

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/christian-families-could-be-forced-from-foster-care-system-in-us/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/29/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-strengthen-protections-youth-child-welfare-system.html>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-voters-deserve-to-know-if-mazie-hirono-plans-to-continue-to-lead-national-democratic-support-of-h-r-1681-every-child-deserves-a-family-act/>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/saint-damien-advocates-targets-co-sponsors-hirono-other-co-sponsor-of-bill-that-could-close-us-catholic-charities-adoption-and-foster-care/>



Christian families could be forced from foster care system in US

By Simon Caldwell

December 4, 2023 at 5:03 pm



Christians could be forced from the foster care system in the United States if President Joe Biden presses ahead with a new rule to override their consciences, a group of Republican attorneys general has said.

The Democrat President is threatening to remove any faith-based provider of foster care unless they accept government instructions on accommodating sexual orientation and gender identity, according to reports.

Foster carers and agencies will have to use a transgender child's "identified pronouns, chosen name, and allow the child to dress in an age-appropriate manner that the child believes reflects their self-identified gender identity and expression".

The move prompted Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall and 18 Republican colleagues in other states to write to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to request exemptions.

The group says the new rule violates the US Constitution and will discriminate unfairly against Christians who hold traditional orthodox beliefs on marriage, the family and sexual morality by forcing them from the sector.

For a child who says he or she is gay to receive a suitable home, the rules, called the Safe and Appropriate Foster Care Placement Requirements, stipulate that providers must establish an environment that is "free of hostility, mistreatment, or abuse based on the child's LGBTQI+ status".

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said: "This is going to change the complexion of how we view foster care treatment for our foster kids, but more importantly, how we look at the people who we rely on to care for foster kids."

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/christian-families-could-be-forced-from-foster-care-system-in-us/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/29/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-strengthen-protections-youth-child-welfare-system.html>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-voters-deserve-to-know-if-mazie-hirono-plans-to-continue-to-lead-national-democratic-support-of-h-r-1681-every-child-deserves-a-family-act/>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/saint-damien-advocates-targets-co-sponsors-hirono-other-co-sponsor-of-bill-that-could-close-us-catholic-charities-adoption-and-foster-care/>

According to GB News, the attorney generals argued that the rule will harm children who might otherwise have prospered with Christian families.

“Without faith-based organisations and foster homes, the foster care system would face a critical lack of placement options,” the AGs wrote.

“The proposed rule will harm children by limiting the number of available foster homes, harm families by risking kinship placements, and harm states by increasing costs and decreasing care options,” they said in their letter.

“These injuries will be suffered while HHS fails to solve a problem that the proposed rule does not even prove exists in foster care.”

The attorneys general drew attention to the large number of Christian individuals and organisations who offer foster care services because they are motivated by their faith.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops alone offers foster care services for undocumented children; foreign-born child victims of trafficking for sex, labour, or domestic servitude; child refugees and asylum seekers, and those abandoned because of family breakdown or orphaned by the death of their parents.

Data suggests there were almost 391,000 children placed in foster care in the United States in 2022 and that within the next three years the figure will increase to about 416,500.

More than a decade ago about a dozen Catholic adoption agencies in Britain were forced to close or sever their ties with the Church when the Labour Government of Tony Blair refused to grant an exemption from the requirement to assess same-sex couples as potential adopters and foster parents.

The reforms in the United States are part of a range of actions unveiled by President Biden this year.

They include the removal of sexually explicit pro-LGBT books for children from libraries as a civil rights violation.

(Photograph courtesy of Bethany Christian Services)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/christian-families-could-be-forced-from-foster-care-system-in-us/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/29/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-strengthen-protections-youth-child-welfare-system.html>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-voters-deserve-to-know-if-mazie-hirono-plans-to-continue-to-lead-national-democratic-support-of-h-r-1681-every-child-deserves-a-family-act/>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/saint-damien-advocates-targets-co-sponsors-hirono-other-co-sponsor-of-bill-that-could-close-us-catholic-charities-adoption-and-foster-care/>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2024
202-690-6343

Contact: HHS Press Office
media@hhs.gov

Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Rule to Strengthen Protections for Youth in the Child Welfare System

Final Rule Brings the Child Welfare System Closer to Better Supporting Youth with Resources and Services that Meet their Needs.

