



CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON FOSTER YOUTH

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NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

TOOL KIT

PROVIDED BY
CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS



REP. KAREN BASS
(CA-33)



REP. TOM MARINO
(PA-10)



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About the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth:

Launched in 2012, the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth provides a forum for Members of Congress to discuss and develop policy recommendations to strengthen the child welfare system, as well as improve the overall well-being of youth and families throughout the United States. The Caucus recently began a nationwide Listening Tour, which focuses on learning from state and local child welfare providers, advocates, and foster children to help identify best practices and the greatest challenges facing the national foster care system. U.S. Representatives Karen Bass (D-Calif.), Tom Marino (R-Penn.), Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), and Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) serve as co-chairs of the Caucus. For more information and to view a list of current Members, please visit our website at www.fosteryouthcaucus.org



Checklist & Overview

About National Foster Care Month

Each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to shine a light on the experiences of the more than 400,000 children and youth in the foster care system. The campaign raises awareness about the urgent needs of these young people and encourages citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. Each year, the President and Members of Congress officially recognize National Foster Care Month by issuing proclamations, introducing resolutions, and joining stakeholders throughout the country in a variety of activities.

Congressional Office Check List

Communications

- ☐ Send press statement recognizing National Foster Care Month
- ☐ Plan and execute foster care focused district event
- ☐ Place National Foster Care Month op-ed in local newspaper
- ☐ Make regular Facebook and Twitter posts & add ribbon to profile pictures
- ☐ Update website with Foster Care Month buttons and add foster care resource section
- ☐ Send E-Newsletter highlighting all Foster Care Month activities

Legislative

- ☐ Member floor statement (target date for floor blitz is May 9)
- ☐ Cosponsor National Foster Youth Resolution & legislation
- ☐ Attend Hill Briefings: May 8th & May 31st
- ☐ Serve as host for Foster Youth Shadow Day on May 31st
- ☐ Join the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth (if not already a member)

For more information or additional ideas, please feel free to contact:

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Congressional Event Schedule

Tue May 8

Foster Family-based Treatment Association Briefing

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Location: 210 Cannon (Budget Committee Room)
Focus: Therapeutic resolution of intensive childhood trauma

Wed May 9

Foster Care Month Visibility Day on Capitol Hill

- ✓ Wear Foster Care Month ribbons (will be distributed to each Member)
- ✓ Floor speeches: incorporate stories from foster youth
- ✓ Introduce House Foster Care Month Resolution

Thurs May 17

Bipartisan Press Conference (tentative)

Time: 11:00 am (time may change)
Location: House Triangle
Focus: Bipartisan foster care legislative package (still in development)

Week of May 21

District Meetings & Events w Foster Youth

See "District Activities & Resources" document in this packet

Thurs May 31

Foster Youth Shadow Day

Description: Members of Congress will provide foster youth from their districts/states the opportunity to shadow them for a half day.
Time: 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Pick up: Rayburn 2123. Drop off: HVC 215
Note: Recruitment/pairing of youth, logistics, and the afternoon schedule will be coordinated by the Caucus Chairs offices. To host a foster youth on May 31, email jenny.wood@mail.house.gov

Thurs May 31

Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth Hill Briefing

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Location: House Visitors Center (HVC) 215
Focus: Hear directly from foster youth leaders from across the country regarding their challenges, successes, and policy recommendations

All Month

Encourage constituents to share their stories & policy suggestions at fosteryouthcaucus.org



Sample Press Statement

Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth Co-Chairs Recognize May as National Foster Care Month

WASHINGTON – Co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, U.S. Reps. **Karen Bass** (D-Calif.), **Tom Marino** (R-Penn.) and **Jim McDermott** (D-Wash.), **Michele Bachmann** (R-Minn.) made the following statements recognizing May as National Foster Care Month.

Rep. **Karen Bass**: “With more than 420,000 youth currently in our nation’s foster care system it is critical that we take time this month to raise awareness about the unique challenges young people in the system face. Joined with 50 of my other colleagues in the Foster Youth Caucus, we are committed to combining our unique and diverse experiences to bring a significant change to help youth prosper while in foster care and eventually find a permanent home.

