

Bills to reform Title IV-B introduced by Ways & Means Members

July 8, 2024

H.R. 8813: *Preventing Child Welfare Entry Caused by Poverty Act* Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)

- Allows use of funds to prevent children from being separated from parents solely on the basis of poverty-related circumstances; clarifies states must have in place policies that ensure living in poverty, absent abuse or neglect, is not the sole reason children are separated from their parents.

Legislative Text - Reimbursable Services (p. 2 line 6): services providing nonrecurring short term benefits (including supports related to housing instability, utilities, transportation, and food assistance, among other basic needs) that address immediate needs related to a specific crisis, situation, or event affecting the ability of a child to remain in a home established for the child that is not intended to meet an ongoing need; and

“(ii) for purposes of this subpart, an expenditure for a service described in clause (i) may be treated as an expenditure for any 1 or more of family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services, or adoption promotion and support services.”

State Plan Requirements (p. 3, line 4): provides a description of policies in place, including training for employees, to address child welfare reports and investigations concerning the living arrangements or subsistence needs of a child with the goal to prevent the separation of a child from a parent of the child solely due to poverty, to ensure access to services (My note: the services described above).

[Press release here](#)

H.R. 8799: *Promoting Active Relationships to Enable Nurturing Ties (PARENT) Act of 2024* Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL) and Darin LaHood (R-IL)

- Authorizes a demonstration program to test approaches for supporting and improving relationships between incarcerated parents and their children in foster care.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024.

H.R. 476: *Helping Hands for Families Act* Reps. Carol Miller (R-WV) and Judy Chu (D-CA)

- Allows states to use Title IV-B funds to create and facilitate access to digital tools that connect families to community supports.

Legislative text essentially describes the above bullet.

[Press release here.](#)

[H.R. 8460](#): *Court Improvement Program Enhancement Act* Reps. Blake Moore (R-UT), Carol Miller (R-WV), Judy Chu (D-CA), Don Davis (D-NC)

- Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop best practices on tribal court proceedings and consult with tribes on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024. [Draft text](#) in the press release below.

[Press release here.](#)

[H.R. 8643](#): *Foster Youth Mental Health Act* (Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA))

- Requires state Title IV-B plans to include planning and coordination with mental health service providers so children in foster care have individualized plans that incorporate their unique mental health needs.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024.

[Press release here.](#)

[H.R. 8743](#): *Empowering Kinship Caregivers and Youth Through Title IV-B Act*
Reps. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) & Don Davis (D-NC)

- Provides youth formerly in the foster care system access to services up to the age of 26 to support their transition out of foster care.
- Allows states to include peer-to-peer mentoring in their state plans.

Legislative Text: It essentially amends provisions to be more inclusive in terms of individuals eligible e.g., children, youth; kinship and adoptive; parents, kinship care givers, and foster parents etc.

Page 2, Line 18: peer-to-peer mentoring and support programs designed to help children and families learn from others with direct experience or interactions with the child welfare system

[Press release here.](#)

H.R. 8744: *Reducing Administrative Burden for Child Welfare Agencies Act* Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

- Requires HHS to reduce administrative burden experienced by child welfare agencies by a minimum of 15 percent so state agencies and caseworkers can focus on serving and supporting children and families.

Legislative Text: (All of p. 2) HHS must comply within two years after enactment to: reduce the number of hours necessary to comply with requirements by 15%; review forms for duplication and streamline reporting; ensure consistency with other federal guidelines for other federal formula grant programs.

[Press release here.](#)

H.R. 8745: *Child Welfare Workforce Development Act* Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

- Focuses funding from the Monthly Caseworker Visit program towards recruiting and retaining a strong child welfare workforce while removing unnecessary penalties for monthly case worker visits.

Legislative Text: Bill would be effective October 1, 2026.

p. 2, line 15 through p. 3 line 12 – funding could be used for:

“(I) reducing caseload ratios and the administrative burden on caseworkers, to improve caseworker decision making on the safety, permanency, and well-being of foster children and on activities designed to increase retention, recruitment, and training of caseworkers;

(II) implementing technology solutions to streamline caseworker duties and modernize systems, ensuring improved efficiency and effectiveness in child welfare services;

(III) technologies designed to enhance caseworker safety;

(IV) developing and implementing mentoring or coaching programs that address work-related stress and offer frontline workers support; and,

(V) recruitment campaigns aimed at attracting qualified caseworker candidates.

[Press release here.](#)

H.R. 8810: *Ensuring Legal Representation for Child Welfare Act* Reps. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) & Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA).

- Requires that states include in their state child welfare plans a strategy for ensuring independent legal representation for children and parents

involved in open child welfare cases, to facilitate coordination and ensure access to legal support.

Legislative Text p.2, lines 6 - 17: Operative language consistent with the summary.

[Press release here.](#)

[H.R. 8793](#): *Foster Care Adoption Oversight and Support Act* Reps. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) & Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

- Requires HHS to study post-adoption services provided under Title IV-B and their effectiveness at supporting and sustaining successful adoptions from foster care.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024. [Draft text](#) in the press release below.

[Press release here.](#)

[H.R. 8815](#): *Youth and Family Engagement in Child Welfare Act* Reps. Adrian Smith (R-NE) & Gwen Moore (D-WI).

- Directs states to consult with youth and parents with lived experience in the child welfare system to review and certify Title IV-B plans, ensuring implementation strategies incorporate their feedback and insights.

Legislative Text beginning p. 2, line 8 describes entities that states must consult, including public and non-profit agencies, community based organizations, foster parents, kinship caregivers, individuals with lived experience (including a publicly available report on a website of the consultation with lived experience individuals).

[H.R. 8814](#): *Strengthening Evidence-based Prevention Services Act of 2024* Reps. Randy Feenstra (R-IA) & Dan Kildee (D-MI)

- Establishes competitive grants to support evaluation of programs that meet the criteria for inclusion in the Family First Prevention Services Clearinghouse to prevent foster care placement and keep families together.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024 [Draft text](#) in the press release below.

[Press release here.](#)

H.R. 8798: *Promoting Community-Based Prevention Services Act* introduced by Reps. Mike Carey (R-OH) and John Larson (D-CT).

- Specifies that family resource centers are an example of allowable community-based family support services under Title IV-B.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024. [Draft text](#) in the press release below.

[Press release here](#).

H.R. 8817: *Promoting Accountability, Reporting, Information Sharing and Health Act* Reps. Greg Stuebe (R-FL) & Jimmy Panetta (D-CA).

- Requires HHS to provide technical assistance to states on best practices for collecting and reporting data on oversight of youth residential treatment facilities.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024.

[Press release here](#).

H.R. 8621: *Strengthening Tribal Families Act of 2024* Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE), Judy Chu (D-CA), Dan Kildee (D-MI), Tom Cole (R-OK) and Sharice Davids (D-KS).

- Requires HHS to provide technical assistance to help states develop and implement strong Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) implementation plans.

No legislative text as of 7/02/2024.

[Press release here](#).

No bill as of 7/02/2024 *Tribal Child Welfare Support Act* Reps. Kevin Hern (R-OK) and Judy Chu (D-CA).

- Provides a 3 percent tribal set-aside and streamlines tribal access to funding provided under Title IV-B, Subpart 1.