

SENATE RESOLUTION 5

(By Senators Oliverio and Hamilton)

[Introduced January 14, 2026]

1 Designating January 14, 2026, as Foster Care Child Welfare Day at the Capitol.

2 Whereas, Children, youth, and families are at the heart of West Virginia's child welfare
3 system. Policies and practices are most effective when they prioritize safety, permanency, well-
4 being, and family connection; and

5 Whereas, Children grow and thrive best when they are supported by stable families,
6 engaged communities, and responsive systems of care that reflect the real experiences of those
7 they serve; and

8 Whereas, West Virginia's child welfare system touches the lives of children, youth,
9 families, caregivers, and communities in every region of the state; and

10 Whereas, Children, youth, parents, caregivers, and families with lived experience offer
11 essential insight into what strengthens families and how systems can more effectively support
12 long-term stability and success; and

13 Whereas, Meaningful collaboration across systems and cross-sector partners strengthens
14 outcomes and promotes family-centered, sustainable solutions; and

15 Whereas, On January 14, 2026, child welfare partners from across the state will gather at
16 the State Capitol for the 2026 Foster Care/Child Welfare Day at the Capitol, creating a shared
17 space for connection, learning, and dialogue between communities and policymakers; and

18 Whereas, This day is hosted through the collaborative leadership of the WV CASA
19 Association (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Fairmont State University, and the WV Schools
20 of Diversion and Transition, reflecting a shared commitment to education, advocacy, successful

1 transitions, and the belief that children, youth, and families thrive when communities work
2 together; and

3 Whereas, This gathering reflects the shared understanding that West Virginia is stronger
4 when we work together, remain committed to supporting families, and pursue meaningful progress
5 through collaboration; therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate:*

7 That the Senate hereby designates January 14, 2026, as Foster Care Child Welfare Day at
8 the Capitol; and, be it

9 *Further Resolved*, That the Senate hereby recognizes the 2026 Collaborative Foster
10 Care/Child Welfare Day at the Capitol and honors the collective efforts of those working to protect
11 children and strengthen families across West Virginia; and, be it

12 *Further Resolved*, That the Senate encourages continued collaboration, family-centered
13 policy development, sustained engagement with children, youth, families, and support systems;
14 and, be it

15 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
16 Dr. Brian Selmeski, Chief of Staff, Fairmont State University, Emily W. Swain, Dean of Middle
17 College, Fairmont State University, CASA, and the WV Schools of Diversity and Transition
18 representatives.