

Foster Youth and Driving Act (H.R. 2512): Fact Sheet

Background

The Foster Youth and Driving Act, H.R. 2512, introduced by Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-7-IL) on May 18, 2017, aims to reduce barriers faced by youth in foster care in obtaining their driver's license. Learning to drive is a rite of passage to young adulthood for millions of youth. It brings new levels of independence and opportunities, enabling young people to take themselves to school, work, and extra-curricular activities. Studies have shown that kids with access to a car do better in school, get better jobs, have more college options, and have more successful careers.

Teens in foster care often face significant barriers to obtaining a driver's license. Some of these barriers include difficulty securing the parental or guardian permission needed to enroll in driver's education or to secure an insurance policy, as well as an inability to pay for the various fees associated with becoming a driver. Without a driver's license, young people in foster care often miss out on age-appropriate opportunities that contribute to success in adulthood.

By building on the normalcy provisions of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183), H.R.2512 seeks to address some of the barriers faced by youth in care and empowers youth and foster parents with the resources they need to help youth learn to drive and obtain a driver's license.

Key Provisions

- Provides foster parents of appropriate aged children with training to help prepare a young person in their care to drive;
- Requires case plans to include information for age appropriate foster youth on opportunities to obtain practice hours and requirements for obtaining a driver's license and car insurance;
- Creates a driver's license assistance program for youth, which would provide up to \$3,000 for driving expenses such as driver's education classes, fees related to obtaining a license, car insurance costs. Youth who were in care at age 16, currently between the ages of 21 and 26, and enrolled in post-secondary education or employment training program are eligible for the program.

Reducing these barriers will increase the sense of normalcy for foster youth and empower them to seek opportunities of higher education and gainful employment. H.R. 2512 is an important step towards helping youth achieve their goals and become successful adults.