



Foster Care and Adoption Legislation in the 113th Congress

H.R.1464: North Korean Refugee Adoption of 2012

Introduced: 04/08/2011

Sponsor: Rep. Royce, Edward

Generally directs the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive strategy for facilitating the adoption of North Korean children by U.S. citizens. Specifically directs the Secretary of State to consider the challenges with, provide suggestions for, and propose solutions for the inter-country adoption of orphans who either reside within North Korea or are stateless refugees in surrounding countries, whether those countries are signatories to the Hague convention or not. *Status: Signed by the President Jan. 14, 2013*

S.3331: Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012

Introduced: 06/21/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Kerry, John

Allows the application of universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, along with related regulations. Any person(s) offering or providing adoption services shall now abide by the provisions set under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. Also deems the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the accrediting entities to have the duties, responsibilities, and authorities under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to implement regulations to any person(s) offering or providing adoption services. *Status: Signed by the President Jan. 14, 2013*

S.3472: Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA)

Introduced: 08/01/2012

Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary

Expands a provision set forth by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which prohibits the Dept. of Education from funding agencies or institutions that release student educational records to any individual, agency, or organization without written parental consent. FERPA now includes agency caseworkers, other state representatives, local child welfare agencies, and tribal organizations authorized to access a student's case plan when they are legally responsible for the student. However, it does permit the release of records if the child is in a court proceeding involving child abuse, neglect, or dependency matters. *Status: Signed by the President Jan. 14, 2013*

H.R.102: Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2013

Introduced: 01/03/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Conyers, John

Provides that upon a child's removal from parental custody, all adults and relatives of a child will be notified of such. The communication will seek to discover if the relatives or adults would be eligible for foster care of the child. Within 90 days after a state has made a decision about a child's custody, all adults or relatives interested in caring for the child will be notified of the decision. *Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means*

H.Res.24: Expressing the deep disappointment of the House of Representatives in the enactment by the Russia Government of a law ending intercountry adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens and urging the Russia Government to reconsider the law and prioritize the processing of intercountry adoptions involving parentless Russian children who were already matched with United States families before the enactment of the law

Introduced: 01/14/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Bachmann, Michele

Expresses the disappointment of the House of Representatives because of the Russian government's decision to enact a law permanently banning United States citizens from adopting Russian children. Urges the Russian government to reconsider the law on humanitarian grounds. *Status: Referred to Committee on Foreign Affairs*

H.R.286: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain State foster care program payments made to the biological parents of disabled children

Introduced: 01/15/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Green, Gene

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 so that a payment made in accordance with the foster care program of a state or political subdivision will not fail to be treated as a difficulty of care payment. Changes the Code to make a difficulty of care payment excludible from gross income. *Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means*

H.Res.34: Calling on the United States and Russia to continue cooperation in securing safe and loving homes for unparented children

Introduced: 01/15/2013

Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Christopher

Appeals to the Russian government to allow the completion of the adoption process for children whose adoption proceedings began before January 1, 2013. Also calls for the bilateral adoption agreement, which was first convened on November 1, 2012 between the United States and Russia, to continue. *Status: Referred to Committee on Foreign Affairs*

S.264: Excellence in Mental Health Act

Introduced: 02/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie

Aims to greatly expand the overall access, quality, and efficacy of federally-qualified Community Behavioral Health Centers. Aspires to ensure that these health centers include vital services such as 24-hour crisis care and increased integration of physical, mental, and substance abuse treatment. Creates a more comprehensive approach to the treatment of individuals. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.237: Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act

Introduced: 02/07/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa

Amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention and Services Program. Repurposes resources to educate adoption and foster care agency officials about available and necessary services for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Many of these programs are designed specifically to identify, treat, and educate those with FASD. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.744: Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act

Introduced: 04/16/2013

Sponsor: Sen. Schumer, Charles

Comprehensively reforms the immigration system. The bill has implications for foster care and adoption in Sections 2312 and 2313. *Status: Added to the Senate's floor schedule for the next legislative day on June 21, 2012*

H.R.1690: Child Protection Act of 2013

Introduced: 04/23/2013
Sponsor: Rep. Vargas, Juan

Strengthens the statute barring sex trafficking of minors by eliminating the “knowledge of age” element of the crime. Known as *Hazel’s Law*, the bill is named after a child sex trafficking victim whose case was delayed while prosecutors struggled to prove that the trafficker knew the victim was a minor. *Status: Referred to the Judiciary Committee*

S.Res.147: A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system

Introduced: 05/16/2013
Sponsor: Sen. Landrieu, Mary

Supports the designation of May 2013 as National Foster Care Month. Recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children in the foster care system face. Encourages Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of these children in the foster care system. *Status: Passed Senate without amendment on May 16, 2013*

H.R.2108: Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act

Introduced: 05/22/2013
Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, John

Amends Title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to inform students who indicate on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form that they are or were in the foster care system that they may be eligible for federal aid, including the specific programs they may be eligible for. Requires the Secretary to provide foster youth with that information on the Dept. of Education’s website. *Status: Referred to Committee on Education and the Workforce*

S.1118: Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013

Introduced: 06/7/2013
Sponsor: Sen. Ron Wyden

Amends Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable state child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking. *Status: Referred to Committee on Health Education, Labor, and Pensions*

H.R.2332: Adoption Tax Credit Tribal Parity Act of 2013

Introduced: 06/12/2013
Sponsor: Rep. Kilmer, Derek

Amends the IRS tax code to recognize Native American tribal governments to determining special needs under the adoption tax credit, ensuring that parents who adopt Native American children with special needs through tribal courts receive the same tax relief as other parents adopting children with special needs. The current disparity in the tax law is an inadvertent oversight; this legislation acknowledges the jurisdiction of tribal courts, which already adjudicate adoption proceedings, for the purposes of the adoption tax credit. *Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means*

H.R.2439: A National Responsible Father Registry

Introduced: 06/19/2013
Sponsor: Rep. Kuster, Ann

Promotes permanent families for children, privacy and safety for unwed mothers, responsible fatherhood, and security for adoptive parents by establishing a National Responsible Father Registry and encouraging states to enter into agreements to contribute information contained in each state’s Responsible Father Registry to the National Responsible Father Registry. *Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.*

[S.Res.190: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that foreign assistance for child welfare should adhere to the goals of the United States Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity.](#)

Introduced: 06/27/2013
Sponsor: Sen. Inhofe, Jim

Represents the understanding of the Senate that the United States Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity (APCA), through U.S. foreign assistance, comprises a holistic action plan for approaching the fundamental requirements of children dwelling in adversity. APCA aims to address the coordination of funding among agencies to support the goals of family care, reduction of abuse, and elimination of repetitive or contradictory approaches by the government.

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