

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8643

To amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to strengthen State plan requirements to include comprehensive mental health and well-being for children and youth in foster care to ensure their thriving and success.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2024

Mrs. STEEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to strengthen State plan requirements to include comprehensive mental health and well-being for children and youth in foster care to ensure their thriving and success.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foster Youth Mental
5 Health Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING OF STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS**
2 **TO INCLUDE COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL**
3 **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR CHILDREN**
4 **AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE TO ENSURE**
5 **THEIR THRIVING AND SUCCESS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 422(b)(15)(A) of the So-
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15) is amended—

8 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

9 (A) by inserting “and, if applicable, the
10 State agency responsible for mental health serv-
11 ices,” before “and in consultation”; and

12 (B) by inserting “mental health pro-
13 viders,” before “other experts”;

14 (2) in clause (ii), by inserting “a list of services
15 provided to support the physical and” before “emo-
16 tional”;

17 (3) in clause (iv), by inserting “an mental
18 health” before “services”;

19 (4) in clause (v), by inserting “, informed con-
20 sent of youth, and compliance with professional
21 practice guidelines” before the semicolon; and

22 (5) in clause (vi), by inserting “, mental health
23 providers,” before “or other”.

24 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

25 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by
26 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2026,

1 and shall apply to payments under subpart 1 of part
2 B of title IV of the Social Security Act for calendar
3 quarters beginning on or after such date.

4 (2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION
5 REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human
6 Services determines that State legislation (other
7 than legislation appropriating funds) is required in
8 order for a State plan developed pursuant to subpart
9 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to
10 meet the additional requirements imposed by the
11 amendments made by this section, the plan shall not
12 be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional
13 requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar
14 quarter beginning after the first regular session of
15 the State legislature that begins after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preceding
17 sentence, if the State has a 2-year legislative session,
18 each year of the session is deemed to be a separate
19 regular session of the State legislature.

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