

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8815

To amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that youth and parents with lived experience in the child welfare system are consulted on policies, ensuring representation and inclusion of their perspectives in State child welfare program planning.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that youth and parents with lived experience in the child welfare system are consulted on policies, ensuring representation and inclusion of their perspectives in State child welfare program planning.

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 “Youth and Family En-
5 gagement in Child Welfare Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. YOUTH AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN CHILD WEL-**
2 **FARE PROGRAM PLANNING.**

3 Section 432(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 629b(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ap-
6 prove a plan that meets the requirements of sub-
7 section (a) only if—

8 “(A) the plan was developed jointly by the
9 Secretary and the State, and the State, in de-
10 veloping the plan, consulted with—

11 “(i) appropriate public and nonprofit
12 private agencies;

13 “(ii) community-based organizations
14 involved in providing services for children
15 and families in the areas of family preser-
16 vation, family support, family reunifica-
17 tion, foster care, kinship, and adoption
18 promotion and support;

19 “(iii) parents with child welfare expe-
20 rience, foster parents, adoptive parents,
21 and kinship caregivers; and

22 “(iv) children, youth, and young
23 adults with experience in the child welfare
24 system, including State boards and coun-
25 cils comprised of youth with the experience
26 who represent the diversity of children in

1 the State to whom the plan would apply;

2 and

3 “(B) the State has made publicly acces-
4 sible on a website of the State agency a report
5 that outlines how the State has implemented
6 the suggestions of the children and youth re-
7 ferred to in subparagraph (A)(iv);”.

8 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
10 on October 1, 2026.

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