



December 2, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Senator Patty Murray
Chairwoman
HELP Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Burr
Ranking Member
HELP Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Murray, and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the Child Welfare League of America and more than 60 of our member and partner organizations from around the country, we write to ask you to prioritize the inclusion of S.1927, the CAPTA Reauthorization Act, in the year-end omnibus bill. As the end of the 117th Congress approaches, we applaud the tireless efforts of the leaders of the Senate HELP Committee to negotiate a comprehensive, bipartisan reauthorization bill for this important piece of legislation; we urge you to ensure that their efforts come to a successful conclusion this year.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is foundational to our nation's system for preventing child abuse and neglect and protecting children who have experienced serious harm. The current law has not been reauthorized in more than a decade and, thanks to the leadership and thoughtfulness of Senators Murray and Burr, the CAPTA Reauthorization Act is the strongest CAPTA reauthorization bill we are likely to see. The bill includes several provisions that will improve the current law, including strengthening the emphasis on prevention and family strengthening, promoting race equity, improving transparency and accountability, providing critically-needed funding increases that will help states implement the important provisions in Titles I and II of the law, and adding new focuses on preventing fatalities due to child abuse and neglect and addressing the needs of infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families. The bill also increases authorized funding for adoptions and strengthens support for post-adoption services, recruitment of parents who adopt that are racially and ethnically diverse, and research on adoption disruptions and dissolutions.

The improvements in this bill are vitally important for our communities and reflect the needs of children and families that we serve. As you lead the efforts to draft, compile, and ensure passage



of a year-end omnibus, we thank you for being champions for our children and families and we ask you to make sure that this reauthorization bill is included in the final package of the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

Christine James Brown

Chris James-Brown
President and CEO of CWLA

and

CWLA Member Organizations:

A Greater Hope
Acenda
Adoption Option Inc
Beautiful Step LLC
CarePortal
Center for Adoption Support and Education
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Alliance
Children's Bureau of Southern California
Children's League of Massachusetts
Children's Services Council of Broward County
Children's Service Society of Utah
CHRIS 180, Inc.
Clover (formerly Kingsley House)
County of Santa Clara
CSH
Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
EElas and Company
Embrella, Embracing & Empowering Families
Evident Change
Extraordinary Families
Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)
Forever Families, Inc.
FosterAdopt Connect



Gateway
HALOS - Helping And Lending Outreach and Support
Heartland for Children
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Jonathan D. Conant, Attorney At Law PLLC
Judson Center, Inc.
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
MercyFirst
Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Michigan Federation for Children and Families
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Partners for Our Children, Seattle, WA
Passaic County CASA for Children
Raise the Future
SAFY of Kentucky
Shelter, Inc
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families
Tawanda Hubbard, LCSW, LLC
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research at the University of Pennsylvania
Uspiritus
Youth Villages
Wayfinder Family Services
Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

Partner Organizations:

Arbor Youth Services
Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan
Christ Child House
Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy
D.A. Blodgett - St. John's
Dr. Mildred Delozia, LCSW dba Generations to Come Children and Family Services
Hands Across The Water
Livingston County Catholic Charities
Maryhurst
St. Joseph Children's Home
Seneca Family of Agencies
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan
U.P. KIDS

