



Independent Women's Voice Endorses The Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act

April 15, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

I write to express my strong support for **H.R. 7655, the Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act**, and applaud Representatives Rudy Yakym (R-IN) and Danny K. Davis (D-IL) for creating this important piece of legislation on behalf of our nation's foster youth. Thank you to First Lady Melania Trump for her steadfast leadership and tireless advocacy on behalf of America's foster children. Her continued attention to the safety, dignity, and future of vulnerable youth has elevated this issue to where it belongs: at the center of our national responsibility to protect the next generation.

The need for targeted support at this moment in a young person's life is clear and urgent. Research shows that **roughly half of young women in foster care become pregnant by age nineteen**, a rate far higher than their peers. These young parents face elevated risks of homelessness, unemployment, and justice system involvement, not because of a lack of character, but because they often lack stable support networks at the very moment when responsibility increases. Their children are also more likely to experience neglect or enter the foster care system themselves, creating a cycle of instability that becomes harder and more costly to break with each passing year.

H.R. 7655 addresses this challenge with discipline and foresight. By connecting expectant and parenting foster youth to evidence-based home visiting and case management services, the bill strengthens parenting capacity, promotes safe and stable homes, and reduces the likelihood of crisis before it begins. From a safety and security perspective, this is sound prevention. When families are stabilized early, communities are safer, children are healthier, and long-term reliance on government systems declines.

Protecting children is not a partisan issue. It is a moral duty and a practical investment in the strength of our nation. Supporting young parents who have

grown up in foster care honors that principle. It affirms that every child deserves a safe start, and every parent deserves the tools to provide one.

Thank you for your continued commitment to America's most vulnerable children and for championing policies that strengthen families, promote stability, and safeguard the future of our communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meaghan Mobbs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meaghan Mobbs
Director, Center for American Safety and Security
Independent Women's Voice