



DAY OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

THESE CUTS WON'T HEAL!

Join us for Virtual Lobby Day
Wednesday, March 29th

Dear friend of children:

Can't make it to this year's Child Welfare League of America National Conference? You can still lend your voice to help children and families. This **Wednesday**, March 29, during our conference, while hundreds of children's advocates visit Capitol Hill to talk to their Members of Congress, you can **join us virtually**.

There has never been a more important time for your voice to be heard!

Tell your Senators and Representatives to make children a national priority. Children are our future—especially our most vulnerable kids, who we must support and protect.

Ask Congress to:

- (1) Prioritize children in the federal budget. Lift the budget caps for Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD), and reject elimination of the Social Services Block Grant;
- (2) Vote NO on any repeal of the Affordable Care Act without a replacement which includes affordable, quality coverage; and
- (3) Pass comprehensive immigration reform, including rejecting separating children from parents as an enforcement tool.

The child welfare system is already under resourced. Budget proposals coming from the new administration and leaders in Congress will make matters worse for families and may well drive more children to the child welfare system. Children's programs should not be targets for elimination or severe budget cuts such as being proposed. In particular the Social Services Block Grant is the largest source of funds for child protective services and has been the target for elimination among Congressional leaders.

Children who have suffered from the trauma of abuse and neglect should not lose access to health and mental health services. Every child deserves protection. If we as a nation don't live up to our responsibilities then too many children will be lost or worse will not grow up to be contributing members of society.

Immigration reform must be enacted. There needs to be a structured coordination between child welfare agencies and immigration officials to prevent the unnecessary separation of children and families. This includes rejecting separating families as an immigration enforcement tool.

As a part of the CWLA National Conference, hundreds of professionals are heading to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to make children a priority! You can join them virtually and be part of the largest day of action on behalf of vulnerable children and families.

Review this year's CWLA policy priorities [here](#). Consider what the children and families in your community need. Visit the CWLA Policy Priorities on the advocacy page for more information on these issues. Then contact your representatives on Wednesday, the 29th. You can email, call or tweet, whichever works best for you. The important thing is to contact them!

Need help identifying and contacting your Senators and Representatives? Click [here](#). If you can make a phone call here is the number to the Capitol Hill switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

You can also tell your friends and colleagues that they, too, should lend their voices for children and families. Here's how:

Email a friend:

Dear friend,

Did you know that this Wednesday, March 29th, is going to be the year's largest national advocacy event of the year for child welfare, human service, and behavioral health professionals? I'm calling my Senators and Representatives using the Capitol Switchboard number, (202) 224-3121, to tell them to prioritize children and families. Join me and the Child Welfare League of America by learning more on their website [here](#), and calling your Congressional representatives, too.

Post a message on Facebook:

Today is CWLA's Advocacy Day for vulnerable children and families. Join us and hundreds of child welfare advocates by contacting your Senators and Representatives at (202) 224-3121!

Ask Congress to: (1) lift the budget caps for Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD), and reject elimination of the Social Services Block Grant; (2) vote NO on any repeal of the Affordable Care Act without a replacement which includes affordable, quality coverage; and (3) pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Spread the word on Twitter:

Join CWLA's Advocacy Day efforts. Prioritize #children and #families. #CWLASuccess2017
Congress must lead the way in prioritizing kids. #CWLASuccess2017

Protect funding for programs serving vulnerable children and families. #children & #families
#CWLAsuccess2017

Protect the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) #CWLAsuccess2017
#ProtectSocialServicesBlockGrant

Vote NO on any repeal of the Affordable Care Act without a replacement. #CWLAsuccess2017

Protect Medicaid from block grants including a per capita cap. #children #families

Pass comprehensive immigration reform. #supportimmigrantfamilies #CWLAsuccess2017

Make children and families a national priority! #CWLAsuccess2017 #children #families

ACTION REQUIRED

Join us! Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives. To be connected with your representative, dial (202) 224-3121. Need help identifying and contacting your Senators and Representatives? Click [here](#).

MESSAGE

Ask Congress to: (1) lift the budget caps for Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD), reject elimination of the Social Services Block Grant; (2) vote NO on any repeal of the Affordable Care Act without a replacement which includes affordable, quality coverage; and (3) pass comprehensive immigration reform.

More information is available, including background material, at CWLA.org/advocacy.