



## H.RES. 1185– EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT CONGRESS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICANS WHO SERVE AS FOSTER PARENTS AND, IN DOING SO, UNSELFISHLY OPEN THEIR HOMES AND FAMILY LIVES TO CHILDREN IN NEED

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1185 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA) on May 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1185 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 20, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1185 resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- All Americans should work together to strengthen families and reduce the need for foster care placement for children; and
- Congress should continue its commitment to providing critical assistance to children and families involved in the foster care system through the title IV program in the Social Security Act and other programs that are designed to help children reunite with their parents or find a loving and permanent home when they cannot return to their biological parents.

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### BACKGROUND

In 2006, there were on average approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the U.S. at any given time. About 799,000 children spent at least 24 hours in a foster care. Also, about 280,000 children were able to leave the foster care system through reunification with their parents, adoption, or legal guardianship. Over 43 percent of children that entered foster care in 2005 were age 5 and younger.

Title IV of the Social Security Act provides grants to states and aid to needy families with children, as well as to child-welfare programs.

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Foster Care System Statistics](#)  
[Social Security Administration – Title IV informational webpage](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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