



## **FACT SHEET:**

### **H.R. 7947, the *Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act***

**Chairman Danny K. Davis and Ranking Member Jackie Walorski**

Temporary, targeted support to protect vulnerable youth impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Increases funding and provides support for older youth who experienced foster care:

- Provides \$350 million for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee) to support older foster youth and youth transitioning into adulthood.
- Provides \$50 million for the Educational & Training Vouchers Program and increases maximum award amount to \$12,000 per youth.
- Temporarily waives state match requirement for additional Chafee funding.
- Raises the maximum age for Chafee-eligible former foster youth through age 26.
- Provides temporary program flexibilities, including lifting the 30 percent spending cap on housing costs and accommodating pandemic-related disruptions in work and education.

#### Prevents children from aging out of foster care and being at risk of homelessness during the pandemic:

- Prohibits states from requiring a child to leave foster care solely due to their age during the pandemic.
- For youth who have “aged out” of foster care during the pandemic, requires states to permit youth to voluntarily re-enter care.
- Allows states to use additional Chafee funds to offset costs caused by these requirements for youth not eligible for federal matching funds.

#### Expands access to Family First Prevention Services:

- During the public health emergency, waives state match for evidence-based mental health, substance abuse, and parenting skill services, to allow states to invest in prevention services that keep children safely at home.

#### Provides emergency funding for the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program:

- Provides \$75 million and waives state match for additional funds to support family preservation, family reunification, adoption, and other supportive services.

#### Expands funding for the Court Improvement Program:

- Provides an additional \$10 million for courts handling child welfare cases and temporary flexibilities to conduct virtual hearings, and waives the state match for the new funds.

Flexibilities for home visiting programs to continue to serve families safely:

- Temporarily allows necessary program flexibilities in the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Education Home Visiting program, including virtual home visits, sustained funding for staffing and allows states to use federal funds which would otherwise revert back to U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Expands access to kinship navigator programs:

- During the public health emergency, waives the state match and allows states to use models not yet in the Evidence Clearinghouse for kinship navigator programs, to provide greater access to federal funding to support grandparents and kin caregivers.

Makes technical corrections needed in response to FMAP increase:

- Makes a technical correction to Title IV-E treatment of the 6.2% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase for Family First Transition Act funding.
- Makes a technical correction to apply the 6.2% FMAP rate increase to the District of Columbia's foster care program in the same way it applies to states.