



Summary of S. 1518, Improving Outcomes for Youth At Risk for Sex Trafficking (IO Youth)

KEY PROVISIONS

Identify and Screen for Sex Trafficking

State plans shall include policies and procedures for identifying and screening any child who the state has reasonable cause to believe is a victim of sex trafficking.

Create a Standard and Definition for Reasonable and Prudent Parent

Add a standard and definition for reasonable and prudent parent. Caregivers shall use this standard when determining whether to allow a child in foster care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

Any family foster home or congregate care facility shall require the presence on-site of at least 1 official who is designated to be the caregiver who is authorized to apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard to decisions involving the child's access to age or developmentally appropriate items and participation in age or developmentally appropriate activities, and who is provided with training in how to use and apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard in the same manner as prospective foster parents are provided such training.

There are many provisions in the bill that encourages foster children to engage in appropriate extra-curricular activities.

Restrictions on APPLA

The application of APPLA (another planned permanent living arrangement) shall occur only in the case of a child who has attained the age of 16.

In addition the following requirements shall apply.

At each permanency hearing held with respect to the child, the State agency documents the intensive, ongoing, and, as of the date of the hearing, unsuccessful efforts made by the State agency to return the child home or secure a placement for the child with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, including through efforts that utilize search technology to find biological family members for children in the child welfare system.

Make a judicial determination of a compelling reason with respect to each of the following options for why it continues to not be in the best interests of the child to--

(i) return home; (ii) be placed for adoption; (iii) be placed with a legal guardian; or (iv) be placed with a fit and willing relative.

Make a new determination that another planned permanent living arrangement is the appropriate permanency plan for this child and submit findings as to why, as of the date of the hearing, another planned permanent living arrangement is the best permanency plan for the child.

Identify the barriers to permanency plans other than another planned permanent living arrangement for the child.

Require the State agency to document at the next permanency hearing held with respect to the child the intensive, ongoing, efforts made by the State agency to address such barriers and allow a different permanency plan for the child.

Direct Child Support to Youths

Collected child support shall be directed to the youth. The amounts collected for child support shall be deposited in an account established in the child's name at an insured depository institution.

Reduction in Federal Match for Placement in a Setting Other Than Foster Family Home

No Federal payment shall be made for foster care maintenance payments for any child in a congregate care placement for--

(A) in the case of a child who has not attained age 13, more than 15 consecutive or nonconsecutive days; and

(B) in the case of a child who has attained age 13, more than 365 consecutive days or 548 nonconsecutive days, whichever occurs first.

EXCEPTIONS- Such term does not include placement in any of the following:

(i) A setting specializing in providing prenatal or post-partum supports for youth.

(ii) A setting specializing in providing supports for parenting teens.

(iii) In the case of a child who has attained 18 years of age, a supervised setting in which the child is living independently.

(iv) In the case of a child with a severe physical disability, an institution specializing in treatment for children with such disabilities.

(v) An emergency placement in a setting that is not a foster family home that does not exceed 15 days.'

Repeal Social Services Block Grant and Redirect Funds

The legislation repeals SSBG and redirects the funds for the following.

\$200 million to Child Welfare Services IV-B part 1

\$200 million for Reasonable Prudent Parent standard and research

\$200 million Child Safety Program with 10% set aside for Residential Family Care

\$150 million for the Court Improvement Program

\$400 million for Title IV-B part 2 (PSSF) focused on empowering older youth vulnerable to sex trafficking

\$440 million housing assistance to age 26

\$60 million for Ed and training vouchers

Authorize Funds for Residential Family Treatment Program

Authorizes funding for residential family treatment program meaning a program that enables parents and their children to live in a safe environment for a period of not less than 6 months and provides, on-site or by referral, substance abuse treatment services, children's early intervention services, family counseling, medical, and mental health services, nursery and pre-school, and other services that are designed to provide comprehensive treatment that supports the family.

Other Significant Provisions

- Amends AFCARS to get better data on children placed other than in foster family homes
- Changes in youth involvement in transition planning.
- Mandating a list of child rights for older children in care; ensuring foster youth have birth certificate, social security card, and bank account.
- Authority for electronic caseworker visits for post-18 youth; a pilot project on financial support of therapeutic foster care.
- A new Presidential Award on child welfare.