116TH CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE: REAUTHORIZE AND FUND THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TREATMENT ACT AND THE COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TREATMENT ACT

- Congress must reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); and then provide $500 million in state CAPTA grants and provide $500 million for the Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect/CB-CAP.

CONGRESS MUST COMMIT TO CUT CHILD POVERTY IN HALF IN TEN YEARS

- The National Academies of Sciences (the National Academies) has released a new study on reducing child poverty in the United States, A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty. The study included analysis of the economic, health, and social costs of child poverty, as well as the effectiveness of current anti-poverty programs--including international, federal, state, and local efforts--to reduce child poverty.

OPPOSE DISCRIMINATION IN THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AND RECUITMENT OF PARENTS

- Child welfare agencies must make decisions on the recruitment of parents and the placement of children based on what is in the best interest of the child. Congress must oppose any legislation that allows discrimination in recruitment of foster and adoptive parents and must protects and respects the needs of youth in foster care.

SUPPORT THE CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

- Support and pass the Child Care for Working Families Act, HR 1364 and S 586. The Child Care for Working Families act will provide for cost-sharing between the federal government and states to provide high-quality, affordable child care from birth through age 13 and will more than double the number of children eligible for child care assistance and ensure all those who are eligible can enroll their child in a quality program.

PROTECT FAMILIES, DREAMERS, AND CHILDREN AT THE BORDER & IN THE UNITED STATES

- We call on Congress to enact fair immigration reform, to suspend mass deportations, and oppose policies that seek to deter immigration by taking children from their parents.
- Congress needs to protect DACA-status immigrants and prevent the separation of children from their families by passing the DREAM Act and related immigration reform legislation.

STABLE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES IN CHILD WELFARE

- Congress must support cross-system coordination and implementation between HUD and HHS; more evidence-based housing models, in particular supportive housing; program guidance from HHS in implementation of Family First Prevention Services Act to expand access of services for families post reunification; and new Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers for children, youth and families from the foster care system.

HEALTH CARE IS CHILD WELFARE: PROTECT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) AND MEDICAID

- Congress must protect the ACA and oppose all block grants of Medicaid. Efforts to cut health insurance coverage will hurt efforts to reduce child abuse and foster care placements.

REJECT BLOCK GRANTS OF CHILD WELFARE AND OTHER VITAL HUMAN SERVICES

- It is argued that block grants are about innovation and state flexibility but we believe block grants are not about results but about cutting federal spending on children and families. The National Academies Report A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty in examining block grants concluded: “Block grants that are adequately funded and sustained over time, and that provide for countercyclical relief, may serve local populations well by providing more fiscal flexibility for state and local governments.