

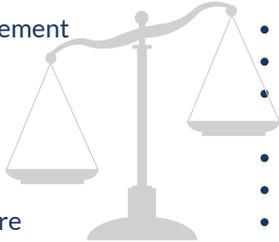
Increasing Adoptions from Foster Care Can Yield Significant Cost Savings and Societal Benefits

S. 1156 / H.R. 3031

Adoption Improves Outcomes

Increases

- Educational Achievement
- Employment Rates
- Wage Earnings
- Tax Revenues
- Housing Security
- Mental Health
- Role Model Exposure



Decreases

- High School Dropout Rates
- Joblessness
- Poverty
- Public Assistance
- Homelessness
- Addiction
- Unplanned Pregnancy
- Justice Involvement

Approximately 20,000 youth age out of the foster care system each year.

We can save an estimated 8 billion dollars by finding adoptive families for these youth instead.

Outcomes for Foster Youth Who Age Out

Young people who leave the child welfare care system *without a permanent family* enter the mental health, substance abuse, homeless services, employment services and criminal justice systems in disproportionate numbers and at great cost.



Only 58% will graduate **high school** by age 19 [1]



Fewer than 3% will earn a **college degree** by age 25 [1]



Only 50% are **employed** by age 24 [1]



More than one in five will become **homeless** after age 18 [1]



71% of young women are **pregnant** by age 21, facing higher rates of unemployment, criminal conviction, public assistance, and involvement in the child welfare system [2]



81% of males who age out are **arrested** within six years of aging out, and 59% are convicted of at least one crime, compared to 17% and 10% respectively in the general population. [2]

59% of females who age out are **arrested** within six year of aging out, and 28% are convicted of at least one crime, compared to 4% and 2% respectively, in the general population. [2]

[1] <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/JCYOI-CostAvoidance-2013.pdf>

[2] https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/05_adoption_foster_care_zill.pdf

A permanent, supportive, loving family through adoption is the best and least costly preventative measure.

Adoption reduces risk factors, leads to demonstrably improved outcomes, and significantly reduces public costs.



For an annual cohort of youth transitioning from foster care, the impact of graduating at the average rate would be \$61,047,000 in additional wages in the first year...\$1,867,320,000 more over their working lifetimes and pay \$430,000,000 in additional taxes. The total positive impact would be well in excess of two billion dollars for each annual cohort of youth. ^[1]



Reducing the teen pregnancy rate among young people transitioning from foster care to the national average would result in savings of nearly \$250 million for each cohort year. ^[1]



If young people transitioning from foster care in a single year were involved in the criminal justice system at the much lower rate of the general population, it would produce savings in excess of \$5 billion over their lifetimes. ^[1]



The average annual net savings [to child welfare services] for one child being adopted out of foster care is \$15,480 nationally. ^[4]

Increasing adoptions from foster care has the potential for massive cost savings and societal benefits. Incentivizing adoptions through a refundable tax credit is smart fiscal policy. *Support H.R. 3031 / S. 1156*

“Even among the most sympathetic audiences, however, the focus quickly turns from caring to thinking about resources – where do we expect to get the financial support necessary to underwrite health care, post secondary education costs, safe and secure housing and other expenses needed to turn bad outcomes around? The answer lies in the age-old promise of prevention.”



After being adopted, Destany said "a weight had been lifted" off her shoulders. "Things get better. Everybody told me that 'things get better,' and I didn't believe them, but here I am," she said. Both Stephanie and Kristin are happy Destany gets to have a more normal life – being able to have friends, going out and having fun in a safe environment, and then getting to return home without the fear of facing abuse or neglect. "Before I met (Stephanie and Kristin), I wasn't doing great in school," Destany said. "I was making bad choices. And then after I moved in with them and got comfortable, I realized I didn't have to act out... I could focus on myself." Kristin said Destany's grades went from "all F's to straight A's" in the course of a year. "She passed her Texas STAAR test. In a year, she completely turned it all around," Kristin said. ^[3]

^[3] <https://www.gosanangelo.com/story/news/2021/07/10/san-anglo-teen-adopted-local-same-sex-couple-foster-parents/7923371002/>

^[4] https://www.afamilyforeverychild.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/children_in_foster_care.pdf