

# NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

*May 2018!*



**115TH CONGRESS**  
**STATE POLICY ADVOCACY AND REFORM CENTER**  
**PENDING CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATION**  
**MAY 2018**

**Bill #:** [S. 439](#)  
**Title:** **Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act**  
**Sponsored by:** **Roy Blunt (R-MO)**  
**Summary:** The Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act would require mental health screenings for all children entering foster care. The initial screening would take place within 30 days of a child being placed into foster care. In addition, for those screenings that identify a need, it would require that a complete assessment be completed no later than 60 days after placement.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 1069](#)  
**Title:** **Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act**  
**Sponsored by:** **Brenda Lawrence (D-MI-14)**  
**Summary:** The Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act would require mental health screenings for all children entering foster care. The initial screening would take place within 30 days of a child being placed into foster care. In addition, for those screenings that identify a need, it would require that a complete assessment be completed no later than 60 days after placement.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 1650](#)  
**Title:** **National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)**  
**Summary:** This bill would amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to establish a national home study assessment process for evaluating prospective foster and adoptive parents. It would also provide funding for States and Tribes to adopt this uniformed process.

**Bill #:** [S. 684](#)  
**Title:** **National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)**  
**Summary:** This bill would amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to establish a national home study assessment process for evaluating prospective foster and adoptive parents. It would also provide funding for States and Tribes to adopt this uniformed process.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 1748](#)  
**Title:** **Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Robert Scott (D-VA-3)**  
**Summary:** This bill would benefit at-risk and disconnected youth by authorizing grants for summer and year around employment opportunities. It would also develop opportunities for youth to transition from school to work by authorizing competitive grants within local communities.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 1345](#)  
**Title:** **Protect Children from Theft Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **James Langevin (D-RI-2)**  
**Summary:** The Protect Children from Theft Act would amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to protect credit reports for minors by allowing a legal guardian to request that consumer reporting agencies create a blocked credit file or convert an existing credit file to a blocked file for a child in foster care.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2069](#)  
**Title:** **Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Mike Turner (R-OH-10)**  
**Summary:** This bill will increase access to housing for youth aging out of foster care by allowing youth to apply for housing assistance at the age of 16. It will also give priority preference for housing assistance to those who are within 6 months of aging out of care

**Bill #:** [H.R. 269](#)  
**Title:** **Look-back Elimination Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **John Lewis (D-GA-5)**  
**Summary:** This bill amends part E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend federal funding to states for maintenance payments on behalf of each foster child, regardless of whether the child would have been eligible for aid under the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children program at the time of removal from the home.

**Bill #:** [S. 983](#)  
**Title:** **Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for At-Risk Youth Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Dick Durbin (D-IL)**  
**Summary:** This bill would encourage the business community to partner in hiring at-risk youth that reside in communities with high rates of poverty. Specifically, the bill would provide a tax credit of up to \$2,400 for

businesses that hire and train youth ages 16-25 who are out of school and out of work. The legislation would also expand the summer youth program under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which provides a tax credit to businesses which hire for summer employment youth ages 16-17 who are enrolled in school and who live in highly distressed urban communities known as Empowerment Zones, by doubling the amount of the credit to \$2,400 and expanding the program to include year-round employment.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2236](#)  
**Title:** **Foster and Homeless Youth Food Security Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Danny Davis (D-IL-07)**  
**Summary:** To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide certain alternative eligibility requirements applicable to foster care youth, and homeless youth, who are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2512](#)  
**Title:** **Foster Youth and Driving Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Danny Davis (D-IL-07)**  
**Summary:** To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to expand foster parent training and provide new appropriations to support the obtainment of a driver's license

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2857](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Kristi Noem (R-SD)**  
**Title:** **The Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act**  
**Summary:** This bill amends Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide that the removal and foster care placement of a child shall meet the requirements for foster care maintenance payments on the child's behalf if the child has been placed with a parent residing in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility.

**Bill #:** [S.1638](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Chuck Grassley (R-IA)**  
**Title:** **Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2017**  
**Summary:** A bill to provide priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to assist youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 3418](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Brenda Lawrence (D-MI-14)**  
**Title:** **FAIR Act**  
**Summary:** To require States to inform children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who have attained 14 years of age of all government programs under which the child may be eligible for financial assistance for expenses related to higher education.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 3490](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Jim Langevin (D-RI)**  
**Title:** **Protecting Adopted Children Act**  
**Summary:** To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to eligible entities to develop and implement statewide or tribal post-adoption and post-legal guardianship mental health service programs for all children who are adopted or placed in legal guardianship, and for other purposes.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 3491](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Jim Langevin (D-RI)**  
**Title:** **Supporting Adopted Children and Families Act**  
**Summary:** To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide incentives for improving support services for adopted children and families.

