

Summary of The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011

Bipartisan

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act is the product of an agreement between the Chairmen and the Ranking Members of Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. The legislation builds on a bill introduced by Chairman Davis and Ranking Member Doggett and legislation introduced by Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch and a number of Democratic and Republican Senators.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act is fiscally responsible, improves state accountability and increases state flexibility.

Improved State Accountability

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act includes several provisions dealing with the improper use of psychotropic drugs and the educational stability of children and youth in foster care that will provide greater transparency and increase state accountability in their use of limited federal dollars.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act also promotes increased caseworker visits and support for families struggling with drug and alcohol abuse.

Increased State Flexibility

While increasing accountability, The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act increases state flexibility. For several years, states have been asking the federal government for relief from stringent and arbitrary federal restrictions on federal foster care dollars.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act allows states to get relief from federal restrictions in order to implement innovative improvements designed to keep families safely together and improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

Fiscally Responsible

By folding in funding for effective court improvement programs into the baseline of the bill, The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act ensures that scarce federal resources are targeted to programs that are the most effective.

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