

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7463
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 Postsec-
3 ondary Education Access and Success Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM EDUCATION AND TRAINING
5 VOUCHER AMOUNT AND PROVISION OF
6 GREATER SUPPORT FOR FOSTER YOUTH
7 PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(i) of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (3)—

11 (A) by striking “that program” and insert-
12 ing “that education or training program, (ex-
13 cept that the State may establish a grace period
14 to allow a youth to continue participation in ac-
15 tivities described in paragraph (4)(A), after an
16 assessment and consultation with the youth, if
17 the State determines that reasonable cir-
18 cumstances warrant the grace period),”; and

1 (B) by striking “the program” and insert-
2 ing “the voucher program”; and
3 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “\$5,000”
4 and inserting “\$12,000”.

5 (b) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services, in consultation with youth who have ex-
7 perience foster care, shall develop and issue model guid-
8 ance to States and jurisdictions receiving allotments under
9 section 477(c) of the Social Security Act for implementa-
10 tion of the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) of this
11 section.

12 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND YOUTH AWARE-**
13 **NESS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCH-**
14 **ERS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(i) of the Social Secu-
16 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)) is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(7) The State shall make reasonable efforts to
19 ensure that eligible youth are aware of potential ben-
20 efits provided under this subsection, including by co-
21 ordinating with programs funded under subsection
22 (h)(1).

23 “(8) The program shall include a simplified,
24 user-tested, and standard form for youth to use to
25 apply for vouchers under the program, using stand-

1 ard terminology, that is easily accessible and avail-
2 able electronically.”.

3 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 477(d)(1) of such Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 677(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State to which an
6 amount is paid from its allotment under subsection
7 (c)(1) may use the amount in any manner that is
8 reasonably calculated to accomplish the purposes of
9 this section, including outreach related to subsection
10 (i)(7). A State to which an amount is paid from its
11 allotment under subsection (c)(3) may use the
12 amount for any purpose related to the program de-
13 scribed in subsection (i)(7).”.

14 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
16 on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act.

