

PCB CFS 17-01

ORIGINAL

YEAR

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
 3 urging Congress to establish a child welfare block  
 4 grant in lieu of Title IV-E funding.

5  
 6 WHEREAS, one of government's most important roles is  
 7 ensuring the safety and well-being of society's most vulnerable  
 8 members, including children, and

9 WHEREAS, children enter the child welfare system for many  
 10 reasons, such as parental substance abuse, domestic violence,  
 11 mental illness, and generational poverty, and the complexity of  
 12 cases is growing due to the interplay of these factors, and

13 WHEREAS, preventing child abuse, abandonment, and neglect  
 14 saves children from trauma and avoids costs for more intensive  
 15 treatment services, juvenile justice interventions, public  
 16 benefits expenditures, and other social services, resulting in  
 17 long-term savings, and

18 WHEREAS, for children who suffer maltreatment and need  
 19 intensive services, a wide range of research-based service  
 20 models now exist to meet those needs, from in-home services to  
 21 therapeutic care in out-of-home settings, and

22 WHEREAS, with flexibility in use of federal funds for child  
 23 welfare services, professionals working closely with children  
 24 and families can tailor services to best meet individual needs,  
 25 regardless of how deeply they have penetrated into the child

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26 | welfare system, thus making the most effective and efficient use  
 27 | of funding, and

28 |       WHEREAS, Florida has been a national leader in innovative  
 29 | child welfare service provision through a community-based system  
 30 | of care and flexible funding streams, providing communities with  
 31 | the responsibility, authority, and resources to care for their  
 32 | own children, and

33 |       WHEREAS, while the federal Child and Family Services Review  
 34 | found that Florida has exceeded national standards regarding  
 35 | certain indicators and systemic factors, the state still faces  
 36 | challenges in meeting other requirements and would benefit from  
 37 | continued flexibility in federal funding to most effectively  
 38 | meet these challenges, and

39 |       WHEREAS, Florida's Title IV-E waiver is due to end  
 40 | September 30, 2018, and federal law requires all waiver  
 41 | operations to terminate by September 30, 2019, such that Florida  
 42 | will soon revert to more restrictive funding limitations unless  
 43 | Congress takes action, and

44 |       WHEREAS, even the flexible Title IV-E waivers limit state  
 45 | action to a great degree,

46 |       WHEREAS, widespread support exists nationally to transform  
 47 | the current Title IV-E funding approach to emphasize prevention  
 48 | and greater provision of a wider array of services tailored to  
 49 | meet individual families' needs so that children may be safe

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50 while avoiding the trauma of placement outside the home where  
 51 possible, NOW, THEREFORE,

52  
 53 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

54  
 55 That the Congress of the United States establish a child  
 56 welfare block grant in lieu of Title IV-E funding, giving states  
 57 flexibility to provide an expanded array of community-based  
 58 programs and supports to children who are in or at risk of  
 59 entering out-of-home placement, and their families;

60 That under this block grant, eligibility be broadened to  
 61 any child in need; and that total funding available to the state  
 62 be sufficient to meet, based on factors that provide incentives  
 63 for earlier intervention and efficient and effective service  
 64 provision while being responsive to population growth, changes  
 65 in children's and families' needs, and inflation.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
 67 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
 68 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
 69 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
 70 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.