

CHINS Reform Bill H.4330
 Provisions Advocated For and the Result in Final Legislation

Requested Provision	Rationale	Advocated For	Final Bill
Change the name of the system from Child In Need of Services (CHINS) to Families and Children Requiring Assistance (FACES)	The name FACES makes the intent of the program- to assist the child and their family members clear. It is also puts an end to the moniker of "CHINS kid" which has such negative connotations and stigmatizes these youth.	YES	Yes
Require community-based services to be up and running in <u>three</u> years	The infrastructure for these programs is already in place. Three years is more than sufficient to complete the process of formally establishing them for the purpose of serving this population.	YES	YES
Require use of a standardized intake family screening and assessment tool	A family assessment by a trained clinician is necessary to ensure that families are directed to services and supports that will appropriately address their individual and collective needs.	YES	YES
Create a data collection system and establish reporting requirements for both the probation department and the community-based programs	The current data collection on CHINS cases is inadequate to providing information on activities and outcomes. The required system will allow for improved care coordination and ongoing evaluation of the program.	YES	YES
Require schools to implement DESE <u>certified</u> truancy prevention programs	Many schools have truancy programs but their scope and efficacy varies widely. Requiring certification of these programs will ensure that <u>all</u> children receive a meaningful level of intervention at the school level prior to involving the court.	YES	YES
Prohibit FACES youth from being held in shackles, taken to a court lockup facility or detained in a police station	These youth are not criminals and should not be treated as such.	YES	YES

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Require the clerk of the Court to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the parents about the FACES/CHINS process including possible outcomes of a petition <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to refer families to a community-based family resource center prior to proceeding with the FACES application <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to obtain written consent from a parent who wants to proceed directly to making a FACES application in the court 	<p>The ability of parents to make the best decisions for their families requires that they receive clear and accurate information about both the benefits and costs of the available options.</p> <p>Together these requirements are a version of the informed consent process which is now standard practice in the provision of medical and mental health services.</p>	<p>YES</p> <hr/> <p>YES</p> <hr/> <p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p> <hr/> <p>YES</p> <hr/> <p>NO</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the petitioner to stop the proceedings at any point prior to the disposition hearing. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require petitioners who proceed to continue to be engaged in the process until it concludes 	<p>Participation in the FACES system is voluntary and if court intervention is not working for a family they should retain the right to change the course of treatment.</p> <p>Overtime the CHINS system became a dumping ground for difficult youth. This ensures that the responsibility for these youth remains one that is shared by parents, schools and law enforcement and does not rest solely with the court.</p>	<p>YES</p> <hr/> <p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p> <hr/> <p>YES</p>

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Establish a timeframe for the FACES proceedings to conclude (120 days; and could be extended for up to 90 days, not more than 3 times (total: 390 days or 1yr. and 25 days)	FACES is intended as a relatively short term, intensive intervention. It is a means to an end not an end in and of itself.	YES	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the Judge to hear from all members involved with the child and family during their time as a FACES. <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require HHS to provide a written explanation to the legislature as to why they could not provide the services the court requested 	<p>Breaking down barriers between the court and the service delivery elements of this system is vital to the success of FACES.</p> <p>The first provision ensures that, when Judges become involved with a child and family, they have all of the pertinent information they need to make determinations about the child’s life.</p> <p>The second provision requires an exchange of information vital to educating judges about what they can expect from the human services system and to informing policy makers about the resource needs of this population.</p>	YES ----- YES	YES ----- NO
Expunge all CHINS / FACES records upon termination of the families involvement with the court including the Court Activity Record; CORI; or any other criminal record information system	CHINS/FACES proceedings are not criminal but the records are frequently misinterpreted and the information is held against the youth. Improved confidentiality will ensure that participants are not subjected to unwarranted negative consequences because of their participation in FACES.	YES	YES