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), finalized a policy that strengthens protections for youth in foster care by clarifying how states must meet their statutory requirements to appropriately serve LGBTQI+ children in foster care.

“Every child deserves a safe and loving home,” said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. “When any child comes into government care, they should have supports and services that meet their specific needs. By addressing the needs of LGBTQI+ children, this rule brings us one step closer to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to thrive.”

LGBTQI+ children are overrepresented in foster care and face significantly higher levels of bullying and harassment in care than other children. In addition, LGBTQI+ children who enter foster care experience significantly worse outcomes, including higher levels of mental health-related hospitalizations and homelessness. Like all children, LGBTQI+ young people deserve a placement that meets their unique needs. The rule advances the child welfare system toward the Administration’s goal of supporting all foster children with the resources and services they need.

This final rule makes clear that all children in the child welfare system, including LGBTQI+ children, are entitled to protections against harassment, abuse, and mistreatment, regardless of their placement. Additionally, this final rule specifies that as part of meeting the existing statutory requirement to provide safe and proper care for all children in foster care, state child welfare agencies must ensure that LGBTQI+ children have access to specially designated foster care placements.

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/christian-families-could-be-forced-from-foster-care-system-in-us/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/29/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-strengthen-protections-youth-child-welfare-system.html>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-voters-deserve-to-know-if-mazie-hirono-plans-to-continue-to-lead-national-democratic-support-of-h-r-1681-every-child-deserves-a-family-act/>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/saint-damien-advocates-targets-co-sponsors-hirono-other-co-sponsor-of-bill-that-could-close-us-catholic-charities-adoption-and-foster-care/>

To be considered a designated placement for LGBTQI+ children, the placement must satisfy three conditions:

- The provider must commit to establishing an environment that supports the child's LGBTQI+ status or identity; and
- The provider must be trained with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of the child related to the child's self-identified sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and
- The provider must facilitate the child's access to age- or developmentally appropriate resources, services, and activities that support their health and well-being.

HHS has concluded that requiring states and tribes to offer a designated placement for all LGBTQI+ children in foster care who request or would benefit from such a placement is necessary to effectuate the statutory promise of a safe and appropriate placement for children who are LGBTQI+. The rule also recognizes the critical role of kinship placements and states that services and training can be offered to current providers, including kin, to help them become a designated placement if they wish to do so. The rule will help promote placement stability and retain sibling, kinship, family, and community ties, consistent with the child's best interest and provider's wishes.

The final rule applies to state child welfare agencies and does not require any provider to become a designated placement. Rather, this rule requires state and tribal child welfare agencies to ensure that the totality of their child welfare system includes sufficient placements for LGBTQI+ children that meet each of the standards for designated placements. Further, the rule specifies that nothing in the rule should be construed as requiring or authorizing a state to penalize a provider that does not seek or is determined not to qualify as a designated placement provider. It also says that nothing in this rule shall limit any state, tribe, or local government from imposing or enforcing, as a matter of law or policy, requirements that provide greater protection to LGBTQI+ children than this rule provides. Finally, this rule expressly provides that, insofar as the application of any requirement under the rule would violate applicable federal protections for religious freedom, conscience, and free speech, such application shall not be required.

"At ACF, we know that young people succeed when they get the support they need," said ACF Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jeff Hild. "This rule will give LGBTQI+ young people in foster care access to an environment where they can thrive."

The final rule may be viewed or downloaded at: [Federal Register: Public Inspection: Designated Placement Requirements for LGBTQI plus Children](#) .

