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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide federal housing assistance on behalf of youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DEAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide federal housing assistance on behalf of youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

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 “Fostering Stable Hous-
5 ing Opportunities Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF FAMILY.**

7 Subparagraph (A) of section 3(b)(3) of the United
8 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(A))
9 is amended—

1 (1) in the first sentence—

2 (A) by striking “(v)” and inserting “(vi)”;

3 and

4 (B) by inserting after “tenant family,” the

5 following: “(v) a youth described in section

6 8(x)(2)(B)”;

7 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “or

8 (vi)” after “clause (v)”.

9 **SEC. 3. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS FOR FOSTERING STA-**

10 **BLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES.**

11 (a) ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER

12 CARE.—Section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of

13 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “subject to

15 paragraph (5),” before “(B)”;

16 (2) in paragraph (3)—

17 (A) by striking “(3) ALLOCATION.—The”

18 and inserting the following:

19 “(3) ALLOCATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following new

22 subparagraph:

23 “(B) ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT

24 OF FOSTER CARE.—Notwithstanding any other

25 provision of law, the Secretary shall, subject

1 only to the availability of funds, allocate such
2 assistance to any public housing agencies that
3 (i) administer assistance pursuant to paragraph
4 (2)(B), or seek to administer such assistance,
5 consistent with procedures established by the
6 Secretary, and (ii) have requested such assist-
7 ance so that they may provide timely assistance
8 to eligible youth.”;

9 (3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
10 graph (6); and

11 (4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
12 lowing new paragraph:

13 “(5) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR
14 YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.—Assistance
15 provided under this subsection for an eligible youth
16 pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be subject to the
17 following requirements:

18 “(A) REQUIREMENTS TO EXTEND ASSIST-
19 ANCE.—

20 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY SELF-
21 SUFFICIENCY.—In the case of a public
22 housing agency that is providing such as-
23 sistance under this subsection on behalf of
24 an eligible youth and that is carrying out
25 a family self-sufficiency program under

1 section 23, the agency shall, subject only
2 to the availability of such assistance, ex-
3 tend the provision of such assistance for
4 up to 24 months beyond the period re-
5 ferred to in paragraph (2)(B), but only
6 during such period that the youth is in
7 compliance with the terms and conditions
8 applicable under section 23 and the regula-
9 tions implementing such section to a per-
10 son participating in a family self-suffi-
11 ciency program.

12 “(ii) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DE-
13 VELOPMENT, OR EMPLOYMENT.—In the
14 case of a public housing agency that is
15 providing such assistance under this sub-
16 section on behalf of an eligible youth and
17 that is not carrying out a family self-suffi-
18 ciency program under section 23, the agen-
19 cy shall, subject only to the availability of
20 such assistance, extend the provision of
21 such assistance for up to 24 months be-
22 yond the period referred to in paragraph
23 (2)(B) on an annual basis, but only if dur-
24 ing the entire year preceding such exten-
25 sion the youth was—

1 “(I) engaged in obtaining a rec-
2 ognized postsecondary credential or a
3 secondary school diploma or its recog-
4 nized equivalent;

5 “(II) enrolled in an institution of
6 higher education, as such term is de-
7 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 1001(a)) and including the institu-
10 tions described in subparagraphs (A)
11 and (B) of section 102(a)(1) of such
12 Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(1)); or

13 “(III) participating in a career
14 pathway, as such term is defined in
15 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation
16 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
17 3102).

18 Notwithstanding any other provision of
19 this clause, a public housing agency shall
20 consider employment as satisfying the re-
21 quirements under this subparagraph.

22 “(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding
23 clauses (i) and (ii), a public housing agen-
24 cy that is providing such assistance under
25 this subsection on behalf of an eligible

1 youth shall extend the provision of such as-
2 sistance for up to 24 months beyond the
3 period referred to in paragraph (2)(B),
4 and clauses (i) and (ii) of this subpara-
5 graph shall not apply, if the eligible youth
6 is—

7 “(I) a parent or other household
8 member responsible for the care of a
9 dependent child under the age of 6 or
10 for the care of an incapacitated per-
11 son;

12 “(II) a person who is regularly
13 and actively participating in a drug
14 addiction or alcohol treatment and re-
15 habilitation program; or

16 “(III) a person who is incapable
17 of complying with the requirement
18 under clause (i) or (ii), as applicable,
19 due to a documented medical condi-
20 tion.

21 “(iv) VERIFICATION OF COMPLI-
22 ANCE.—The Secretary shall require the
23 public housing agency to verify compliance
24 with the requirements under this subpara-
25 graph by each eligible youth on whose be-

1 half the agency provides such assistance
2 under this subsection on an annual basis
3 in conjunction with reviews of income for
4 purposes of determining income eligibility
5 for such assistance.

6 “(B) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

7 “(i) ELIGIBILITY.—Each eligible
8 youth on whose behalf such assistance
9 under this subsection is provided shall be
10 eligible for any supportive services (as such
11 term is defined in section 103 of the Work-
12 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
13 U.S.C. 3102)) made available, in connec-
14 tion with any housing assistance program
15 of the agency, by or through the public
16 housing agency providing such assistance.

