

HM 817

2018

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to allow renewal of Title IV-E waivers
4 for child welfare services.
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6 WHEREAS, one of the most important roles of government 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, and

17 WHEREAS, with the federal funding flexibility provided by
18 Florida's Title IV-E waiver for child welfare services,
19 professionals working closely with children and families can
20 tailor services to best meet individual needs, regardless of the
21 level of involvement in the child welfare system, thus making
22 the most effective and efficient use of funding, and

23 WHEREAS, Florida has been a national leader in innovative
24 child welfare service provision through a community-based system
25 of care and flexible funding streams, providing communities with

26 | the responsibility, authority, and resources to care for their
 27 | own children, and

28 | WHEREAS, while the federal Child and Family Services Review
 29 | found that Florida exceeds national standards with respect to
 30 | certain indicators and systemic factors, the state still faces
 31 | challenges in meeting other requirements and would benefit from
 32 | continued flexibility in federal funding to most effectively
 33 | meet these challenges, and

34 | WHEREAS, Florida's Title IV-E waiver will expire September
 35 | 30, 2018, and federal law requires all waiver operations to
 36 | terminate by September 30, 2019, such that Florida will soon
 37 | revert to more restrictive funding limitations unless Congress
 38 | takes action, and

39 | WHEREAS, widespread support exists nationally to transform
 40 | the current Title IV-E funding approach to emphasize prevention
 41 | and greater provision of a wider array of services tailored to
 42 | meet individual families' needs so that children may be safe
 43 | while avoiding the trauma of placement outside the home when
 44 | possible, which is what Florida's waiver currently allows, and

45 | WHEREAS, meeting traditional Title IV-E obligations will
 46 | force significant changes to Florida's child welfare system,
 47 | requiring professionals to spend time revising policies and
 48 | processes instead of working to meet the needs of children and
 49 | families, NOW, THEREFORE,

50 |

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51 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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53 | That the Legislature of the State of Florida requests the
54 | Congress of the United States to amend federal law to allow the
55 | Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to
56 | renew existing Title IV-E waivers to extend beyond September 30,
57 | 2019, giving Florida the flexibility to continue providing an
58 | expanded array of community-based programs and support to
59 | children who are in or who are at risk of entering out-of-home
60 | placement and their families.

61 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
62 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
63 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
64 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
65 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.