

Weekly Report – May 18

Voice for Adoption (VFA) provides weekly e-mail updates to its members on adoption and child welfare news, resources, and legislation, as well as updates on VFA's activities. Below is the update for the week of May 14 – 18, 2007.

New Reports

- On May 15, the Government Accountability Office released a new report entitled, “Child Welfare: Additional Federal Action Could Help States Address Challenges in Providing Services to Children and Families.” The abstract of the report is available online at: www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-07-850T. The full report can be downloaded at: www.gao.gov/new.items/d07850t.pdf
- **Changes Needed in Federal Child Welfare Law to Better Protect Children and Ensure Them Nurturing Families**—This joint publication of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the American Public Human Services Association; Catholic Charities USA; CLASP; the Children’s Defense Fund; the Child Welfare League of America; the National Child Abuse Coalition; and Voices for America’s Children calls on Congress to join these partners in a renewed commitment to protect the nation’s children. The report can be downloaded at: www.clasp.org/publications/changes_cw_law.pdf

Policy Update

- On Monday, May 21, the Child Welfare League of America will sponsor a briefing entitled, “Federal Issues Regarding the Health and Well-Being of Children in Foster Care.” The briefing will take place at 9:30 a.m. in room H-137 of the Capitol Building. Contact Laura Weidner for more information (703-412-3168; lweidner@cwla.org).
- On Thursday, May 24, the Kids Are Waiting campaign will hold a Capitol Hill briefing on youth aging out of foster care, featuring former foster youth and others. A new report entitled “Time for Reform: Aging Out and On Their Own” will be released. More details will be sent out once they are available. The briefing will take place in room H-137 of the Capitol Building from 3 – 4 p.m. RSVP to Jennifer Cole, jcole@kidsarewaiting.org, (202) 552-2270.
- The written testimony from the panelists from the May 15 Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support’s hearing on challenges facing the child welfare system is available online at: waysandmeans.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=detail&hearing=559&comm=2

Other News and Resources

- **Advanced Analytics for Child Welfare Administration: October 15-19**— In partnership with Casey Family Programs, Chapin Hall Center for Children and the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data are pleased to offer Advanced Analytics for Child Welfare Administration, a five-day course for child welfare managers, on October 15–19, 2007, in downtown Chicago. The purpose of the course is to enable participants to become critical consumers of child welfare administrative data as a means toward making continuous quality improvements in their organizations. More information is available online at: www.about.chapinhall.org/conferences/analytics2007/conference.html