

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7529
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 “Fresh Starts for Fos-
3 ter Youth Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. LEGAL CONSULTING AND ACCESS UNDER THE
5 JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
6 FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULT-
7 HOOD.**

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

10 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “legal
11 counseling access,” after “education,”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)(3), by adding at the end
13 the following:

14 “(L) A certification by the chief executive
15 officer of the State that the relevant case plan-
16 ning and other processes employed by the State
17 take into consideration certain legal issues af-
18 fecting housing, education, entry into employ-

1 ment, and family connections of current and
2 former foster youth and the efforts required to
3 address the issues, including with respect to
4 State court records, legal recognition of family
5 relationships, and matters relating to custody
6 and permanency.”.

7 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by this
9 Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to pay-
11 ments under section 477 of the Social Security Act pursu-
12 ant to plans approved by the Secretary of Health and
13 Human Services on or after such date.

14 (b) **DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-**
15 **QUIRED.**—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services
16 determines that State legislation (other than legislation
17 appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan
18 developed pursuant to section 477 of the Social Security
19 Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the
20 amendments made by this Act, the plan shall not be re-
21 garded as failing to meet any of the additional require-
22 ments before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter be-
23 ginning after the first regular session of the State legisla-
24 ture that begins after the date of the enactment of this
25 Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if the State

- 1 has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session
- 2 is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State
- 3 legislature.

