



National Association of Public  
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

## **Legislative Summary**

### **The School Choice for Foster Kids Act (H.R. 2072)**

Representative Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) introduced the School Choice for Foster Kids Act (H.R. 2072) on April 23, 2009. The legislation is bipartisan and has more than 20 cosponsors. Rep. Bachman is also one of the few members of Congress who has personal experience with the child welfare system as a foster parent.

The legislation amends Section 477 of the Social Security Act, the John E. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. The bill allows states to use tuition vouchers for foster children to attend private schools and also covers transportation costs to and from public schools. H.R. 2072 specifies that vouchers may be used to fund for foster children of all ages.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and there is no Senate equivalent legislation.

#### **NAPCWA Concerns**

The Chafee program was intended to serve older youth in foster care and those adopted or in guardianship placements at an older age. There are very limited resources for the program and to expand the law without increased funding hurts those currently served by the program. NAPCWA opposes the School Choice for Foster Kids Act.

#### **Contact Information**

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