

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7432
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF MISSOURI**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Foster Youth Housing
3 Opportunity Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR FOSTER
5 YOUTH.**

6 Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 677) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

9 (A) by striking “and preventive” and in-
10 serting “preventive”; and

11 (B) by inserting “, and access to housing
12 for youth age 18 or older” before the semicolon;

13 (2) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “current
14 and” before “former”;

15 (3) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “, in-
16 cluding by collaborating with public housing agencies
17 that administer Federal housing programs serving
18 foster youth under section 8(x)(2)(B) of the United

1 States Housing Act of 1937 and receive funding to
2 partner with public child welfare agencies to serve
3 youth who have experienced foster care” before the
4 period;

5 (4) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “not
6 more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the
7 State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a
8 fiscal year” and inserting “an average of not more
9 than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State
10 from its allotment under subsection (c) for the 5 fis-
11 cal years covered by the application submitted by the
12 State pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection”;

13 (5) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
14 following:

15 “(6) HOUSING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may use
17 amounts from its allotment under subsection (c)
18 to provide supportive services to assist eligible
19 youth who experienced foster care to obtain or
20 retain suitable housing.

21 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—

22 “(i) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this sub-
23 section, the term ‘eligible youth’ means an
24 individual who receives assistance provided

1 under section 8(x) of the United States
2 Housing Act of 1937.

3 “(ii) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The
4 term ‘supportive services’ may include—

5 “(I) basic life skills information
6 and counseling on financial literacy,
7 use of credit, and money management;

8 “(II) counseling on rental lease
9 contracts and assistance with rental
10 insurance; and

11 “(III) assistance with security
12 deposits, utility connection fees, mov-
13 ing costs, and other fees associated
14 with establishing tenancy.

15 “(C) EXCEPTION.—Expenditures in ac-
16 cordance with this paragraph shall not be con-
17 sidered expenditures for room and board for
18 purposes of subsection (b)(3)(B).

19 “(D) ALIGNING AGE ELIGIBILITY.—Not-
20 withstanding subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), a State
21 may use funds from its allotment under sub-
22 section (c) to provide supportive services to eli-
23 gible youth who have not attained 26 years of
24 age for the purpose of supporting continued ac-
25 cess to housing.”; and

1 (6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “access to
2 housing,” before “and personal”.

3 **SEC. 3. JOINT AGENCY GUIDANCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban
7 Development, shall develop and issue joint guidance to
8 State public child welfare agencies and public housing au-
9 thorities to improve alignment and coordination of housing
10 supportive services provided under section 477 of the So-
11 cial Security Act and housing assistance provided under
12 section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

13 (b) CONTENTS.—The joint guidance shall include the
14 following:

15 (1) Clarification and alignment of Federal poli-
16 cies to improve access to housing for youth who have
17 experienced foster care, including youth who are in
18 independent living arrangements while in extended
19 foster care.

20 (2) Guidance on State use of funds provided
21 under section 477 of the Social Security Act for sup-
22 portive services (as defined in subsection (d)(6) of
23 such section) to improve access to housing programs
24 administered by the Department of Housing and
25 Urban Development.

1 (3) Best practices for building partnerships be-
2 tween public child welfare agencies and public hous-
3 ing authorities, including ways to improve access to
4 supportive services.

5 (4) Additional information the Secretaries deem
6 necessary to effectively coordinate Federal programs
7 serving current and former foster youth.

8 (c) PRODUCTION.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services shall designate an official of the Depart-
10 ment of Health and Human Services to lead development
11 of the joint guidance in collaboration with the Department
12 of Housing and Urban Development.

13 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

14 Within 3 years after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in con-
16 sultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
17 opment shall submit to the Committee on Ways and
18 Means and the Committee on Financial Services of the
19 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance
20 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
21 fairs of the Senate a report that sets forth—

22 (1) aggregate data on the number of eligible
23 youth who have experienced foster care who are re-
24 ceiving Federal housing assistance;

1 (2) a description of the outcomes for the youth,
2 including the extent to which youth are able to ac-
3 cess stable housing and rates of homelessness;

4 (3) the findings from any evaluations of State
5 programs conducted pursuant to section 477(g)(1)
6 of the Social Security Act; and

7 (4) statutory recommendations for improving
8 coordination between public child welfare agencies
9 and Federal housing programs.

10 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
12 take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act.

