

December 16, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for legislation (S. 1927 / H.R. 485) that would reauthorize the Adoption Opportunities program. We urge you to move quickly to ensure passage of this legislation before Congress adjourns for the year.

The Adoption Opportunities program provides federal discretionary funds for projects designed to eliminate barriers to adoption, including for children in the foster care system. According to the latest federal estimates, over 100,000 children in foster care are still waiting to be adopted. Without additional action, many will never be adopted. Others may be adopted but will face additional challenges due to insufficient support for post-adoption services.

Both the House and Senate reauthorization bills include provisions that will address these needs. Each would reauthorize the Adoption Opportunities program through FY 2027. They also include new provisions that would address such important issues as providing grants for improving post-adoption services, adding family-finding and kinship notification to recruitment programs, providing adoption competency training for mental health needs, addressing unregulated custody transfers, developing evidence-based and evidence-informed adoption services, and studying the causes of adoption disruption and dissolution.

The House and Senate bills would also both reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). CAPTA, which includes the Adoption Opportunities program as one of its titles, supports the full continuum of services to children and families – from primary and secondary prevention initiatives that keep child abuse and neglect from occurring to interventions that protect children who are maltreated. Both CAPTA and the Adoption Opportunities program are vitally important to the families we serve.

We urge you to prioritize this legislation and to ensure its enactment before the end of the year. Thank you for your work on these issues and for your commitment to the many thousands of children and families who benefit from these programs.

Sincerely,

18 Degrees Family Services
Adopt America Network
Adoption Connection of JFCS
Adoption Network Cleveland
Adoption Rhode Island
Adoptions Together
Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York
Advocates for Children and Families
Agape of NC Inc.

Ampersand Families
Arizona's Children Association
Aspiranet
Benchmarks
Better Life Children Services
Boys Town New England
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Canopy Children's Solutions
Catholic Charities of Jackson
Center for Adoption Support and Education
Child and Family Charities
Child Welfare League of America
Children & Families First, Delaware
Children Awaiting Parents
Children's Alliance of Kansas, Inc.
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Alliance
Children's Home & Aid
Children's Home Society of America
Children's Home Society of Minnesota
Children's Home Society of NC
Children's Home Society of West Virginia
Children's League of Massachusetts
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Christ Child House
Christian Homes & Family Services
Chrysalis House, Inc.
City and County of San Francisco, Human Services Agency
Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families (COCAF)
Communities for People
Community Solutions, Inc.
Cornerstones of Care
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Every Child, Inc.
Family & Children's Services
Family Builders by Adoption
Family Builders Network
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Service Rhode Island
FASD Network of Southern California
Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
Forever Bound Adoption
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center
Foster Change, the Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Parent Association of Southern Nevada
FosterAdopt Connect.
Hands Across The Water
Hawaii International Child dba A Family Tree
Hopscotch Adoptions, Inc.
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Jammatt Housing and Community Development Corp
Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children
Koinonia Family Services
Lakeside Community Committee

Latino Family Institute
Let It Be Us
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
Massachusetts Alliance for Foster Families
MCHS Family of Services
Meritan, Inc.
Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
Michigan Federation for Children and Families
Mississippi Families for Kids
Missouri Coalition for Children
Monarch Family Services
National Adoption Association
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Council For Adoption
National Family Support Network
New Beginnings Adoption & Family Services
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
New Light Child & Family Institute
New York Council on Adoptable Children (COAC)
North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
Northwest Resource Associates
Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)
Pacific Clinics
Pathway Consulting
Plummer Youth Promise
Raise the Future
Salvation Army Children's Services
Seneca Family of Agencies
Serenity, Inc., Foster Care & Adoption
Social Current
Spaulding for Children
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families
Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
The Center for Youth and Family Solutions
The Family Focused Treatment Association
The Neighborhood Center, Inc.
The Providence Center
The Salvation Army Foster Care & Adoption Services
The Villages of Indiana
TRAC Services for Families
Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services
Voice for Adoption
Voices For Children Advocacy Center
Wayfinder Family Services
Wyoming Children's Society
Youth for Change
Youth Villages