
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 865 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, KIRKLAND, GROVE, V. BROWN, DAVIS AND
MCCLINTON, MAY 9, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 9, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to implement a medical
2 exception for children that have serious medical conditions,
3 are 13 years of age or older and are in foster care so that
4 they may be eligible for Another Planned Permanent Living
5 Arrangement (APPLA).

6 WHEREAS, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement,
7 otherwise known as APPLA, was created by the Adoption and Safe
8 Families Act of 1997 to replace the term "long-term foster
9 care"; and

10 WHEREAS, APPLA is a permanency option only when other options
11 such as reunification, relative placement, adoption or legal
12 guardianship have been ruled out; and

13 WHEREAS, Under APPLA, the child welfare agency maintains care
14 and custody of the youth and arranges a living situation in
15 which the youth is expected to remain until adulthood; and

16 WHEREAS, The Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and
17 Strengthening Families Act of 2014 eliminated APPLA as a
18 permanency goal for children under 16 years of age and added
19 additional case plan and case review requirements for older

1 youth who have a permanency goal of APPLA; and

2 WHEREAS, When APPLA is a permanency option, children with
3 serious medical conditions gain the benefits of both medical
4 assistance provided through government-funded programs and the
5 support system of a foster family; and

6 WHEREAS, The elimination of APPLA for children 13 to 15 years
7 of age who have serious medical conditions jeopardizes their
8 well-being; and

9 WHEREAS, Overwhelming medical costs and limited resources
10 account for the most cited reasons as to why children with
11 serious medical conditions are unable to be adopted; and

12 WHEREAS, Without APPLA as an option until 16 years of age,
13 many children with serious medical conditions that are under 16
14 years of age may be subject to placement in pediatric nursing
15 facilities, which will put additional strain on these already
16 fragile children; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
19 States to implement a medical exception for children that have
20 serious medical conditions, are 13 years of age or older and are
21 in foster care so that they may be eligible for Another Planned
22 Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA); and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the President and Vice President of the United States, to the
25 presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member
26 of Congress from Pennsylvania.