

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to modify case plan requirements for children in foster care, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to modify case plan requirements for children in foster care, 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 “Informed Foster Youth  
5 Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. CASE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 475 of the Social Security  
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking the period  
2           at the end and inserting “, including any services  
3           that meet the child’s needs and are available to the  
4           child under the State program carried out pursuant  
5           to section 477.”; and

6           (2) in paragraph (5)—

7           (A) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-  
8           serting the following:

9           “(D) a child’s health and education record  
10          (as described in paragraph (1)(C)) is reviewed  
11          and updated, and a copy of the record is sup-  
12          plied to the foster parent or foster care provider  
13          with whom the child is placed, at the time of  
14          each placement of the child in foster care, and  
15          is supplied, free of cost, to—

16                 “(i) the foster parent or foster care  
17                 provider with whom the child is placed, at  
18                 the time of each placement of the child in  
19                 foster care;

20                 “(ii) the child, if the child has at-  
21                 tained 14 years of age, at the time of each  
22                 placement of the child in foster care or not  
23                 less often than once every 12 months; and

24                 “(iii) the child at the time the child  
25                 leaves foster care if the child is leaving fos-

1 ter care by reason of having attained the  
2 age of majority under State law;”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (H)—

4 (i) by striking “that is personalized”  
5 and all that follows through “; and”; and  
6 inserting “that—

7 “(i) is personalized at the direction of  
8 the child, includes specific options on hous-  
9 ing, health insurance, education, local op-  
10 portunities for mentors and continuing  
11 support services, and work force supports  
12 and employment services;

13 “(ii) includes information about—

14 “(I) the eligibility of former fos-  
15 ter children for medical assistance  
16 under title XIX and on how to enroll  
17 in a State plan or waiver under such  
18 title for such assistance and on how to  
19 obtain assistance with enrolling in  
20 such plan or waiver; and

21 “(II) the importance of desig-  
22 nating another individual to make  
23 health care treatment decisions on be-  
24 half of the child if the child becomes  
25 unable to participate in such decisions

1 and the child does not have, or does  
2 not want, a relative who would other-  
3 wise be authorized under State law to  
4 make such decisions; and

5 “(iii) provides the child with the op-  
6 tion to execute a health care power of at-  
7 torney, health care proxy, or other similar  
8 document recognized under State law, and  
9 is as detailed as the child may elect; and”;  
10 and

11 (C) by striking subparagraph (I) and in-  
12 serting the following:

13 “(I) each child in foster care under the re-  
14 sponsibility of the State who—

15 “(i) has attained 14 years of age—

16 “(I) is informed in an age-appro-  
17 priate way of services available to the  
18 child under the State program carried  
19 out pursuant to section 477, including  
20 in every meeting between a case-  
21 worker and the child and at every  
22 court or administrative hearing held  
23 with respect to the child that requires  
24 the attendance of the child; and

25 “(II) receives without cost—

1           “(aa) a copy of any con-  
2           sumer report (as defined in sec-  
3           tion 603(d) of the Fair Credit  
4           Reporting Act) pertaining to the  
5           child, each year until the child is  
6           discharged from care, and assist-  
7           ance (including, when feasible,  
8           from any court-appointed advo-  
9           cate for the child) in interpreting  
10          and resolving any inaccuracies in  
11          the consumer report;

12          “(bb) if the child is eligible  
13          to receive such document, an offi-  
14          cial or certified copy of the  
15          United States birth certificate of  
16          the child and a Social Security  
17          card issued by the Commissioner  
18          of Social Security, except that  
19          the child may request that 1 or  
20          both of such documents be safely  
21          retained by the State for any  
22          length of time while the child re-  
23          mains in foster care under the  
24          responsibility of the State;

1                   “(cc) if the child is eligible  
2                   to receive such a document, a  
3                   driver’s license or identification  
4                   card issued by a State in accord-  
5                   ance with the requirements of  
6                   section 202 of the REAL ID Act  
7                   of 2005, or assistance with ob-  
8                   taining such license or card; and

