

CONGRESSMAN DANNY K. DAVIS (D-IL)

CONGRESSMAN RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY (D-IL)

H.R. 6669, Fostering Success in Higher Education Act

This bill will improve college success for foster and homeless youth by substantially improving state capacity to enroll, retain, and graduate these youth. In particular, it will grow Institutions of Excellence skilled at graduating these students.

A college degree is essential to securing a good-paying job, yet foster and homeless youth face significant barriers to accessing and completing college. Foster and homeless youth often experience poor academic preparation, considerable financial hardship, housing challenges, and limited social capital to help navigate the varied demands of higher education. For example, a [study](#) by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Association of Community College Trustees found that approximately 13-14% of community college students were homeless, noting that 30% of former foster youth surveyed experienced homelessness. These youth also are at higher risk for lasting health and mental health effects from traumas experienced, poor health care, and other stressors that undermine college success.

Poor college graduation and attendance rates reflect these challenges. A [report](#) by the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education indicates that, although 84% of 17-18 year olds in foster care want to go to college, less than 20% of those who graduate high school attend college and less than 10% of those that attempt college complete a post-secondary credential by the age of 25. A 2021 [report](#) by John Burton Advocates for Youth found that foster youth experienced the highest rate of failure in Satisfactory Academic Progress —34% — after the first year of college. Based on a Government Accountability Office [report](#), unaccompanied homeless youth have similar college enrollment patterns as foster youth, and although graduation rates for these youth are not accessible, we can assume that homeless youth graduate at lower rates than their peers.

To help foster and homeless youth enjoy educational success, we must ensure they have the appropriate supports to enroll and graduate higher education. The *Fostering Success in Higher Education Act* will:

- * Invest \$150 million a year in States, tribes, and territories to establish or expand statewide initiatives to assist foster and homeless youth in enrolling in and graduating from institutions of higher education.
- * Establish formula grants to States based on a state's share of foster youth and homeless youth among all states, with a \$500,000 minimum grant.
- * Dedicate 70% of state grants to develop Institutions of Excellence skilled at serving foster and homeless youth via: robust support services; collaboration with organizations experienced in helping these youth; substantial financial assistance, including covering the remaining cost of attendance beyond federal and state grants; providing comprehensive wraparound services; hiring at least one full-time case manager; and ensuring robust student health and mental health services.
- * Direct 25% of State grants to establish intensive, statewide transition initiatives to increase college enrollment by foster and homeless youth.

Senator Bob Casey champions the critical legislation in the Senate.

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Organizations that Support the Fostering Success in Higher Education Act

National Organizations

Alliance for Positive Youth Development	iFoster
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)	Juvenile Law Center
Boys Town	Maddy Day LLC & Associates
C4 Innovations	National Association of Counsel for Children
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)	National Center on Adoption and Permanency
Center for the Study of Social Policy	National Coalition for the Homeless
Children's Advocacy Institute	National Crittenton
Children's Defense Fund	National Education Association
Children's Rights	National Health Care for the Homeless Council
EDGE Consulting Partners	Partners for Our Children at the University of Washington in Seattle
Family Centered Treatment Foundation	SchoolHouse Connection
Family Promise	Student Housing Advocate Alliance
First Focus Campaign for Children	The Family Focused Treatment Association
First Quarter Strategies	The Field Center
First Star Institute	The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
FosterClub	Think of Us
Haynes-Maslow Logistics & Consulting	Youth Law Center
HEAR US Inc.	Youth Villages

State and Local Organizations

15th Night	Law Office of Kara Jennings LLC
18 Degrees	Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)
ACTION Ohio	Lockport City School District
Agora Cyber Charter School	LYTE Collective
All About the Youth Community Center (AAYCC)	Maslow Project
All Saints Church Foster Care Project	Medford School District, Oregon
Ardmore City Schools	Menominee Indian School District
Bellevue School District	MICAH
Belmont Charter School	MOSES
California Youth Connection	My Friend's Place
Center for Transforming Lives	NCSU Feed the Pack Food Pantry
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council	Nevada Kids Foundation, Inc.
Chicago HOPES for Kids	Nevada System of Higher Education
Child Care Services Association	Oak Tree Resources
Children's Advocacy Alliance	OHIO Youth Action Board
Children's Home Society of North Carolina	Ozone House Youth & Family Services
Children's Law Center of California	Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Community Education Partnerships	People's Emergency Center
Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment (CORE)	PFLAG
Connecticut Voices for Children	PFLAG Wilmington DE
Dane County Youth Action Board	Power4Good
Deming Public Schools	Pressley Ridge
Direction Service	Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Family Promise of Colorado Springs	Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
Foster Forward	RowlandUSD-Family Resource Center
Fostering Success Michigan	Sacramento LGBT Community Center
Gilliam County Family Services	Safe Place for Youth
H.O.M.E.S Campaign	Salvation Army
Healthy Healed Whole LLC	Sanctuary of Hope
Henry County Board of Education	SUN Scholars Inc.
HerStory Ensemble LLC	Tenant Resource Center
Holy Wisdom Monastery	Texas Appleseed
Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County	TexProtects, The Texas Association for the Protection of Children
John Burton Advocates for Youth	The Center for Urban Youth and Family development
Kalispell HEART Program	Truckee Meadows Community College
KidsVoice	UpSpring
Lane Community College	Volunteers of America Northern New England
Lane Community College	Woodstown Pilesgrove-Regional School District
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	YouthCare