

Davis Introduces Legislation to Improve Education for Youth in Foster Care

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Washington, D.C.- On Thursday, May 31, Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL) introduced important legislation to improve education for youth in foster care. Congressman Davis said, "May is Foster Care Awareness Month, which provides an important opportunity to advance policies to support foster youth. For years, I have worked to help children and youth in foster care. I am proud to introduce The Increasing Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care Act because it will help remove key barriers to education for children and youth in care."

"There are multiple obstacles within the educational system for children in foster care. My legislation removes some of these barriers to improve educational stability and success for foster youth. For example, it ensures that foster care children have the right to continue attending their current school when placed in foster care when doing so is in their best interest. Further, if a change in school is in the student's best interest, then enrollment in a new school should be immediate and the student must receive assistance in transferring and recovering credits so she can remain on track for graduation. The bill also would require that school records be well-maintained and transferred to the new school in a timely manner."

"In addition, my legislation requires better collaboration between the school district and child welfare agencies to agree on what is needed to ensure educational stability for the child. Since 2008, federal law has required child welfare agencies to collaborate with school districts to ensure educational stability for children in foster care. My bill imposes the same requirement for collaboration on school districts. In particular, it requires agreement between the school districts and child welfare agencies on two key issues related to foster youth - ensuring transportation to school of origin and designating a point of contact to promote educational stability for the foster youth."

"We know that school mobility negatively affects educational outcomes - diminishing a student's access to academic content, needed academic supports, school enrichment opportunities, and participation in extracurricular activities. The Increasing Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care Act will help improve the educational stability and success of foster youth. I am proud to lead such a bill and introduce it during Foster Care Awareness Month."

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