Rep. **Tom Marino**: “As a foster parent and the father of two adopted children, it is an honor to join with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to recognize the importance of National Foster Care month. Our nation’s child welfare system faces a number of difficult challenges, but with increased awareness, coordinated state and federal efforts, and dedicated caregivers we will continue to make important advances in providing safer, stable, and caring environments for all foster youths.”

Rep. **Jim McDermott**: “As we celebrate the importance of National Foster Care Month, let’s remember that foster children need the same things to succeed that all children need – a safe home, a caring family, a good education and access to health care. I’m proud that my colleagues and I have been able to address many of the challenges that foster children face in a bipartisan manner. While we have made progress, there is still much more to do. I look forward to working with my colleagues, especially those on the Foster Care Caucus, to meet those challenges and enable every child in foster care to succeed.”

Rep. **Michele Bachmann**: “I am delighted to join my colleagues in celebrating May as Foster Care Month. As a former foster mom to 23 beautiful girls, I am familiar with the varied experiences of these youth and desire to see needless barriers removed from their lives. Every life is valuable, and I hope that throughout the month of May, we’ll be able to raise awareness to the needs of foster children across the United States.”

To learn more about the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth visit fosteryouthcaucus-karenbass.house.gov.

About the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth:

Founded in 2011, the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth was created by co-chairs Reps. **Karen Bass** (D-Calif.), **Tom Marino** (R-Penn.), **Jim McDermott** (D-Wash.) and **Michele Bachmann** (R-Minn.) to protect and promote the welfare of all children in foster care and those who have “aged out” of the system. The Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth provides a forum for Members of Congress to discuss and develop policy recommendations to strengthen the child welfare system and improve the overall well-being of youth and families.



Social Media Ideas & Resources

Official Twitter Hashtag: #FCM12

Each week, the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth (FYC) will focus its Facebook and Twitter posts around a single theme or topic. While you are encouraged to use the sample tweets below, please feel free to add your own ideas for informative tweets or postings, and share with other members of the Caucus!

Weekly Social Media Focus Areas & Sample Tweet

Week 1 (May 1st): Building awareness of the foster care system overall

- Wear a blue ribbon during May in support of National Foster Care Month. Change your profile picture to this: [link to ribbon image] #FCM12
- In 2010, 65% of children left the child welfare system via reunification with family, other relatives or legal guardian. #FCM12
- Every year, approximately 30,000 young people leave the foster care system without lifelong families #FCM12
- African-American children are just 5.7% of the CA child population, but make up over 25% of youth in CA foster care #FCM12

Week 2 (May 7th): Building awareness of the issues faced by youth in foster care

- #DidYouKnow that children in foster care are prescribed antipsychotic medication nearly 9x more than other children? #FCM12
- #DidYouKnow that children in foster care are diagnosed with PTSD at twice the rate of US war vets. #FCM12

Week 3 (May 14th): Building awareness of the FYC & legislation from the group

- The 50-member congressional foster youth caucus is a bipartisan group which works to protect & promote the welfare of youth in care #FCM12
- FYC is researching legislation to support youth until the age of 21 to provide them w/better outcomes when they leave foster care #FCM12

Week 4 (May 21st): Building awareness of the issues youth face once they leave foster care

- In 2010, 11% of foster youth left the child welfare system without a permanent connection to an adult. Up 57% since 2002 #FCM12
- Youth transitioning out of foster care are @ higher risk of health issues, homelessness & early pregnancy #FCM12
- #DidYouKnow that of youth who age out of foster care, ¼ are jailed within 2 years and only ½ graduate from high school #FCM12
- Youth in foster care need nurturing adults on their side because their own families are in crisis & unable to care for them #FCM12

Week 5 (May 28th): Building awareness on what people can do to help/ways to volunteer

- There are many ways to help the more than 400k youth in foster care besides becoming a foster parent. #FCM12
- Hold a donation drive to collect clothes, books & toys, help a youth maintain religious ties or “adopt” a youth as a group. #FCM12



Graphics

All graphics shown below are included as attachments to the toolkit. For any additional needs, please contact Paul at paul@mail.house.gov or 202-225-7084.

