



November 4, 2019

The Honorable Danny Davis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Worker & Family Support  
United State House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Worker & Family Support  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Davis and Ranking Member Walorski:  
Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

The Child Welfare League of America endorses the Family First Transition Act.

The legislation will help state child welfare agencies access the new intervention funding made available by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. This comes at an important time when the nation has experienced a near ten percent increase in foster care placements, much of it due to the impact that the recent opioid epidemic has had on the ability of families to support their children and keep them safe.

We believe the added \$500 million in funding will provide important resources to states building in-home services and better coordination of needed substance use and mental health services. We appreciate the legislation's temporary delays in some of the spending thresholds on meeting specific evidence-based standards while states build up their research, development, inventory and implementation of well-supported, supported, and promising services.

CWLA looks forward to our continued work with both committees in the coming months. We must continue to build a continuum of child welfare services from primary prevention, intervention, strong permanency outcomes and greater support for youth that exit care without a family.

Sincerely,

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

Christine James-Brown  
President/CEO, Child Welfare League of America