

HOUSE LEADS: REP. DANNY K. DAVIS (D-IL) & REP. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY (D-IL)
SENATE LEADS: SENATOR BOB CASEY (D-PA), SENATOR SHERROD BROWN (D-OH), &
SENATOR TINA SMITH (D-MN)

Fostering Success in Higher Education Act of 2022

This bill will improve college success for foster and homeless youth by substantially improving state capacity to enroll, retain, and graduate these youth. In particular, it will grow Institutions of Excellence skilled at graduating these students.

A college degree is essential to securing a good-paying job, yet foster and homeless youth face significant barriers to accessing and completing college. Foster and homeless youth often experience poor academic preparation, considerable financial hardship, housing challenges, and limited social capital to help navigate the varied demands of higher education. For example, a [study](#) by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Association of Community College Trustees found that approximately 13-14% of community college students were homeless, noting that 30% of former foster youth surveyed experienced homelessness. These youth also are at higher risk for lasting health and mental health effects from traumas experienced, poor health care, and other stressors that undermine college success.

Poor college graduation and attendance rates reflect these challenges. A [report](#) by the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education indicates that, although 84% of 17-18 year olds in foster care want to go to college, less than 20% of those who graduate high school attend college and less than 10% of those that attempt college complete a post-secondary credential by the age of 25. A 2021 [report](#) by John Burton Advocates for Youth found that foster youth experienced the highest rate of failure in Satisfactory Academic Progress —34% — after the first year of college. Based on a Government Accountability Office [report](#), unaccompanied homeless youth have similar college enrollment patterns as foster youth, and although graduation rates for these youth are not accessible, we can assume that homeless youth graduate at lower rates than their peers.

To help foster and homeless youth enjoy educational success, we must ensure they have the appropriate supports to enroll and graduate higher education. The *Fostering Success in Higher Education Act* will:

- * Invest \$150 million a year in States, tribes, and territories to establish or expand statewide initiatives to assist foster and homeless youth in enrolling in and graduating from institutions of higher education.
- * Establish formula grants to States based on a state's share of foster youth and homeless youth among all states, with a \$500,000 minimum grant.
- * Dedicate 70% of state grants to develop Institutions of Excellence skilled at serving foster and homeless youth via: robust support services; collaboration with organizations experienced in helping these youth; substantial financial assistance, including covering the remaining cost of attendance beyond federal and state grants; providing comprehensive wraparound services; hiring at least one full-time case manager; and ensuring robust student health and mental health services.
- * Direct 25% of State grants to establish intensive, statewide transition initiatives to increase college enrollment by foster and homeless youth.

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Organizations that Supported Fostering Success in Higher Education Act in the 116th

National

American Psychological Association
Cabrini University
Children's Defense Fund
Child Welfare League of America
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Education Finance Council
Family Focused Treatment Association
Family Promise
Field Center for Children's Policy,
Practice & Research
First Focus Campaign for Children
First Star Institute, Inc.
Girls Inc.
Juvenile Law Center
Lutheran Services in America
National Association of Counsel for
Children
National Association of Social Work-
ers
National Center on Adoption and Per-
manency
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Crittenton Foundation
National Network for Youth
Northwest Resource Associ-
ates/Oregon Post Adoption Resource
Center
SchoolHouse Connection
Spaulding for Children
StandUp For Kids
Voice for Adoption
Western Michigan University
Wisconsin HOPE Lab
Youth Villages

Arizona

Southwest Human Development, Inc.

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and
Families

California

Cabrillo College
Cabrillo College Guardian Scholars
Program
California Coalition for Youth
Jo Ann Young-Myers, Homeless &
Foster Youth Liaison Ventura Uni-
fied School District
Los Angeles LGBT Center

Colorado

Attention Homes
Urban Peak Colorado Springs

Georgia

Georgia Youth Opportunities Initiative

Illinois

Foster Progress

Indiana

New Castle Community Schools

Iowa

Child and Family Policy Center

Louisiana

LMT Behavioral Health, LLC

Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Michigan

Fostering Success Michigan
Michigan's Children
Ozone House

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed

New York

Advocates for Children of New York
Ali Forney Center
Children Awaiting Parents/DCAA
Together We Change Mentoring, Inc.

Oklahoma

Alexandria Ware

Oregon

Children First for Oregon

Pennsylvania

Education Law Center
JEVS Human Services
PathWays PA
The Monkey & The Elephant
Youth Service, Inc.

Tennessee

Community Helpers of Rutherford
County
Harmony Family Center

Utah

Catholic Community Services
Voice for Utah Children

Virginia

Second Story

Washington

Building Changes
YouthCare

Wisconsin

End Domestic Abuse WI