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113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 762

Expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. BASS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOK, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. YODER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, 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 millions of unparented children in the world, including 402,378 children in the foster care sys-

tem in the United States, approximately 102,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 62 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

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

Whereas in 2013, nearly 23,000 youth ''aged out'' of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

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 a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that although ''Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years'';

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 50 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 39 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 50,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 400 events were held in the United States, finalizing the adoptions of approximately 4,500 children from foster care; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 22, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

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

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

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

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