9                   “(dd) official documentation  
10                  necessary to prove the child is in  
11                  foster care; and

12                  “(ii) is leaving foster care by reason  
13                  of having attained 18 years of age or such  
14                  greater age as the State has elected under  
15                  paragraph (8) is not discharged from care  
16                  without being provided with, at no cost to  
17                  the child—

18                  “(I) a copy of any consumer re-  
19                  port (as defined in section 603(d) of  
20                  the Fair Credit Reporting Act) per-  
21                  taining to the child and assistance (in-  
22                  cluding, when feasible, from any  
23                  court-appointed advocate for the  
24                  child) in interpreting and resolving

1 any inaccuracies in the consumer re-  
2 port;

3 “(II) if the child is eligible to re-  
4 ceive such document, an official or  
5 certified copy of the United States  
6 birth certificate of the child;

7 “(III) if the child is eligible to re-  
8 ceive such document, a social security  
9 card issued by the Commissioner of  
10 Social Security;

11 “(IV) if the child is eligible to re-  
12 ceive such document, a driver’s license  
13 or identification card issued by a  
14 State in accordance with the require-  
15 ments of section 202 of the REAL ID  
16 Act of 2005;

17 “(V) information on health insur-  
18 ance available to the child (as de-  
19 scribed in subparagraph (H)(ii));

20 “(VI) copies of the child’s health  
21 and education records (as described in  
22 paragraph (1)(C)); and

23 “(VII) official documentation  
24 necessary to prove that the child was  
25 previously in foster care.”.

1 (b) LIST OF RIGHTS.—Section 475A of such Act (42  
2 U.S.C. 675a) is amended by striking subsection (b) and  
3 inserting the following:

4 “(b) LIST OF RIGHTS.—The case plan for any child  
5 in foster care under the responsibility of the State who  
6 has attained 14 years of age shall include—

7 “(1) a document that describes the rights of the  
8 child—

9 “(A) with respect to education, health care,  
10 visitation, court participation, and consultation  
11 on case planning, development of a permanency  
12 plan, and determining transition services;

13 “(B) to be informed, in accordance with  
14 section 475(5)(I)(i)(I), of services available to  
15 the child under the State program carried out  
16 pursuant to section 477,

17 “(C) to be provided with the documents  
18 specified in clauses (i)(II) and (ii) of section  
19 475(5)(I) in accordance with that section;

20 “(D) to stay safe and avoid exploitation;

21 “(E) to seek redress for a violation of a  
22 right of the child under this section; and

23 “(2) for each year that the child remains in fos-  
24 ter care under the responsibility of the State, a

1 signed and dated acknowledgment by the child  
2 that—

3 “(A) the child has been provided with a  
4 copy of the document described in paragraph  
5 (1);

6 “(B) the rights contained in such docu-  
7 ment have been explained to the child in an  
8 age-appropriate way; and

9 “(C) the child has been provided with a  
10 separate written description of any require-  
11 ments necessary to receive the documents speci-  
12 fied in clauses (i)(II) and (ii) of section  
13 475(5)(I), along with notice of any assistance  
14 available to the child to meet such require-  
15 ments.”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
18 graph (2), the amendments made by this section  
19 shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year  
20 beginning on or after the date of enactment of this  
21 Act and shall apply to payments under part E of  
22 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670  
23 et seq.) for calendar quarters beginning on or after  
24 such date.

1           (2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION  
2           REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human  
3           Services determines that State legislation (other  
4           than legislation appropriating funds) is required in  
5           order for any State plan approved under part E of  
6           title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the addi-  
7           tional requirements imposed by the amendments  
8           made by this section, the plan shall not be regarded  
9           as failing to meet any of the additional requirements  
10          before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter begin-  
11          ning after the 1st regular session of the State legis-  
12          lature that begins after the date of the enactment of  
13          this Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if  
14          the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year  
15          of the session is deemed to be a separate regular  
16          session of the State legislature.