

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1439

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.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2015

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

7 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (A) by inserting “(i)” before “A certifi-  
9 cation”;

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

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

16 “(ii) If the State has elected under section  
17 475(8)(B) to extend eligibility for foster care up  
18 to age 21, or if the Secretary determines that  
19 the State agency responsible for administering  
20 the State plans under this part and part B uses  
21 State funds or any other funds not provided  
22 under this part to provide services and assist-  
23 ance for youths who have aged out of foster  
24 care that are comparable to the services and as-  
25 sistance such youths would receive if the State  
26 had made such an election, the certification re-

1           quired under clause (i) may provide that the  
2           State will provide assistance and services to  
3           youths who have aged out of foster care and  
4           have not attained age 23.”; and

5           (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “children  
6           who have left foster care” and all that follows  
7           through the period and inserting “youths who have  
8           aged out of foster care and have not attained age 21  
9           (age 23, in the case of a State with a certification  
10          under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) to provide as-  
11          sistance and services to youths who have aged out  
12          of foster care up to such age, in accordance with  
13          clause (ii) of subparagraph (A)).”.

14          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 477(a)(5)  
15          of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(a)(5)) is amended by inserting  
16          “(23 years of age in the case of a State with a certification  
17          under clause (i) of subsection (b)(3)(A) to provide assist-  
18          ance and services to youths who have aged out of foster  
19          care up to such age, in accordance with clause (ii) of such  
20          subsection)” after “21 years of age”.

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

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