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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing support for the recognition of April as National Foster Sibling
Connections Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NUNN of Iowa submitted the following resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the recognition of April as National
Foster Sibling Connections Month.

Whereas sibling relationships are among the most important
bonds in human development, contributing to children's
emotional stability and long-term well-being;

Whereas for children who experience abuse, neglect, or insta-
bility, sibling relationships often serve as their most con-
sistent source of support and belonging;

Whereas when children enter foster care, the preservation of
sibling relationships is critical to maintaining perma-
nency, reducing trauma, and driving successful outcomes;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately 53 to 80 percent of children in foster care are separated from at least 1 sibling;

Whereas research demonstrates that sibling separation in foster care is associated with increased placement instability, behavioral challenges, and adverse mental health outcomes;

Whereas current child welfare data systems often fail to accurately track sibling separations, particularly in cases involving adoption, resulting in a systemic undercounting of the scope and impact of this issue;

Whereas this data gap limits the ability of policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to understand and address the harms caused by sibling separation fully;

Whereas it is within the national and moral interest of the United States to make progress in ensuring that no child is separated from their siblings;

Whereas advocates across the United States are working to advance policies and practices that prioritize sibling placement, visitation, and lifelong connection; and

Whereas increased awareness of sibling separation in foster care would elevate the voices of foster care alumni and promote policies that prioritize maintaining and restoring sibling relationships: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) expresses support for the recognition of Na-
- 3 tional Foster Sibling Connections Month;

1 (2) acknowledges the critical importance of sib-
2 ling relationships for children and youth in foster
3 care;

4 (3) encourages Federal, State, Tribal, and local
5 agencies to prioritize policies and practices that pro-
6 mote sibling placement and lifelong connection;

7 (4) supports efforts to improve data collection
8 and transparency regarding sibling relationships and
9 separations in foster care; and

10 (5) calls upon policymakers, child welfare pro-
11 fessionals, advocates, and the public to raise aware-
12 ness of and address the needs of siblings impacted
13 by foster care.