

September 11, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Darrin LaHood
Chairman
Subcommittee on Work and Welfare
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Danny Davis
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Work and Welfare
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chairman LaHood, and Ranking Member Davis:

The undersigned 228 national, state, and local organizations write to express our support for your bipartisan *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act*, which would invest critical new resources in Title IV-B and provide needed policy improvements.

Over the past year, your bipartisan leadership has brought critical attention to the need to reauthorize Title IV-B and better support strong families. The *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* responds to three priority areas outlined in [consensus recommendations](#) for reauthorizing Title IV-B of the Social Security Act:

1. Family – deepening federal support for comprehensive approaches to prevent child welfare system involvement and keep children with their families and in family-based placements as much as possible;
2. Mental health – policy improvements that complement ongoing mental health efforts by federal policymakers and support a trauma-responsive child welfare system that promotes healing; and
3. Workforce – investing in a workforce that values and supports thriving families.

This bill would expand by \$10 million annually the Court Improvement Program, which is the only direct child welfare-related federal funding that state and tribal courts receive to manage nearly 600,000 children's cases in court each year. The bill would also expand by \$10 million annually the Regional Partnership Grants, which address the intersection of parental substance use and child welfare involvement. The bill also allocates more IV-B funding for tribes, reduces barriers to tribal participation in IV-B, and supports oversight of implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Recognizing the vital role of strong families in supporting thriving children, the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* would further bolster the role of Title IV-B in supporting kinship caregivers. It would also create a clear commitment in federal law that poverty is not neglect, by underscoring the role of family preservation services for families

experiencing a crisis related to a lack of resources. The bill's new policy and investments in the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program would also highlight the role of IV-B in primary prevention, by supporting community-based services and supports that prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement.

Responding to decades of level funding, the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* would provide the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program \$75 million annually in needed new mandatory funding.

We support the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* as an important step toward a child welfare system that better supports children and families. We thank the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee for voting 38-0 to advance this legislation, and look forward to collaborating with you to ensure the enactment of these critical policies and new investments.

Thank you for your continued bipartisan leadership in service of children and families. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to connect Zach Laris at zach@bolderhorizon.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

A Second Chance, Inc.

America Forward

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Psychological Association Services

American Public Health Association

American Public Human Services Association

Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)

Bolder Horizon

Boys Town

CarePortal, LLC

Center for Adoption Support and Education

Center for the Study of Social Policy

Child Welfare League of America

Children and Family Futures

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Home Society of America

Children's Trust Fund Alliance

Congressional Research Institute on Social Work Policy

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Families Rising

Family Centered Treatment Foundation

Family Focused Treatment Association

First Focus Campaign for Children

FosterClub

Generations United
Healthy Teen Network
INSIGHTS Intervention, LLC
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Child Abuse Coalition
National Family Resource Center Coalition
National Foster Parent Association
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Northwest Prevention Science
Parenting Journey
Parents as Teachers
Prevent Child Abuse America
Raise the Future
Saint Francis Ministries
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts
Sevita
Social Current
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Ray E. Helfer Society
Think of Us
Thriving Families Safer Children
Triple P America - Positive Parenting Program
Voice for Adoption
Your Case Plan
Youth Villages
Zero to Three

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

Alabama A&M University
Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
VOICES for Alabama's Children

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust

Arizona

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Arkansas

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California

American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
CA Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Family Life Center Foster & Adoption Agency
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Five Acres - The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County
Sacramento County
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families
Trinity Youth Services
Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services

Colorado

Beautiful Redemption
RE Services

Connecticut

Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families
Connecticut Council on Adoption

Delaware

Children & Families First DE
Foster Well

Florida

Florida's Children First
Youth and Family Alternatives Inc.

Georgia

Together Georgia

Hawaii

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Idaho

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Prevent Child Abuse Idaho

Illinois

Ascend Justice
Brightpoint
Child Link
Family Forward Illinois
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Shelter, Inc

Indiana

Foster Success

Iowa

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

Kansas

Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky

Children's Alliance of Kentucky
Kentucky Chapter of the AAP
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
St. Joseph Children's Home

Louisiana

Bayou Lotus Corp
Clover New Orleans

Maine

American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter

Maryland

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Department of Human Services

Massachusetts

Ascentria Care Alliance
Children's League of Massachusetts
HopeWell
Key Program, Inc.
Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Michigan

Eastern Michigan University Social Work Program
MCHS Family of Services
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Minnesota

AspireMN
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Mississippi

Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Missouri

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Montana

Montana Children's Trust Fund
RE Services

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Nevada

Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Waypoint NH

New Jersey

Acenda Integrated Health

New Mexico

New Mexico Pediatric Society

New York

Beautiful Mess Ministries

Catholic Guardian Services

Child and Family Services of Erie County City Living NY

Children's Aid

Children's Home of Jefferson County

Columbia County Mental Health Center

Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)

Every Child Inc.

Family Ties of Westchester, Inc.

Glove House, Inc.

HOPE585

Justice For Orphans

Lawyers For Children

New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health

NYS AAP- Chapter 1

NYS AAP - Chapter 2

NYS AAP - Chapter 3

The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services

The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice

Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.

Vanderheyden

North Carolina

Children's Home Society of North Carolina

Johnson C. Smith University Department of Social Work

North Dakota

North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association

Ohio

Adams County Children Services
Allen County Children Services
Ashtabula County Children Services Board
Athens County Children Services
Fairfield County Job & Family Services
Madison County Department of Job and Family Services
Morgan County Job and Family Services
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Providence House
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Summit County Children Services
Trumbull County Children Services
Wayne County Children Services Board

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Oregon

Options Counseling and Family Services
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Pennsylvania

Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work
Voices for Children Coalition

Rhode Island

American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

Alston Wilkes Society
HALOS (South Carolina)
Palmetto Association for Children and Families
SC AAP
South Carolina Thriving Families Safer Children

South Dakota

South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Tennessee

Compassionate Care Inc.

Freed-Hardeman University Social Work Program

Frontier Health

Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.

Kharis Care, LLC

MillarRich, LLC

Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families

Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

TN Children's Alliance

Texas

Abrazo Adoption Associates

Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Texas Pediatric Society

TexProtects

Utah

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter

Children's Service Society of Utah

Vermont

Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia

Families Forward Virginia

People Places

Virginia Department of Social Services

Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE)

Washington

Akin

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children

NorthStar Advocates

Partners for Our Children

The Mockingbird Society

Washington, DC

American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter

DC KinCare Alliance

West Virginia

TEAM for West Virginia Children
West Virginia Child Care Association

Wisconsin

Bay View Community Center
Burnett County Family Resource Center
Child Care Resource and Referral Inc
Family Connect of Wisconsin
Family Connections, Inc.
Lakeland Family Resource Center
Supporting Families Together Association
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics