

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

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 “Expanded Coverage
5 for Former Foster Youth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE CONTINUITY FOR FORMER FOSTER**
7 **CARE CHILDREN UP TO AGE 26.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of
9 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(IX) who—

2 “(aa) are under 26 years of
3 age;

4 “(bb) are not described in
5 and are not enrolled under any of
6 subclauses (I) through (VII) of
7 this clause or are described in
8 any of such subclauses but have
9 income that exceeds the level of
10 income applicable under the
11 State plan for eligibility to enroll
12 for medical assistance under such
13 subclause; and

14 “(cc) were in foster care
15 under the responsibility of a
16 State on the date of attaining 18
17 years of age (or such higher age
18 as such State has elected under
19 section 475(8)(B)(iii)), or were in
20 such care at any age but subse-
21 quently left such care to enter
22 into a legal guardianship with a
23 kinship caregiver (without regard
24 to whether kinship guardianship
25 payments are being made on be-

1 half of the child under this part),
2 or were emancipated from such
3 care prior to attaining age 18;”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
5 subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2026, and
6 shall apply with respect to individuals who attain 18 years
7 of age on or after that date.

8 **SEC. 3. OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR ENROLLMENT OF**
9 **FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN.**

10 Section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1396a(a)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (86), by striking “; and” and
13 inserting a semicolon;

14 (2) in paragraph (87)(D), by striking the period
15 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (87)(D) the
17 following new paragraph:

18 “(88) not later than January 1, 2026, establish
19 an outreach and enrollment program, in coordination
20 with the State agency responsible for administering
21 the State plan under part E of title IV and any
22 other appropriate or interested agencies, designed to
23 increase the enrollment of individuals who are eligi-
24 ble for medical assistance under the State plan

- 1 under paragraph (10)(A)(i)(IX) in accordance with
- 2 best practices established by the Secretary.”.