

## **Cosponsor the Bicameral, Bipartisan *Recruiting Families Using Data Act***

**Senate Cosponsors:** Sens. Grassley, Hassan, Wicker, and Lujan.

**House Cosponsors:** Reps. Kildee, Feenstra, Cherfilus-McCormick, Bacon, and Moore.

Dear Colleague,

Please join us as a cosponsor of the *Recruiting Families Using Data Act*. This bill would improve the recruitment and retention of foster families by requiring child welfare agencies to utilize effective and data-driven approaches, so we can better meet the needs of children in foster care.

Currently, state child welfare agencies are required to provide the Children's Bureau within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with "Diligent Recruitment Plans" in order to receive federal Title IV-B funds. These plans must illustrate how they are recruiting families that meet the diverse needs of foster children. However, these requirements have not been updated and do not reflect the current understanding of effective recruitment strategies. For example, listening to feedback from foster parents.

The *Recruiting Families Using Data Act* would require states to create a new "Family Partnership Plan" to explain how they are identifying, screening, engaging, supporting and retaining foster or adoptive families. In this plan, states would be required to:

- Consult with kinship, foster and adoptive families, and youth with experience in foster care and adoption
- Describe how they will develop and implement child-specific recruitment plans
  - Child-specific recruitment refers to efforts to recruit a foster or adoptive family for a specific child or sibling group
- Detail how they will use data to establish goals, measure progress and increase permanency
- Explain how they will stand up and support ongoing family advisory boards to improve retention of foster and adoptive families.

Additionally, states would be required to report on their foster family capacity and congregate care utilization, including prospective adoptive families and the number of families that have not received a placement. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services would be required to submit an annual report using states' data to better understand the challenges and barriers of being a foster or adoptive parent as well as their efforts to overcome those barriers.

To sign on or for additional questions, please contact Grace Banfield with Rep. Kildee's office ([Grace.Banfield@mail.house.gov](mailto:Grace.Banfield@mail.house.gov)) or Connor Rabb ([Connor.Rabb@mail.house.gov](mailto:Connor.Rabb@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Feenstra's office.

Sincerely,

DANIEL T. KILDEE

Member of Congress

RANDY FEENSTRA

Member of Congress