prevention), and  
17 areas related to mental health;

18 “(D) attaining a high school diploma or  
19 equivalent qualification and pursuing post-sec-  
20 ondary education or vocational training;

21 “(E) job placement and retention and ca-  
22 reer exploration;

23 “(F) acquisition of daily living skills, in-  
24 cluding driving instruction;

1           “(G) budgeting, financial management  
2 skills, and asset building;

3           “(H) housing; and

4           “(I) self-advocacy and leadership skills;

5           “(3) to provide opportunities to the individuals  
6 for normalcy and age- or developmentally-appro-  
7 priate activities and experiences;

8           “(4) to achieve maximum reach and effect by  
9 ensuring that State agencies consult and partner  
10 with the individuals in planning, implementing, and  
11 assessing programs funded under this section;”;

12           (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

13           (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
14 “achieving independence” and inserting “mak-  
15 ing a successful transition to adulthood”;

16           (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
17 “achieve independence” and inserting “make a  
18 successful transition to adulthood”; and

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

20           “(G) Reach and engage eligible youth to  
21 encourage their participation in the programs  
22 available to them, with particular focus on cer-  
23 tain vulnerable populations, including youth—

24           “(i) with disabilities;

25           “(ii) experiencing homelessness; or

1                   “(iii) who are, or expecting to be, par-  
2                   ents.

3                   “(H) Ensure that eligible youth are pro-  
4                   vided information about the services and re-  
5                   sources available to them.

6                   “(I) Include eligible youth from across the  
7                   geographical regions of the State in outreach  
8                   and in the planning and delivery of services  
9                   provided under this section.”;

10                  (3) in subsection (b)(3)—

11                   (A) in subparagraph (E)—

12                   (i) by striking “30” and inserting  
13                   “90”; and

14                   (ii) by inserting “after making the  
15                   plan available to the public for comment”  
16                   before the period;

17                   (B) in subparagraph (H), by striking  
18                   “independent living” and inserting “a success-  
19                   ful transition to adulthood”;

20                   (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (I)  
21                   through (K) as subparagraphs (K) through  
22                   (M), respectively;

23                   (D) by inserting after subparagraph (H)  
24                   the following:



1           “(J) A certification by the chief executive  
2 officer of the State that the State has made all  
3 reasonable efforts to provide the eligible youth  
4 in the State a description of the programs and  
5 services provided under this section.”;

6           (E) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)  
7 through (H) as subparagraphs (G) through (I),  
8 respectively;

9           (F) by inserting after subparagraph (E)  
10 the following:

11           “(F) A certification by the chief executive  
12 officer of the State that the State has consulted  
13 with eligible youth from across the State about  
14 the effectiveness of the methods used by the  
15 State for outreach and engagement and about  
16 the development of services and resources pro-  
17 vided under this section.”; and

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

19           “(N) A certification by the chief executive  
20 officer of the State that the State developed the  
21 portion of the State plan describing how the  
22 State intends to comply with paragraph  
23 (2)(G)—

24           “(i) in consultation with children,  
25 youth, and young adults who are or were

1 in foster care and with community-based  
2 stakeholders who can share best practices  
3 in the outreach to and engagement of chil-  
4 dren, youth, and young adults who are or  
5 were in foster care; and

6 “(ii) based on performance measures  
7 that the State collects and evaluates on an  
8 ongoing basis.”;

9 (4) in subsection (f)—

10 (A) in the heading, to read as follows:

11 “DATA COLLECTION, BENCHMARKS, AND PER-  
12 FORMANCE INCENTIVES.—”;

13 (B) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-  
14 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “youth  
15 with experience in foster care or affiliated with  
16 foster care organizations or networks,” before  
17 “and researchers”;

18 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “per-  
19 formance benchmarks for” before “outcome  
20 measures”; and

21 (D) in paragraph (1)(B), to read as fol-  
22 lows:

23 “(B) identify data elements needed to  
24 track—

1 “(i) the notification of eligible youth  
2 of the type and availability of services;

3 “(ii) the number of eligible youth who  
4 have signed and dated the acknowledg-  
5 ments pursuant to section 475A(b)(4); and

6 “(iii) the number of eligible youth who  
7 have achieved the performance benchmarks  
8 after beginning to receive services provided  
9 under this section; and”;

10 (E) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON RECOMMENDA-  
12 TIONS FOR FUNDING WITH PERFORMANCE INCEN-  
13 TIVES.—Within 6 months after the enactment of  
14 this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the  
15 Committee on Ways and Means of the House of  
16 Representatives and the Committee on Finance of  
17 the Senate a report with recommendations to de-  
18 velop incentive payments for States based on the  
19 performance benchmarks developed pursuant to  
20 paragraph (1).”;

21 (5) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
24 technical assistance to States and State agencies in

1 the development and implementation of effective and  
2 robust outreach policies and practices.

3 “(2) CONTENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4 The technical assistance shall include—

5 “(A) guidance on how to reduce barriers to  
6 eligible youth accessing the programs available  
7 to them, such as through interagency informa-  
8 tion-sharing agreements; and

9 “(B) best practices in outreach to and in-  
10 forming eligible youth of the programs available  
11 to them.

12 “(l) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this sec-  
13 tion, the term ‘eligible youth’ means youth eligible to par-  
14 ticipate in a State program under this section.”.

15 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this  
17 Act shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year  
18 beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this  
19 Act, and shall apply to payments—

20 (1) except as provided under subparagraph (2),  
21 under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act  
22 for calendar quarters beginning on or after such  
23 date; and

1           (2) under section 477 of such Act pursuant to  
2       plans approved by the Secretary on or after such  
3       date.

4       (b) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-  
5       QUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
6       determines that State legislation (other than legislation  
7       appropriating funds) is required in order for any State  
8       plan approved under part E of title IV of the Social Secu-  
9       rity Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by  
10      the amendments made by this Act, the plan shall not be  
11      regarded as failing to meet any of the additional require-  
12      ments before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter be-  
13      ginning after the 1st regular session of the State legisla-  
14      ture that begins after the date of the enactment of this  
15      Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if the State  
16      has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session  
17      is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State  
18      legislature.

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