

Voice for Adoption

SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN



Encourage your Federal Legislators to Participate in VFA's Annual Adoptive Family Portrait Project

Contacting your Senators and Representatives:

Look up contact information for your Senators online at:

www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Look up contact information for your Representative online at:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Sample Text for E-mailing Members of Congress:

Dear Senator/Representative [NAME]:

I am writing to encourage you to participate in an exciting project highlighting the importance of finding adoptive families for children in foster care who are waiting for a permanent family. Voice for Adoption's Adoptive Family Portrait Project will give you and your staff the chance to learn about the experiences of one of your constituent families who has adopted a child from our country's foster care system.

Across the country, there are approximately 118,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. Each of these children—who entered foster care because they experienced abuse or neglect—is waiting for a permanent family connection. If these youths aren't adopted, they will join the 24,000 youth who age out of foster care each year without a family. By participating in this project, you can

help raise awareness about the need to find families for all of these waiting children. It's easy for you to participate – all you need to do is agree to display a family photo in your Capitol Hill office during the month of November, National Adoption Awareness Month. Voice for Adoption will identify one of your constituent families who have adopted from foster care and will provide your office with the family's photograph and their adoption story.

Please consider being part of the Adoptive Family Portrait Project. Through your participation, you will learn more about how adoption has touched the lives of some of your constituents and how federal child welfare programs are providing critical support to make it possible for waiting children to find a forever family. To sign up for the project or for more information, contact Schylar Baber, Voice for Adoption's Executive Director, at director@voice-for-adoption.org or 202-210-8118. Find out more by visiting VFA online at: <http://voice-for-adoption.org/> on the Special Projects page. The deadline to participate is October 1st.

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]

www.voice-for-adoption.org

