



Dear Colleague:

The next several months promise to be challenging for the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and other organizations fighting to maximize our country's support for children and families. Fifteen million children in the United States currently are living in poverty, with 23% of children under age 5 living below the poverty line—more per capita than in any other industrialized nation. If proposed budget cuts are achieved, we will see thousands more children pushed into poverty or even deeper into poverty.

More than ever before in our close-to-100-year history, CWLA needs to mobilize as many advocates for children as possible under the CWLA umbrella. We need to ensure that when we meet with elected officials on Capitol Hill, we can say that we represent children in each lawmaker's home district. CWLA members have been a valuable force in support of our federal policy efforts: their visits and relationships with their congressional leaders, participation on panel discussions, and active support of the CWLA Advocacy Agenda have made a profound difference. Over the years, CWLA has been at the forefront of the fight for passage of every major child welfare bill and has been a partner with other national organizations on child and family legislation related to substance use, domestic violence, mental health, home health care, prevention of child maltreatment, housing and homelessness, and other issues that help children who are vulnerable and their families.

We cannot stand by quietly and watch our children robbed of their opportunity to flourish as much of the progress made over the years is dismantled.

In recognition of this unprecedented time in our country's history and its potential negative impact on children, we are asking individuals, organizations, and agencies that work with or care about children to **join our cause by becoming a member of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)**. There is an affordable membership category for everyone, and for the next six weeks (ending July 30) we are offering organizations and agencies seeking new membership the opportunity to join for two years (2017 and 2018) for the price of one.

- Direct Service Organization Membership: \$750 - \$6,000
- Supporting Partner (non-direct) Organization Membership: \$750
- Corporate/For-Profit Organization Membership: \$2,500 - \$10,000

We also offer individual membership (\$95 - \$175) for anyone who wants to personally support our efforts. New members can join online at [CWLA Membership](#) or contact us at MemberServices@cwla.org for assistance.

In addition to our strong national advocacy, members receive discounts on CWLA conference registrations and various publications. Please join us and encourage others to be part of this important cause. The more people we represent when we meet with Congressional leaders every week, the more closely they will listen. We are a nearly 100 year-old, bipartisan organization. We work with people on both sides of the aisle who share our commitment to children and families, and to creating a world where all children flourish.

Join today and be a part of this very important battle for children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine James Brown".

Christine James-Brown
President & CEO