**Bill #:** [S. 1795](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Patty Murray (D-WA)**  
**Title:** **Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act**  
**Summary:** To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and youths and foster care children and youth.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2681](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Danny Davis (D-IL)**  
**Title:** **Foster EITC Act of 2017**  
**Summary:** To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age range at which the earned income tax credit is allowed to former foster children and other individuals without qualifying children.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2742](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Jackie Walorski (R-IN)**  
**Title:** **Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act**  
**Summary:** To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt an electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across State lines, and to provide funding to aid States in developing such a system, and for other purposes.

**Bill #:** [S. 1257](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Todd Young (R-IN)**  
**Title:** **Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act**  
**Summary:** To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt an electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across State lines, and to provide funding to aid States in developing such a system, and for other purposes.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2952](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Karen Bass (D-CA)**  
**Title:** **Foster Youth Mentoring Act of 2017**  
**Summary:** To support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care.

**Bill #:** [S. 1215](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Chuck Grassley (R-IA)**  
**Title:** **Foster Youth Independence Act of 2017**  
**Summary:** 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.

**Bill #:** [S. 885](#)  
**Sponsored By:** **Bob Casey (D-PA)**  
**Title:** **Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2017**  
**Summary:** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include foster care transition youth as members of targeted groups for purposes of the work opportunity credit.

**Bill #:** [S.774](#)  
**Title:** **Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)**  
**Summary:** This bill would address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma. It would require the development of a federal task force to recommend improvements for identifying, referring, and supporting children and families that have experienced trauma. In addition, it would provide for the training of law enforcement on the impacts of trauma, improve the understanding of trauma, and create a pilot program to increase trauma-informed screening and treatment services.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 1757](#)  
**Title:** **Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Danny Davis (D-IL-7)**  
**Summary:** This bill would address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma. It would require the development of a federal task force to recommend improvements for identifying, referring, and supporting children and families that have experienced trauma.

In addition, it would provide for the training of law enforcement on the impacts of trauma, improve the understanding of trauma, and create a pilot program to increase trauma-informed screening and treatment services.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 737](#)  
**Title:** **Caring Start Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Katherine Clark (D-MA-5)**  
**Summary:** This bill would amend the Head Start Act to promote trauma-informed practices, age-appropriate positive behavioral intervention and support, services for young children who have experienced trauma or toxic stress, and improve coordination between Head Start agencies and other programs that serve very young children.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2208](#)  
**Title:** **Creating Pathways for Youth Employment Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Robin Kelly (D-IL-02)**  
**Summary:** This bill would make it easier for local governments and community organizations to apply directly for federal funding to create and expand summer and year-round employment programs for young people. The legislation would establish a five-year, \$1.5 billion competitive grant program for youth summer employment and a five-year, \$2 billion competitive grant program for youth year-round employment that will provide financial support for communities seeking to create, improve, or grow summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14-24. Fifty percent of funds would be reserved for programs serving in-school youth, and fifty percent would be reserved for programs serving out-of-school youth. Both grant programs would provide planning grants of up to \$200,000 for 12 months or implementation grants of up to \$5 million over 3 years.

**Bill #:** [S.984](#)  
**Title:** **Creating Pathways for Youth Employment Act**  
**Sponsored By:** **Dick Durbin (D-IL)**  
**Summary:** This bill would make it easier for local governments and community organizations to apply directly for federal funding to create and expand summer and year-round employment programs for young people. The legislation would establish a five-year, \$1.5 billion competitive grant program for youth summer employment and a five-year, \$2 billion competitive grant program for youth year-round employment that will provide financial support for communities seeking to create, improve, or grow summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14-24. Fifty percent of funds would be reserved for programs serving in-school youth, and fifty percent would be reserved for programs serving

out-of-school youth. Both grant programs would provide planning grants of up to \$200,000 for 12 months or implementation grants of up to \$5 million over 3 years.

**Bill #:** [S. 874](#)  
**Title:** **At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Chris Murphy (D-CT)**  
**Summary:** This bill would ensure that Medicaid for justice involved youth is suspended rather than terminated when a juvenile is incarcerated.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 2060](#)  
**Title:** **Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Dave Reichert (R-WA-08)**  
**Summary:** This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to include the hiring of qualified foster care transition youth.

**Bill #:** [S. 885](#)  
**Title:** **Improved Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Robert Casey (D-PA)**  
**Summary:** This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of qualified foster care transition youth.

**Bill #:** [H.R. 4998](#)  
**Title:** **Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth**  
**Sponsored By:** **Karen Bass (D-CA)**  
**Summary:** To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth

**Bill #:** [S. 1797](#)  
**Title:** **Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth**  
**Sponsored By:** **Bob Casey (D-PA)**  
**Summary:** To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth

**Bill #:** [S. 1964](#)  
**Title:** **Child Welfare Oversight and Accountability Act of 2017**  
**Sponsored By:** **Orrin Hatch (R-UT)**  
**Summary:** A bill to encourage kinship guardianship placements and support payment rate equity for such placements, to improve oversight of State child welfare programs funded under the Social Security Act, to strengthen national data on child fatalities from maltreatment, and for other purposes.