

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2022

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the recruitment and retention of foster parents in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2011

Ms. BASS of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the recruitment and retention of foster parents in the United States.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Nation's foster care system provides for
6 nearly 424,000 children each day who are unable to
7 live safely with their biological parents.

8 (2) In fiscal year 2009, an estimated 255,000
9 children entered the foster care system and an aver-

1 age of 115,000 children were waiting to be adopted
2 every day.

3 (3) Most children who are removed from the
4 care of their parents live with non-relative foster
5 parents, however, the number of children placed in
6 relative foster care is growing.

7 (4) Foster parents and relative caregivers are
8 the most frontline caregivers for children who cannot
9 safely remain with their biological parents and pro-
10 vide physical care and emotional support.

11 (5) Federal legislation enacted over the past
12 three decades, including the Adoption Assistance
13 and Child Welfare Act of 1980, the Adoption and
14 Safe Families Act of 1997, and the Fostering Con-
15 nections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of
16 2008, provided new investments and services to im-
17 prove the outcome of our most vulnerable children.
18 However, more work needs to be done to ensure chil-
19 dren are placed in quality foster homes as they wait
20 to be reunited with their parents or achieve perma-
21 nency with a relative caregiver or adoptive family.

22 (6) The last national report to Congress on re-
23 cruitment and retention of foster parents was last
24 conducted in the 1990s.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services shall conduct a study on the recruitment
4 and retention of foster parents of children served by any
5 foster care program funded under part E of title IV of
6 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.).

7 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study shall in-
8 clude—

9 (1) a survey of foster parents who care for chil-
10 dren served by any foster care program funded
11 under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act;

12 (2) an evaluation of the role of respite care
13 training and services;

14 (3) the identification of the capacity of respite
15 care service providers in each State;

16 (4) the identification of any barriers that pres-
17 ently exist that limit the ability of States to success-
18 fully recruit and retain families in the foster system;

19 (5) an evaluation of the efforts that have been
20 made by States to recruit relative caregivers; and

21 (6) any other matters that the Secretary of
22 Health and Human Services deems appropriate for
23 this study.

24 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after funds are
25 made available for the study, the Secretary of Health and

- 1 Human Services shall submit to Congress a report con-
- 2 taining the study's findings and recommendations.