Front Page Feature:

Use this graphic in the featured item rotator on the front page of your Member's website. For now, you can link to a general post recognizing Foster Care Month, but as events occur throughout the month such as floor speeches, press conferences, and the Shadow Day, you can collect photos and videos to display on a single Web page.



Ribbon:

Change the Member's social media profile images to one that includes the foster care month ribbon. This can be done by editing the ribbon to place on top of your current image, using a service like twibbon or simply replacing your entire image with a ribbon.



Foster Youth Caucus Logos:



Use this graphic as a button or icon to promote the Member's membership of the caucus. You can also link to the Foster Youth Caucus website and use this graphic as the button.

Share Positive Stories from Foster Youth:

You can use Facebook, e-newsletters and other communication media to solicit positive stories from foster youth in your office's district. The stories can be reposted on Facebook, used as content for a Foster Care Month-focused newsletter or in a floor speech recognizing Foster Care Month.

SHARE YOUR STORY -- MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

The Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth is asking current and former foster youth, their parents, advocates and stakeholders to share stories of their personal experiences with foster care. Tell us about the challenges and victories you've experienced.

Submit your written stories or upload a video!



Sample Op-ed

NOTE: Personalize and send this op-ed to your local newspaper. Edit the sample to better reflect the messages that are most important to you and your community. This sample op-ed has been provided by fostercaremonth.org

Imagine a world in which the concept of “family” is turned on its head, a world in which you are forced to pack your few belongings and move to a new home and a new family. It is most likely that you are not making the move with your brothers and sisters who are being placed in other different homes with other new families. And imagine for a moment that you are the new family taking in a child who is confused, rootless and upset. Very little imagination is required if you are one of the more than 400,000 children in foster care in the U.S. or one of the foster families who open their hearts and homes to children in desperate need of stability.

May is National Foster Care Month – a time when we turn our attention to the children and youth in care, and honor the dedicated foster families, relative caregivers, volunteers and child welfare professionals who serve them. The foster care “system” is only as good as the people who choose to be a part of it. With the help of more Americans, the lives of these young people will change for the better.

No matter how much time you have to give, you have the power to do something positive that will “Change a Lifetime” for a young person in foster care. Nearly every community is suffering from a shortage of foster families. More and more children need you. Children in foster care feel more secure and are likely to do better in school when they are able to stay in their own community. The simple truth is that the larger the pool of qualified foster parents, the easier it will be to ensure that children can remain in their own neighborhoods and schools and to keep siblings together in foster care. Make your own neighborhood a welcoming place for kids in foster care – find out how you can get involved.

Being a foster parent is not the only way to have an impact on the life of a child in foster care. You can become a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), be a mentor, or support foster youth attending college and vocational school. You can offer older youth essential job skills training or employment, a place to stay, a computer or tutoring. Get involved - no foster child should be without a strong relationship to a caring adult they can depend on in times of need.

When was the last time you read a positive story about a child in foster care who was succeeding in school or in life? When was the last time you read a profile about a foster family that opened up their home and hearts to children who desperately needed them? National Foster Care Month is the perfect time for honoring the more than half a million children and youth in the U.S. foster care system and the foster parents who care for them.

Take a few minutes to call [put name and phone number of local foster care agency here] to see what you can do. Consider sending some thank you cards, coupons for free pizzas, or new toys to the agency for distribution to foster families and the children they serve. Take a few minutes to learn more about the Congressional Foster Youth Caucus by visiting fosteryouthcaucs-karenbass.hous.gov.

Urge your local media to tell the whole story of foster care in our community. For every story about a child in foster care whose life ends in tragedy, there are thousands of stories of children being raised in loving, nurturing foster homes. Demand to hear those stories too.

And use National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to change the perception that children in foster care are the responsibility of someone else. They are our children; their wellbeing is dependent on the willingness of our entire community to care for and about them. Together we can make National Foster Care Month a success.



