

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.262

Reps. Brenda Carter, Whiteford, Green, Wakeman, Brann, Kahle, Young, Pohutsky, Tyrone Carter, O'Malley, Haadsma, Sneller and Sowerby offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States Congress to expand the
2 federal Family First Prevention Services Act by allowing
3 flexibility in the use of Title IV-E funds to help children remain
4 safely in their homes.

5 Whereas, In the United States, nearly half a million children
6 are in foster care. Michigan ranks 18th in the country for the
7 number of children, per capita, placed in out-of-home care, with
8 approximately 13,000 children in foster care or a residential
9 placement on any given day; and

10 Whereas, Research shows that children in the foster system
11 have the best outcomes when they are placed in a safe and stable

1 environment that supports their long-term well-being. Instead of
2 subjecting children to the trauma of being separated from their
3 family and placed out of their home, more efforts are being made to
4 provide struggling and overburdened families with the resources
5 they need to create a stable and loving environment; and

6 Whereas, The Family First Prevention Services Act, signed into
7 law in 2018, was enacted to help increase the number of children
8 who can remain safely at home with their families. The law allows
9 states to use federal funding available under Title IV-E of the
10 Social Security Act to address some of the issues that contribute
11 to family separation. Currently, the Family First Prevention
12 Services Act allows funding for a narrow range of services,
13 including substance use prevention and treatment, in-home parenting
14 skills classes, and kinship navigator services. While these
15 services are essential, there are many other areas in which
16 families require assistance; and

17 Whereas, Poverty and homelessness, for example, have been
18 shown to be associated with the separation of families, and many
19 studies have documented that children in families who experience
20 homelessness frequently become separated from their parents.
21 Poverty leads to housing instability and parents often struggle to
22 provide for their children's basic needs. Helping parents out of
23 poverty and providing stable environments for children would allow
24 more families to stay together, which would reduce the number of
25 children that have to endure the foster care system; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
28 United States Congress to expand the federal Family First
29 Prevention Services Act by allowing flexibility in the use of Title

1 IV-E funds to help children remain safely in their homes; and be it
2 further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
5 President of the United States Senate, and the members of the
6 Michigan congressional delegation.