



CWLA Statement on the Passage of the Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act

The Child Welfare League of America thanks Congressional leaders for enacting the bipartisan *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act*, which reauthorizes and invests new resources into Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, a critical child welfare program.

This legislation increases funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program by \$75M per year, ensuring that every state will receive an increased base allotment to serve children and families. This new funding also includes \$10M more for both the Court Improvement Program (CIP) and the Regional Partnership Grants (RPGs), two programs that provide important training, resources and supports for families with child welfare involvement, and an additional \$6M for child welfare workforce initiatives. Child welfare funding has declined over the past three decades, both in real dollars and in inflation-adjusted levels, and this investment is a critical first step in addressing this decline.

This reauthorization package also includes several important policy improvements and reforms to support the child welfare workforce, address poverty by providing concrete and economic supports for families, support kinship caregivers, promote peer supports for youth and caregivers, fund research of evidence-based programs, collect data on disruptions and dissolutions of adoptions, and provide additional funding and support for Indian tribes and tribal communities.

We thank the bipartisan Congressional champions whose leadership made this progress possible, including House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO), House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA), House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare Chair Darin LaHood (R-IL), Subcommittee Ranking Member Danny Davis (D-IL), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and John Cornyn (R-TX).

CWLA looks forward to working collaboratively with our members, national, state and local partners, and bipartisan policymakers to support the implementation of these reforms.