

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 787

Expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 2, 2020

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

Whereas there are far too many unparented children in the United States;

Whereas the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report on fiscal year 2019 foster care and adoption population characteristics indicates that, in the United States—

(1) there are approximately 424,000 children in the foster care system, approximately 122,200 of whom are waiting for adoption;

(2) 65 percent of the children in foster care are 10 years of age or younger;

(3) the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 20 months;

(4) during fiscal year 2019, approximately 20,400 youth “aged out” of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home; and

(5) during fiscal year 2019, the number of children who—

(A) achieved permanency through adoption increased for the fifth year in a row; and

(B) entered foster care decreased for the third year in a row;

Whereas, still, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas a survey conducted in 2019 showed that—

(1) 21 percent of respondents had considered or were considering adoption;

(2) about ½ of respondents viewed adoption through the foster care system favorably; and

(3) of the respondents who had not considered adoption—

(A) 20 percent believed that they could not afford adoption; and

(B) 18 percent believed that they would be unprepared for the emotional or health needs of an adopted child;

Whereas the Children’s Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services, supports programs, research, and monitoring to help eliminate barriers to adoption and find permanent families for children;

Whereas, every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to the United States, the foster care system, prospective adoptive parents, and the children awaiting permanency;

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and the President has proclaimed November 2020 as National Adoption Month;

Whereas National Adoption Day has been celebrated as a collective national effort to find permanent and loving families for children in the foster care system; and

Whereas the Saturday before Thanksgiving has been recognized as National Adoption Day since at least 2000, and, in 2020, the Saturday before Thanksgiving is November 21: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
2 Adoption Month and National Adoption Day;

3 (2) recognizes that every child should have a
4 permanent and loving family; and

5 (3) encourages the people of the United States
6 to consider adoption during the month of November
7 and throughout the year.

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