

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

---

---

**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.