

As the nation's voice for LGBT conservatives and straight allies, Log Cabin Republicans writes today to comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking at 83 Fed. Reg. 11449 proposing to streamline the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) [RIN 0970-AC72].

Log Cabin Republicans urges HHS to retain the voluntary sexual orientation questions for foster youth and foster and adoptive parents and guardians, as well as the data element on the reason for removal of a child from a home due to "family conflict related to child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression." Studies show that approximately 19% of foster youth identify as LGBT, and they experience worse safety, well-being and permanency outcomes than non-LGBT youth. For states to improve these outcomes and identify best practices for doing so, data collection on the state and national level is needed. Same-sex couples foster at six times the rate of their opposite-sex counterparts, and can provide loving, supportive homes for America's 400,000+ foster youth.

Further, we ask HHS to add voluntary gender identity questions for foster youth over the age of 14 and foster and adoptive parents and guardians to AFCARS. Collecting gender identity data as well as sexual orientation data will help states and tribes develop streamlined, comprehensive services.

As LGBT conservatives, we have long asserted that we have the right to live our lives in quiet dignity, adhering to family values, and raising families as any other couple or individual would.

Personally, as someone who has worked within the foster care system in the United States, I have seen firsthand the impact fostering and adoption by same-sex couples has had on the lives of children who would otherwise have gone without a "forever home".

Ensuring that HHS has the data it needs to ensure that all children are provided with the best possible outcomes is what we are asking today.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

With great sincerity,

Gregory T. Angelo  
President  
Log Cabin Republicans

202-420-7873

[angelo@logcabin.org](mailto:angelo@logcabin.org)

@gregorytangelo / @LogCabinGOP