Sample Floor Statement

Mr/Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. The goal of this special month is to raise awareness about the experiences and needs of the more than 400,000 youth in the foster care system. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the thousands of dedicated foster families who care for these youth as well as the social workers and service providers who support them.

Today I'd like to share a few statistics that showcase the child welfare landscape. Then, I will share a story from one of my constituents [select from the below].

- At the end of fiscal year 2010, over 107,000 foster youth were eligible and waiting adoption.
- 65 percent of former foster children experienced at least 7 school changes while in care.
- A recent study indicated that foster children were prescribed antipsychotic medications at nearly nine times the rate of their peers.
- In 2010, over 27,900 youth "aged out" of the foster care system without a permanent family. Unfortunately, studies show that youth who "age out" are more likely to end up homeless, become involved in crime, or suffer from mental health challenges.
- In some states, up to 50% of former foster and probation youth become homeless within the first 18 months of emancipation.
- Sixty percent of women who emancipate from foster care become parents within 2.5 to 4 years after exiting care.
- In some cities throughout the nation, nearly 60% of victims of domestic minor sex trafficking are youth from the foster care system.

We cannot allow these statistics to shape the reality of our nation's foster youth year after year. All children deserve safe, loving, and permanent homes. And we have a responsibility to continue to create policy that will improve outcomes and the overall wellbeing of foster youth and their families.

Although there plenty of alarming facts and figures that depict a grim picture for children in care, the resiliency of foster youth remains strong. I'd like to share a story of one of the young adults in my district who has triumphed over the odds and is now working to improve the foster care system for future generations.

Insert story from youth here. If you would like help in finding a story from a youth in your district/state, please contact Jenny.Wood@mail.house.gov in Rep. Karen Bass' office.

In honor of [name of foster youth] and in recognition of National Foster Care Month, I invite my colleagues to cosponsor the bipartisan resolution to celebrate the courage and tenacity of foster youth throughout our nation.



Host a Foster Youth on Capitol Hill!

Save the Date - Thursday, May 31st

Dear Colleague,

The Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth is excited to announce its first annual Foster Youth Shadow Day in honor of National Foster Care Month this May. We hope that you will participate by granting foster youth an opportunity to shadow you from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 31st.

This event will provide an opportunity for foster youth to experience the inner-workings of Congress firsthand. In addition, Members of Congress will help foster youth see themselves as leaders and create opportunities for them to explore potential future careers here in Washington.

Each Member of Congress will be paired with one current foster teen from the Washington, DC area and one foster alumnus (young adult) from the Member's district/state. We ask that youth spend as much time as possible directly with the Members of Congress, but we understand that some time may need to be spent with staff, given the confidentiality of some meetings.

We will work closely with the DC Child and Family Services Administration as well as a number of nationwide foster youth organizations to ensure a positive experience and safety of participating youth and young adults. The Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth is excited to host this event and we encourage you to adopt a foster youth for the day!

Draft Schedule for the Day (bolded items involve participating offices)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8:30am | Breakfast & Orientation for Youth |
| 9:30am | Offices pick up youth for shadow experience. Pick up: Rayburn 2123 |
| 9:30am – 1:00pm | Youth shadow Members of Congress, offices encouraged to provide lunch for youth |
| 1:00pm | Offices drop off youth in House Visitors Center Room 215 |
| 2:00pm – 3:30pm | Foster Youth Capitol Hill Briefing – for Members & staff |
| 3:45pm | Capitol Tour for Youth |
| 5:00pm | Closing & Debrief with Youth |

To RSVP or ask questions, please contact Jenny Wood in the office of Representative Karen Bass at jenny.wood@mail.house.gov or 202-225-7084.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

TOM MARINO
Member of Congress

JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress

MICHELE BACHMANN
Member of Congress



District Activity Ideas & Resources

- ✓ Schedule a meeting with foster youth from your district
- ✓ Host a résumé workshop for older foster youth
- ✓ Hold a public forum to highlight foster care policy issues
- ✓ Visit a public or private child welfare agency
- ✓ Officiate an adoption at a local children's courthouse

