

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 17, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 21-0002-S110
Assignment No: 21-05-0383

SUBJECT: Resolution to support HR 1793, HR 1794, HR 1795, and HR 2028.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Ridley-Thomas – Rodriguez) to include in the City's 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 1793 (Bass), HR 1794 (Bass), HR 1795 (Bass), and HR 2028 (Kildee – Bacon).

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Ridley-Thomas – Rodriguez), introduced on April 27, 2021, notes that the City of Los Angeles is home to one of the highest concentrations of foster youth with more than half of the state population of foster youth residing in Los Angeles County alone.

HR 1793, the Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act, would improve access to healthcare for foster youth aging out of the system and affording them with the option to move between states for school or work without consequence. HR 1794, the Foster Youth Dental Act of 2021, would expand Medicaid coverage of current and former foster youth, particularly with respect to dental services and without regard to the state in which they live or move to. HR 1795, the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act, would ensure emancipated youth, youth in kinship, and youth who may not be enrolled in Medicaid by the time they age out of the child welfare system are guaranteed healthcare coverage to the age of 26. HR 2028, the Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act, seeks to create a national database of colleges and universities with support and resource systems in place for homeless and foster youth in higher education, as well as provide technical assistance to postsecondary institutions as they create and maintain campus-based supports and disseminate best practices across the country. The Resolution therefore requests that the City support HR 1793, HR 1794, HR 1795, and HR 2028.

BACKGROUND

Existing law requires the state Medicaid program to cover former foster youth until the age of 26 if the youth were in the state's foster care system at the age of 18 and were enrolled in the state's Medicaid program while in foster care; a state may choose to also cover former foster youth from other states. The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, enacted on October 24, 2018 altered these provisions to require a state Medicaid program to cover former foster youth from other states until the age of 26; such changes apply to former foster youth who reach the age of 18 on or after January 1, 2023. HR 1793 would apply these changes on the date of the enactment of the bill, rather than January 1, 2023.

HR 1794, the Foster Youth Dental Act of 2021, would expand Medicaid oral health coverage by increasing the eligibility age from 21 years old to 25 years of age for former youth who are eligible for the foster youth Medicaid pathway and enhance outreach efforts to enroll former foster youth in Medicaid. States would also be required to establish an outreach program to dental health providers. HR 1794 would protect existing coverage for foster youth by ensuring that foster youth who move between states do not lose their Medicaid dental health insurance.

HR 1795, the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act, would expand Medicare eligibility for former foster youth who were in the system and exited foster care to a legal guardianship with a kinship caregiver or emancipate prior to turning 18. Additionally, HR 1795 would require state Medicaid programs to work with state child welfare agencies to establish outreach and enrollment programs for this coverage. These outreach programs will be run in accordance with best practices established by the Department of Human and Health Services.

HR 2028, the Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act, would create a recognition program through the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to identify and highlight colleges and universities with tailored campus-based supports for foster and homeless youth. HR 2028 would also create a national Center for Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth, to provide technical assistance to postsecondary institutions as they create and maintain campus-based supports and disseminate best practices across the country.

The Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act and the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act were also introduced in the Senate by Senator Bob Casey as S. 712 and S. 709, respectively.

BILL STATUS

HR 1793

03/11/21 Introduced.

HR 1794

03/11/21 Introduced.

HR 1795

03/11/21 Introduced.

HR 2028

03/18/21 Introduced.



Tristan Noack
Analyst

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, equitable access to healthcare is still a struggle for many current and former foster youth, kinship care youth raised by family, and emancipated youth who are not guaranteed access to healthcare to the age of 26; and

WHEREAS, educational attainment for foster youth is an ongoing hurdle within the child welfare system as exposure and access to educational opportunities, resources, mentorship and information is limited; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is home to one of the highest concentrations of foster youth with more than half of the state population of foster youth residing in Los Angeles County alone; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress, are four bills: HR 1793, the Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act; HR 1794, the Foster Youth Dental Act of 2021; HR 1795, the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act; and HR 2028, the Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act; and

WHEREAS, HR 1793, the Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act, improves access to healthcare for foster youth aging out of the system and affording them with the option to move between states for school or work without consequence; and

WHEREAS, HR 1794, the Foster Youth Dental Act of 2021, expands the Medicaid coverage of current and former foster youth, particularly with respect to dental services and without regard to the state in which they live or move to; and

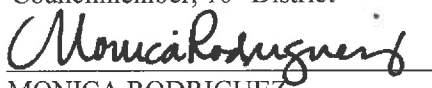
WHEREAS, HR 1795, the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act, seeks to ensure emancipated youth, youth in kinship, and youth who may not be enrolled in Medicaid by the time they age out of the child welfare system are guaranteed healthcare coverage to the age of 26; and

WHEREAS, HR 2028, the Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act, seeks to create a national database of colleges and universities with support and resource systems in place for homeless and foster youth in higher education, as well as provide technical assistance to postsecondary institutions as they create and maintain campus-based supports and disseminate best practices across the country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should SUPPORT these four bills because the City of Los Angeles is committed to the best outcomes for foster youth and constituents of the child welfare system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of HR 1793, the Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act; HR 1794, the Foster Youth Dental Act of 2021; HR 1795, the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act; and HR 2028, the Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act, which would address healthcare and educational attainment for constituents of the child welfare system.

PRESENTED BY: 
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: 
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

APR 27 2021

