



Senate Caucus on Foster Youth
Discussion on Child Welfare Financing Reform

Name of Person Submitting Policy Change Idea or Proposal: Amy Harfeld

Organization/Affiliation: Children's Advocacy Institute

Contact Info: amyharf@hotmail.com

Brief Description of Proposal/Idea (please confine to space provided or to about 250 words)

1. Eliminating the Title IV-E look back to 1996 AFDC eligibility standards.
2. Legislative tie-in between Title IV-B & E and CAPTA funding. ACF has taken a lax enforcement approach toward critical CAPTA provisions. It is widely understood that this is so in part because CAPTA represents such a miniscule proportion of child welfare funding that enforcement/sanctions are deemed to not be worth their efforts. Thus, states repeatedly fail to comply and count on there being no consequences for doing so. A simple one-line legislative tie-in between these two sources of funding for enforcement purposes would serve to provide heavier stakes to ensure state compliance with CAPTA's requirements.
3. Kinship Foster Care Maintenance Payments- we propose that the same foster care reimbursement rates be expressly mandated for both kinship and non-kinship foster placements.
4. Caseload standards/limits for caseworkers and CAPTA attorney or GAL representatives. It is well understood that children can only be adequately serviced and represented by professionals who can dedicate sufficient time to their cases. Numerous professional organizations have published recommended guidelines for casework and attorney caseloads that should be expressly and financially provided for in federal law.

What do you expect in terms of cost or savings of this proposal? If this requires new investments, please provide suggestions on how to realign funding to make it work.

- Title IV-E look back elimination is revenue neutral or positive as already documented
- Title IV-B & E - CAPTA legislative tie-in is revenue-neutral
- If kinship placements are reimbursed at the same rates as non-kinship placements, permanency might be achieved more quickly and thus result in savings. Further fiscal analysis required.
- Caseload standards for social workers and attorneys/GAL's are necessary and just. Further fiscal analysis required.

Where does your proposal best fit? (Check more than one, if applicable)

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| ☐ Prevention/front-end services | ☐ Post-adoption/Post-permanency services |
| X Changing Title IV-E funding structure | X Older Youth/Aging out |
| X Amending other child welfare funding streams (SSBG, TANF, IV-B, etc.) | ☐ Waivers |
| X Foster Care Services/Supports | ☐ Other Programs that serve foster youth/families (i.e. education, Medicaid) |
| X Improving child welfare workforce | ☐ Other |

Is there existing support or potential concerns about the policy change or proposal?

While the format of the event is evolving, we plan to provide a few minutes to those who submit an idea using the one-page form provided by staff. Those wishing to present ideas should email the form by July 22 to Kathy_Nuebel@grassley.senate.gov or Libby_Whitbeck@landrieu.senate.gov. Anonymous submissions are also acceptable. These forms will not be shared without your permission. We appreciate your taking the time to submit a policy change or proposal related to child welfare financing.