



H.RES. 1208 – EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT YOUTH WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE SHOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL CARE AND ATTENTION

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1208 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Lewis (D-GA) on May 19, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1208 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 20, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1208 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Supports former foster care youth as they overcome many emotional, physical, and social obstacles in the pursuit of healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives;
- Recognizes former foster care youth organizations for their dedication to reforming and improving the foster care system;
- Appreciates individuals, mentors, and social workers who provide assistance to former foster care youth beyond resources available through Federal, State, and local services; and
- Encourages reviews of Federal and State programs conducted under title IV of the Social Security Act that would improve services to help former foster care youth succeed in their transition to adulthood and independence.

BACKGROUND

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2006, there were on average approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the U.S. at any given time. About 799,000 children spent at least 24 hours in a foster care facility. Also, about 280,000 children were able to leave the foster care system through reunification with their parents, adoption, legal guardianship. More than 24,000 youth turn age 18 while in the foster care system.

In December of 1999, the Chaffee Foster Care Independence Act in 1999 was signed into law. The Act includes provisions such as providing flexible funding for distribution to States through grants for program services for youth and providing States the option of allowing these young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21.

STAFF CONTACT

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