



Hon. Darin LaHood
Chair
Subcommittee on Work and Welfare
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

Hon. Danny Davis
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Work and Welfare
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Mean

April 10, 2026

Dear Chairman LaHood and Ranking Member Davis:

The National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA), a professional affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo) representing county human services directors, writes to thank you for your leadership in advancing legislation aimed at reforming and modernizing the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee). Our members play a critical role in overseeing the child welfare system, including supporting youth aging out of foster care by ensuring they have access to resources such as education, housing, social connections and more. While Chafee is a vital federal program bolstering these efforts on the ground, youth aging out of foster care are still far more likely to experience homelessness, unemployment, and incarceration than their peers.

We appreciate the bipartisan efforts by various members of the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare to improve state utilization of Chafee funds, strengthen coordination between child welfare and federal housing programs, expand access to education and training opportunities beyond the traditional four-year college degree, improve support for foster youth who are parents or soon-to-be parents, expand access to legal services, and update the purposes of Chafee to reflect the importance of helping foster youth engage in their own permanency process and planning for independence. NACHSA supports several individual measures advancing these goals, including the *Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act* ([H.R. 7432](#)), the *Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act* ([H.R. 7343](#)), the *Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act* ([H.R. 7463](#)), *Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act* ([H.R. 7655](#)), the *Fresh Starts for Foster Youth Act* ([H.R. 7529](#)) and the *Chafee Opportunities for New Networks and Existing Connection Trust (CONNECT) Act* ([H.R. 7995](#)).

As these bills come before the Subcommittee for consideration, however, it is vital to ensure that county child welfare agencies and our state and community partners have the necessary resources to implement their various changes and ensure Chafee reaches the youth it purports to serve. While these measures take incremental steps to modernize and update the Chafee program, they do not address the program's chronic underfunding. We urge you to introduce

additional legislation providing significant funding increases for the Chafee program, especially the Education & Training Voucher (ETV) program, which is already insufficient to serve eligible youth in all states. Without funding for implementation and expanded services, the reforms under discussion will do little to improve the reach and impact of the Chafee program.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to advance these and other bipartisan solutions for youth aging out of foster care that ensure they have access to the supports they need to thrive and successfully transition into adulthood.

If you have questions about our positions, please have your staff contact Tom Joseph and Rachel Mackey, Washington Representatives for NACHSA, at tj@paragonlobbying.com and rm@paragonlobbying.com.

Sincerely,



Debbie-Ann Anderson
NACHSA President
Director, Human Services
Union County, New Jersey