

# NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

## 2022 NATIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### Mentorship and Relational Permanence

Young people involved in the foster care system often face limited opportunities to connect with supportive adults and peer groups, which especially affects transition-aged youth. Without these connections, young people are more likely to face issues with their independence and stability.

- Funding for young people to explore peer and professional networks
- Facilitating connections with mentors and supportive adults
- Data tracking to ensure connections are made for all youth

### Access to Equitable and Quality Healthcare

Many of the children and adolescents who enter foster care have complicated and severe medical, mental, oral, and psychosocial health issues, including complex trauma. Problems faced by youth in foster care are compounded by a lack of adequate access to health services.

- Guarantee continuous coverage across state lines
- Mental health and oral care coverage
- Medicines and treatments
- Preventive care
- Prenatal care and family planning

### Juvenile Justice and the Foster Care to Prison Pipeline

Children who have been in foster care have a disproportionate risk of being incarcerated at some point in their young lives due to a variety of factors caused by an inequitable and flawed criminal justice system. This contributes to the "foster care to prison pipeline".

- Expanding diversionary programs that avoid youth incarceration
- Cross-agency connections between juvenile justice and child welfare systems
- Improve congregate care facilities and group homes so they are used only when needed and they best serve youth

### Kinship Care and Support

Children and young people who enter foster care should be placed with family and kin, however, this does not always happen and they are instead placed into foster homes, where they can be subjected to multiple, short-term placements.

- Financial and peer support for kin while they care for young people
- Reducing barriers for kinship placement like using an old criminal convictions that don't jeopardize child safety
- Diligent recruitment of families and kin

### Higher Education Funding and Support

Higher education has become increasingly necessary. Unfortunately for foster youth, the financial resources, support, stability, and guidance needed to apply for and complete postsecondary education or training programs are often lacking.

- Increased ETV funds for young people
- Expanding age limits for Chafee/ETV programs
- Assistance with navigating and applying for school and related support programs

# IN THE PIPELINE

## FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

### JUVENILE JUSTICE

**HR2908**

**Introduced 04/30/21**

CHILDHOOD OFFENDERS  
REHABILITATION AND SAFETY  
ACT

- REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

**HR2834 / S2498**

**Introduced 04/26/2021**

PROTECTING PROTECTING  
MIRANDA RIGHTS FOR KIDS ACT

- REP. TONY CARDENAS (D, CA-29)  
- SEN. COREY BOOKER (D, NJ)

### KINSHIP SUPPORT

**HR2747 / S1540**

**Introduced 04/21/21**

HELP GRANDFAMILIES PREVENT  
CHILD ABUSE ACT

- REP. MARY SCANLON (D, PA-05)  
- SEN. MAGGIE HASSAN (D, NH)

**HR5856**

**Introduced 11/04/21**

21ST CENTURY CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES ACT

- REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

### MENTORSHIP

**HR3083**

**Introduced 05/11/21**

FOSTER YOUTH MENTORING  
ACT

- REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)

**HR5661 / S3078**

**Passed House 10/26/21**

CONTINUED STATE FLEXIBILITY  
TO ASSIST OLDER FOSTER  
YOUTH ACT

- REP. DANNY DAVIS (D, IL-07)  
- SEN. DEBBIE STABENOW (D, MI)

### ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

**HR1793 / S712**

**Introduced 03/11/21**

DOSHA JOI IMMEDIATE  
COVERAGE FOR FOSTER YOUTH  
ACT

- REP. KAREN BASS (D, CA-37)  
- SEN. BOB CASEY (D, PA)

**HR1794**

**Introduced 03/11/21**

FOSTER YOUTH DENTAL ACT

- REP. BASS, KAREN (D, CA-37)

**HR2033 / S836**

**Introduced 03/18/21**

TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH FOR  
FOSTER YOUTH ACT

- REP. BRENDA LAWRENCE (D, MI-14)  
- SEN. ROY BLUNT (R, MO)

### HIGHER EDUCATION

**HR2028**

**Introduced 03/18/21**

FOSTERING POSTSECONDARY  
SUCCESS FOR FOSTER AND  
HOMELESS YOUTH ACT

- REP. DAN KILDEE (D, MI-05)

**HR2247**

**Introduced 03/26/21**

JOHN LEWIS FOSTER YOUTH  
TUITION FAIRNESS ACT

- REP. MARK POCAN (D, WI-02)

**S3350**

**Introduced 12/09/21**

HELPING FOSTER AND  
HOMELESS YOUTH ACHIEVE ACT

- SEN. JACKY ROSEN (D, NV)

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, PLEASE  
EMAIL US AT  
[CONTACT@NFYI.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@NFYI.ORG)

**NFYI**

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