

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2657

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for opportunity passports and other assistance for youth in foster care and youth aging out of foster care.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2002

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for opportunity passports and other assistance for youth in foster care and youth aging out of foster care.

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 “Opportunity Passport
5 Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPPORTUNITY PASSPORTS.**

2 Section 105(a)(3) of the Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)(3)) is amended by
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(D) OPPORTUNITY PASSPORTS AND
6 OTHER ASSISTANCE.—

7 “(i) GRANTS.—The Secretary may
8 make grants to partnerships of public
9 agencies or private nonprofit organizations
10 in not more than 10 States to assist the
11 partnerships in developing and imple-
12 menting methods of providing long- and
13 short-term financial security for youth in
14 foster care and youth aging out of foster
15 care.

16 “(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—

17 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A partner-
18 ship that receives a grant under
19 clause (i) shall use the funds made
20 available through the grant to carry
21 out 1 or more of the activities de-
22 scribed in clauses (ii) through (v).

23 “(II) OPPORTUNITY PASS-
24 PORTS.—The partnership may use the
25 funds to develop and provide, for
26 youth aging out of foster care, elec-

1 tronic opportunity passports, such as
2 electronic cards or secure Internet
3 databases that contain vital informa-
4 tion, such as medical records, legal
5 identification (analogous to a Social
6 Security card or birth certificate), and
7 school transcripts, to ensure that the
8 youth can carry or readily access the
9 vital information.

10 “(III) INDIVIDUAL DEVELOP-
11 MENT ACCOUNTS.—The partnership
12 may use the funds to establish and
13 provide individual development ac-
14 counts, to assist youth aging out of
15 foster care to obtain postsecondary
16 education, purchase a house, pay for
17 medical care, operate a business, or
18 purchase a car. In establishing and
19 providing such an account, the part-
20 nership shall provide a small amount
21 of seed money and shall require the
22 account holder to attend money man-
23 agement training before receiving ac-
24 cess to the account.

1 “(IV) DEBIT ACCOUNTS FOR
2 SHORT-TERM USE.—The partnership
3 may use the funds to establish and
4 provide debit accounts, to assist youth
5 aging out of foster care for short peri-
6 ods by enabling the youth to build
7 credit histories and purchase essential
8 items such as work uniforms and car
9 insurance, in order to assist the youth
10 in becoming self-sufficient. In estab-
11 lishing and providing such an account,
12 the partnership shall provide a small
13 amount of seed money and shall re-
14 quire the account holder to attend
15 money management training before
16 receiving access to the account.

17 “(V) ASSISTANCE FROM YOUTH
18 LEADERSHIP BOARDS AND COMMU-
19 NITY PARTNERS.—The partnership
20 may use the funds to establish a
21 youth leadership board and provide
22 assistance through the board, or to
23 provide assistance through members
24 of the partnership, to enable youth in
25 foster care to negotiate agreements,

1 obtain expedited access to education
2 and training programs, obtain pre-ap-
3 proval for student loans or other stu-
4 dent financial assistance, and become
5 entrepreneurs.

6 “(iii) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the
7 term ‘youth aging out of foster care’ means children
8 who are—

9 “(A) leaving foster care because such chil-
10 dren have attained the maximum age for foster
11 care eligibility in a State; and

12 “(B) transitioning to independent living, as
13 determined by the Secretary.”.

14 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 Section 112 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
16 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106h) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
18 section (c);

19 (2) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “(other
20 than section 105(a)(3)(D))” after “title”; and

21 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(b) OPPORTUNITY PASSPORTS.—There are author-
24 ized to be appropriated to carry out section 105(a)(3)(D)

- 1 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 and such sums as may
- 2 be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.”.

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