Sample town hall or public forum template:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 10:00 am | Opening Comments from Member of Congress |
| 10:15 | Panel 1: Youth & Families Focus: Direct life experiences with the child welfare system, areas of strength/weakness & recommendations on what should be changed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth ▪ Relative Caregiver |
| 10:30 | Panel 2: Service Providers & Advocates Focus: Outline unique role of organization, best practices, challenge posed by child welfare laws, recommendations for policy change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate ▪ Judge ▪ Mentoring Program ▪ Transition-Living Program |
| 10:50 | Public Comment & Question |
| 11:55 | Closing & Wrap Up |

Organizations that would love to help facilitate the above events include:

Casey Family Programs

Contact: JooYeun Chang, 202-728-2004
jchang@casey.org
www.casey.org

Foster Care Alumni of America

Contact: Adam Robe, 703-299-6767
arobe@fostercarealumni.org
www.fostercarealumni.org

Foster Club

Contact: Celeste Bodner, 503-717-1552
celeste@fosterclub.com
www.fosterclub.com

National Foster Youth Action Network

Contact: Janet Knipe, 415-568-9807
jknipe@fosteryouthaction.org
www.fosteryouthaction.org

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute

Contact: Rebecca Weichand, 202-544-8500, Rebecca@ccainstitute.org, <http://www.ccainstitute.org/>



National Foster Care Month Resolution

To cosponsor this resolution, please contact Jenny Wood in Rep. Karen Bass' office at jenny.wood@mail.house.gov or x57084 or Robert Savino in Rep. Tom Marino's office at Robert.savino@mail.house.gov or x53731

Whereas the Nation's foster care system provides for approximately 408,000 children each day who are unable to live safely with their biological parents due to abuse and neglect;

Whereas we all have a legal and moral responsibility to provide the best care possible for children when they cannot remain in their homes;

Whereas foster children, like all children, deserve no less than a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas there were approximately 254,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2010 while over 107,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of that same year;

Whereas in fiscal year 2010, almost 53,000 children were adopted out of foster care while the number of youth who "aged out" of the foster care system without finding a permanent family was over 27,900;

Whereas foster parents are the frontline caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents and provide physical care, emotional support, education advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for kids leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with non-relatives, have more stability (fewer changes in placements), have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas recent studies show foster children enrolled in Medicaid were prescribed antipsychotic medications at nearly nine times the rate of other children receiving Medicaid;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with 65 percent of former foster children experiencing at least 7 school changes while in care;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system;

Whereas children 'aging out' of foster care need and deserve a support system as they work to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas Federal legislation over the past 3 decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, and the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;



Whereas state and local governments and other child serving agencies have also invested in child welfare service improvements in order to provide stable, permanent homes for children;

Whereas more work and investments are needed to provide the necessary array of services to these children; and

Whereas May is an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors and the positive impact they have on children's lives.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives--

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Foster Care Month;

(2) recognizes foster youth throughout the nation for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(3) honors the tireless efforts of those who work to improve outcomes for children in the child welfare system;

(4) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;

(5) recognizes the significant improvements to Federal, State, and local child welfare policy; and

(6) reaffirms the need to work through the programs in Title IV-B and IV-E in the Social Security Act and other programs to support vulnerable families, invest in prevention and reunification services, promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in a child's best interest, adequately serve those children brought into the foster care system, and facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that "age out" of the foster care system.



Bipartisan Foster Care Legislation

*Please consider cosponsoring the bills listed below.
All of these bills have bipartisan cosponsors as of April 2012.*