17 “(ii) INFORMATION.—Upon the initial
18 provision of such assistance under this
19 subsection on behalf of any eligible youth,
20 the public housing agency shall inform
21 such eligible youth of the existence of any
22 programs or services referred to in clause
23 (i) and of their eligibility for such pro-
24 grams and services.

1 “(C) APPLICABILITY TO MOVING TO WORK
2 AGENCIES.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3 sion of law, the requirements of this paragraph
4 shall apply to assistance under this subsection
5 pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) made available
6 by each public housing agency participating in
7 the Moving to Work Program under section 204
8 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and
9 Housing and Urban Development, and Inde-
10 pendent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42
11 U.S.C. 1437f note), except that in lieu of com-
12 pliance with clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph
13 (A) of this paragraph, such an agency may
14 comply with the requirements under such
15 clauses by complying with such terms, condi-
16 tions, and requirements as may be established
17 by the agency for persons on whose behalf such
18 rental assistance under this subsection is pro-
19 vided.

20 “(D) TERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON
21 TURN-OVER.—A public housing agency shall not
22 reissue any such assistance made available from
23 appropriated funds when assistance for the
24 youth initially assisted is terminated, unless
25 specifically authorized by the Secretary

1 “(E) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall re-
2 quire each public housing agency that provides
3 such assistance under this subsection in any fis-
4 cal year to submit a report to the Secretary for
5 such fiscal year that—

6 “(i) specifies the number of persons
7 on whose behalf such assistance under this
8 subsection was provided during such fiscal
9 year;

10 “(ii) specifies the number of persons
11 who applied during such fiscal year for
12 such assistance under this subsection, but
13 were not provided such assistance, and
14 provides a brief identification in each in-
15 stance of the reason why the public hous-
16 ing agency was unable to award such as-
17 sistance; and

18 “(iii) describes how the public housing
19 agency communicated or collaborated with
20 public child welfare agencies to collect such
21 data.

22 “(F) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
23 consult with the Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services to provide such information
25 and guidance to the Secretary of Health and

1 Human Services as may be necessary to facili-
2 tate such Secretary in informing States and
3 public child welfare agencies on how to correctly
4 and efficiently implement and comply with the
5 requirements of this subsection relating to as-
6 sistance provided pursuant to paragraph
7 (2)(B).”.

8 (b) COORDINATION BETWEEN PHAS AND PUBLIC
9 CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES.—

10 (1) APPLICABILITY TO FOSTERING STABLE
11 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.—Subparagraph
12 (A) of section 8(x)(4) of the United States Housing
13 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)(4)(A)) is amended
14 by inserting before the semicolon at the end the fol-
15 lowing: “and establishing a point of contact at public
16 housing agencies to ensure that public housing agen-
17 cies receive appropriate referrals regarding eligible
18 recipients”.

19 (c) PHA ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Subsection (q) of
20 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
21 U.S.C. 1437f(q)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing new paragraph:

23 “(4) SUPPLEMENTS FOR ADMINISTERING AS-
24 SISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER
25 CARE.—If a public housing agency has established a

1 residency requirement pursuant to subsection
2 (r)(1)(B)(i), the Secretary may provide supplemental
3 fees under this subsection to the agency for the cost
4 of administering any assistance for foster youth
5 under subsection (x)(2)(B), in an amount deter-
6 mined by the Secretary, but only if the agency
7 waives the residency requirement for such eligible
8 youth receiving assistance.”.

9 (d) PHA PLANS.—Subsection (d) of section 5A of the
10 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c-
11 1(d)) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraph (19) as para-
13 graph (20); and

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (18) the fol-
15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “(19) FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTU-
17 NITIES.—For any public housing agency that will
18 provide rental assistance pursuant section
19 8(x)(2)(B) during such fiscal year—

20 “(A) a statement describing how the agen-
21 cy will connect assisted youths with local com-
22 munity resources and self-sufficiency services
23 and obtain referrals from public child welfare
24 agencies regarding youths in foster care who
25 become eligible for such assistance; and

1 “(B) if the agency is requesting supple-
2 mental administrative fees pursuant to section
3 8(q)(4) and has established a residency require-
4 ment pursuant to subsection (r)(1)(B)(i), assur-
5 ances satisfactory to the Secretary that the
6 agency will waive the residency requirement for
7 eligible youth receiving such assistance as re-
8 quired by such section 8(q)(4).”.

9 **SEC. 4. EXCEPTIONS TO LIMITATIONS FOR PROJECT-BASED**
10 **VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) **PERCENTAGE LIMITATION.**—The first sentence of
12 clause (ii) of section 8(o)(13)(B) of the United States
13 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(B)(ii)) is
14 amended by inserting before “or that” the following: “that
15 house eligible youths receiving assistance pursuant to sec-
16 tion 8(x)(2)(B),”.

17 (b) **INCOME-MIXING REQUIREMENT.**—Subclause (I)
18 of section 8(o)(13)(D)(ii) of the United States Housing
19 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(D)(ii)(I)) is amend-
20 ed by inserting after “elderly families” the following: “,
21 to eligible youths receiving assistance pursuant to section
22 8(x)(2)(B),”.