

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4299

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a demonstration grant program to provide emergency relief to foster youth and improve pre-placement services offered by foster care stabilization agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 2021

Mr. BACON (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a demonstration grant program to provide emergency relief to foster youth and improve pre-placement services offered by foster care stabilization agencies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foster Care Stabiliza-
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO IMPROVE PRE-PLACEMENT SERVICES**
2 **FOR FOSTER YOUTH.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services, acting through the Administration for
5 Children and Families, shall award 3 demonstration
6 grants of not more than \$1,000,000 to foster care sta-
7 bilization agencies for the purpose of providing emergency
8 relief to foster youth and improving pre-placement services
9 for foster youth waiting for placement.

10 (b) **DURATION.**—A foster care stabilization agency
11 that receives a grant under this Act shall have 3 years
12 to spend funds awarded by the grant and return any un-
13 used grant funds to the Secretary.

14 (c) **APPLICATION.**—A foster care stabilization agency
15 that desires to receive a grant under this section shall sub-
16 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such
17 manner, and containing such information as the Secretary
18 may require, that shall include the following:

19 (1) A description of how grant funds will be
20 used to provide emergency relief to foster youth by
21 the foster care stabilization agency.

22 (2) A description of how grant funds will be
23 used to improve pre-placement services offered by
24 the foster care stabilization agency.

25 (d) **APPLICATION DISSEMINATION.**—The Secretary
26 shall ensure that the solicitation of applications for a grant

1 under this Act is posted publically on the website of the
2 Administration for Children and Families and shall make
3 special dissemination efforts to rural areas and among In-
4 dian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian
5 organizations.

6 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this
7 section may be used to carry out any of the following ac-
8 tivities:

9 (1) Hiring of personnel necessary to provide
10 emergency relief to foster youth and ensure that
11 services, resources, and assistance reach such youth.

12 (2) Provision of clothing and other personal ne-
13 cessities to a foster youth for a total not to exceed
14 \$250 per foster youth, per year.

15 (3) Purchase of food and equipment needed to
16 prepare food for foster youth.

17 (4) Provision of service and support to prevent
18 and respond to occurrences of child abuse and ne-
19 glect with respect to foster youth.

20 (5) Any other extraordinary or emergency as-
21 sistance needed to promote the safety and self-suffi-
22 ciency of foster youth.

23 (6) Any other purpose that the Secretary deter-
24 mines appropriate.

1 (f) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve
2 \$45,000 appropriated pursuant to the authorization under
3 subsection (i) to be used for administration, oversight, and
4 technical assistance activities related to this section.

5 (g) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Con-
6 gress a report that—

7 (1) describes how grants awarded under this
8 section have been used to provide emergency relief to
9 foster youth;

10 (2) describe how grants awarded under this sec-
11 tion have been used on pre-placement services;

12 (3) contains data on the extent of clothing and
13 other necessities purchased with grant funds award-
14 ed under this section that have been provided to fos-
15 ter youth;

16 (4) provides an evaluation of case outcomes for
17 foster youth who have benefitted from grant funds;
18 and

19 (5) states the number of home transfers for
20 each foster youth that has benefitted from grant
21 funds.

22 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

23 (1) FOSTER CARE STABILIZATION AGENCY.—
24 The term “foster care stabilization agency” means a
25 local public or private nonprofit, including commu-

1 nity and faith-based organizations, with expertise
2 and experience providing direct services to one or
3 more of the following:

4 (A) Children who are under the care and
5 placement responsibility of a State or Tribal
6 agency that administers a plan under part B or
7 E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
8 U.S.C. 621 et seq. and 670 et seq.).

9 (B) Foster youth under the age of 18.

10 (C) Foster youth 18 years of age or over,
11 but under 26 years of age.

12 (2) FOSTER YOUTH.—The term “foster youth”
13 means an individual in foster care who has not at-
14 tained 26 years of age.

15 (3) HOME TRANSFER.—The term “home trans-
16 fer” means the initial placement of a foster youth in
17 to foster care, and any subsequent placement move
18 of that foster youth while in foster care.

19 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

21 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
23 \$3,045,000 for fiscal year 2022.

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