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>H.R.32: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2011</p> <p>Introduced: 1/5/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Biggert, Judy</p> | <p>Amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to redefine “homeless,” “homeless individual,” or “homeless person” to include: (1) a child or youth who has been verified as homeless by a local educational agency (LEA) homeless liaison, and the family of such child or youth; (2) a youth verified as homeless by the director (or a designee) of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; (3) a child verified as homeless by the program director (or designee) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the child’s family; and (4) a child verified as homeless by the Head Start program director (or designee) under the Head Start Act, and the child’s family.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity</i></p> |
| <p>H.R. 878: Tax credit for Guardianship of a Disabled Individual</p> <p>Introduced: 3/2/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Deutch, Theodore</p> | <p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals for legal expenses paid with respect to establishing guardianship of a disabled individual by inserting Section 36D into Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A, which allows a credit of up to \$5,000 for qualified legal expenses incurred to establish legal guardianship of a disabled individual.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.</i></p> |
| <p>H.R.1253: Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2011</p> <p>Introduced: 3/30/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Biggert, Judy</p> | <p>Amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act’s program of grants to states and, through them, subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the education of homeless youths to accomplish various goals, including (1) ensuring that homeless youth do not lose credits earned in other schools and are not segregated into separate schools or programs without schools; (2) requiring states, LEAs, and schools to promote success for homeless youth by holding them to the same achievement standards as other students and removing barriers to their full participation in all classes and school activities; (3) requiring schools to immediately enroll homeless youth despite unpaid fees or missed application or enrollment deadlines; (4) requiring LEAs to coordinate services provided to homeless and disabled youth; (5) protect the privacy of information about a homeless youth’s living situation.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.</i></p> |
| <p>H.R.1576: Dave Thomas Adoption Act of 2011</p> <p>Introduced: 4/15/2011 Sponsor: Rep. King, Peter T.</p> | <p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans for adoption expenses.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.</i></p> |



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| <p>H.R.1681: Every Child Deserves a Family Act</p> <p>Introduced: 5/3/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Stark, Fortney Pete</p> | <p>Prohibits the discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of a prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.</i></p> |
| <p>H.R.2230: Internet Gambling Regulation and Tax Enforcement Act of 2011</p> <p>Introduced: 6/16/2011 Sponsor: Rep. McDermott, Jim</p> | <p>Amends the Social Security Act to establish the Transitional Assistance Trust Fund to finance state plans for transitional education and job training assistance to individuals who are, or were formerly, in foster care. Allocates 25% of the tax revenues received after December 31, 2010, that are attributable to Internet gambling to the Trust Fund. From the Transnational Assistance Fund, each state shall be entitled to a payment of its allotted amount for the fiscal year to be used to carry out the State's plan for transnational assistance.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.</i></p> |
| <p>H.R.2721: Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act</p> <p>Introduced: 8/1/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Scott, Robert</p> | <p>Provides evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang free, and law-abiding lives.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce which referred to Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.</i></p> |
| <p>H.R.2370: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2011</p> <p>Introduced: 8/1/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen</p> | <p>Amends part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to Committee on Ways and Means which referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources 8/15/11.</i></p> |
| <p>H.R. 3486: Speak Out to Stop (SOS) Child Abuse Act</p> <p>Introduced: 11/18/2011 Sponsor: Rep. Bass, Karen</p> | <p>Prevents additional trauma to sexually abused children by amending and strengthening the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Requires States who receive CAPTA funds to have laws on their books that impose a criminal penalty against adults who witness another individual engaging in the sexual abuse of a child and fail to report it.</p> <p>Status: <i>Referred to Committee on Education and the Workforce which referred to Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education</i></p> |

This list was created in coordination with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Additional legislation is in development and will be added to the list bills are introduced.



Additional Resources

Foster Care Month

www.fostercaremonth.org

The creators of National Foster Care Month developed a website, which includes additional ideas to help promote your Member's foster care events in May. You can also access additional event ideas, fact sheets and more!

Ideas for Volunteering

www.fostercaremonth.org/GetInvolved/Toolkit/NationalCampaign/Documents/Brochure_English.pdf

Looking for ways to get involved or to inform constituents on how they can help? This brochure highlights great resources on what you can do if you have a few minutes, hours, weeks or more.

Child Welfare

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth

Includes videos from foster youth, a detailed history of National Foster Care Month and resources for youth on how to maintain connections with their siblings.

National Resources for Permanency and Family Connections

www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/fact-sheets.html

This website includes great facts to inform your constituents about foster care in your Member's state. The site features fact sheets on the number of youth in foster care per state, the percent of youth living with relatives, the number of licensed foster homes and a wealth of other information regarding the current state of foster youth care.