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/christian-families-could-be-forced-from-foster-care-system-in-us/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/29/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-strengthen-protections-youth-child-welfare-system.html>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-voters-deserve-to-know-if-mazie-hirono-plans-to-continue-to-lead-national-democratic-support-of-h-r-1681-every-child-deserves-a-family-act/>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/saint-damien-advocates-targets-co-sponsors-hirono-other-co-sponsor-of-bill-that-could-close-us-catholic-charities-adoption-and-foster-care/>

Hawaii Voters Deserve To Know If Mazie Hirono Plans To Continue To Lead

National Democratic Support of H.R. 1681, “Every Child Deserves a Family Act”

June 29, 2012



BY JOHN ROCO -- Yesterday’s Supreme Court ruling, hailed as “a victory for millions of Americans,” tends to overshadow the work by President Obama to include in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate requirements providing pills that cause abortions in insurance plans- churches, hospitals, universities, schools, and non-profits- even if abortion is against their religion.

Unlike Hirono, I have stood firm in my opposition of this historic legislation.

It is telling that over 100 Democratic members of the House of Representatives support passage of H.R. 1681, “Every Child Deserves a Family Act,” a bill that would close all Catholic Charities adoption and foster care across the United States of America.

The people of Hawaii deserve to know why Hirono would lead national Democrats in early co-sponsoring H.R. 1681, “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.”.

These partisan antics are yet another example of just how important it is to make sure Hawaii’s next U.S. Senator is someone who shares our Hawaii values.

In the Land of Damien, we need to ‘do the right thing.’

John Roco is a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/christian-families-could-be-forced-from-foster-care-system-in-us/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/29/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-strengthen-protections-youth-child-welfare-system.html>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-voters-deserve-to-know-if-mazie-hirono-plans-to-continue-to-lead-national-democratic-support-of-h-r-1681-every-child-deserves-a-family-act/>
<https://www.hawaiireporter.com/saint-damien-advocates-targets-co-sponsors-hirono-other-co-sponsor-of-bill-that-could-close-us-catholic-charities-adoption-and-foster-care/>

Saint Damien Advocates Targets Co-sponsors Hirono, Other Co-Sponsor of Bill that Could Close US Catholic Charities Adoption and Foster care

July 9, 2012



Congresswoman Mazie Hirono at the 2012 Hawaii Democratic Convention

BY SAINT DAMIEN ADVOCATES OF HONOLULU – Some 110 members of the US House of Representatives have co-sponsored H.R. 1681, known as “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.” This ‘anti-discrimination’ bill would decertify any agency which does not take same sex- gay or lesbian foster parent couples, even if homosexuality is against the religion of the adoption or foster care agency. There are no religious exemptions in this bill.

Regardless of any past history of service or charity, by any non-profit or charitable institution, this bill would effectively eliminate all Catholic Charities adoption and foster care in the United States since Catholic Charities, congruent with Catholic Church teachings, will not place adoptive or foster children with gay or lesbian couples (though other agencies do).

This campaign, launched in a video to be distributed nationwide, identifies all such co-sponsors: See the video here: <https://youtu.be/05Uxav9IOhw>

Saint Damien Advocates, founded to protect religious freedom, launched a campaign in Hawaii against Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, who also is a U.S. Senate candidate, to point out the extreme position she has taken in co-sponsoring H.R. 1681.

John Roco, founder of Saint Damien Advocates, said: “it really has come to a climax, this fight to eliminate any religious organizations doing the same tradition of charitable work- they have since Saint Damien’s time and before- because a religious organization will not ‘change’ and take gay couples. It seems like the ones who are intolerant, are those active in the gay and lesbian cause- who do not want any foster family or adoption agency to exist unless it accepts homosexual couples.”

Roco said, “The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, and part of religious charities in the tradition of Saint Damien-the leper Saint of Molokai- is to provide foster care and adoption services. Saint Damien took care of orphans. It is egregious- these efforts to end Catholic Charity.”

Guest editorial Submitted by Saint Damien Advocates of Honolulu, Hawaii