

# Representatives Rudy Yakym (R-IN) & Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

## H.R. 7655, Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act

Youth with foster care experience are significantly more likely to become early parents than their peers who did not experience care. According to the [National Youth in Transition Database](#), 22% of young adults surveyed at age 21 who were in foster care at age 17 had welcomed a child in the prior two years. In contrast, the latest [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#) reports that only 5% of young adults aged 18 to 24 are parents.

In general, foster youth face numerous challenges as they transition to adulthood, including limited financial, housing, employment, and educational opportunities. Expectant and parenting foster youth face additional unique difficulties, such as restricted autonomy in parenting decisions and possible challenges to their right to legal and physical custody of a child. Specialized case management for expectant and parenting foster youth coupled with connections to key resources are especially important to helping these youth transition to their new role as young parents.

Further, decades of research demonstrate that home visiting helps prevent child abuse and neglect, strengthens positive parenting, improves maternal and child health, and promotes child development and school readiness. Home visiting programs provide pregnant women, new mothers, and families with young children with regular, planned visits from trained professionals who help them improve their healthy living and parenting skills, promote child development, and access needed resources and services.

The *Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act* would help expectant and parenting foster youth transition to adulthood by ensuring that these young parents have access to intensive case management, high-quality home visiting, and resource coordination so they and their children can thrive. Specifically, the bill would amend the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee) program to:

- Require state Chafee programs to inform youth about the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program to better support expectant and parenting foster youth.
- Encourage states to provide tailored case management and resource coordination services to expectant and parenting foster youth.

The Chafee program provides \$143 million a year in flexible funding to states, territories, and Indian tribal entities to support foster youth as they transition to adulthood. The broad-range of supports and services – such as education, career, housing, and preventive health – assist young people who experienced foster care at age 14 or older.

To cosponsor, please contact Bridget Visconti [Bridget.Visconti@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bridget.Visconti@mail.house.gov) (Yakym) or [Jill.Hunter-Williams@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jill.Hunter-Williams@mail.house.gov) (Davis).

# 150+ Organizations Endorse - Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act

A Place 4 Me  
Advo Kids  
Alaska Chapter of FFTA  
Allies for Every Child  
Alumni Coming Together to Improve Outcomes  
Now of Ohio (ACTION Ohio)  
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Association of Children's Residential and  
Community Services (ACRC)  
Boys Town  
CarePortal  
CARES Initiative, Center for the Study of Social  
Policy  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Changent  
Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Joaquin  
County (CAPC)  
Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County  
Child and Family Services of Saginaw County  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children Now  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's League of Massachusetts  
Children's Aid  
Children's Home Society of NC  
Children's Law Center  
Citizens for Juvenile Justice  
Clermont County Children's Protective Services  
Coalition on Human Needs  
CocoKids  
Colorado Office of the Child Representative  
Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth  
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute  
(CCA)  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)  
of:  

- Baltimore County
- California
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- McHenry County
- Monterey County
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- Sacramento
- San Bernardino County

Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Jersey,  
Inc.  
Crittenton Services for Children and Families  
Daniels Kids  
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
Defiance County Children Services  
Doing Good Words  
Exchange Family Center  
Firefly Children and Family Alliance  
Florida Youth SHINE  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
Foster Care Training Today  
Foster Family Treatment Association (FFTA)  
Foster Greatness  
Foster Success  
FosterAdopt Connect  
FosterClub  
Fostering Academic Achievement Nationwide  
(FAAN)  
Fostering Youth Success Alliance  
Freedom From Foster Care A Nonprofit  
Organization  
FRIENDS National Center for Families &  
Communities Rising  
Friends of Children, Inc.

Goodwill Industries of Michigan  
Healthy Families America  
HI H.O.P.E.S. Initiative, EPIC 'Ohana  
Hillsides  
Hope Village for Children, Inc.  
iFoster  
Illinois Collaboration on Youth  
Impact Living Services  
IMPOWER  
Journey to Success  
Justice + Joy National Collaborative  
Juvenile Law Center  
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice  
Kentucky Youth Advocates  
Kinship Care Resource Center, Clayton County  
Koinonia Family Services  
KVC Missouri  
LA Department of Children and Family Services  
Lake County Public Children Services Agency  
(PCSA)  
Lorain County Children Services  
Maine Children's Alliance  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
MCHS Family of Services  
McKnight Community Solutions  
MDDTSpeaks Holdings, Inc.  
Missouri Coalition for Children  
National Association of Counsel for Children  
National Association of Counties (NACo)  
National Association of County Human Services  
Administrators  
National Center for Housing and Child Welfare  
(NCHCW)  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
National Coalition for Child and Family Well-  
Being (NCCFWB)  
National Foster Parent Association  
National Foster Youth Institute (NFYI)  
Nebraska Appleseed  
New Culture  
New Morning Youth & Family Services  
NMCAN  
North American Family Institute  
Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children Services  
Office of the Child Advocate  
Orange County Social Services Agency  
Our Children Oregon  
Parents as Teachers  
Parents as Teachers  
People Places, Inc.  
Public Children Services Association of Ohio  
Public Counsel  
Rapid Resource for Families, Inc  
Rockland County Child Protective Services  
Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center  
San Bernardino County Children and Family  
Services  
San Diego Center for Children  
San Diego County Health and Human Services  
Agency  
SaySo  
SchoolHouse Connection  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
SCO Family of Services  
St. Augustine Youth Services  
St. Judes Ranch for Children  
Table Sense  
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice &  
Research at the University of Pennsylvania  
The Home for Little Wanderers  
The Omni Family of Services  
Think of Us  
Together Georgia  
Upbring  
Voice for Adoption

Voices for Children  
Voices for Georgia's Children  
Wake County Children and Family Services  
Walden Family Services  
Wellpoint Children's Wisconsin  
Wellspring Lutheran Services  
Winston Rhea Scholars  
Youth Law Center  
Youth Villages  
YSS – AMP