

year-round job, making them particularly vulnerable.

When a household falls into poverty, children are exposed to increased parental distress, inadequate childcare arrangements, and poor nutrition. In past recessions, it took many years for employment and incomes to rebound, and low-income families rebound more slowly than others.

Public benefits such as TANF help families bridge the gaps in difficult economic times and are critical in reducing the effects of a recession. Cutting these supports will hurt child and family wellbeing and damage the Texas economy by taking money out of the private economy for critical local businesses such as grocery stores and medical providers.

Although TANF is not perfect, I believe that is an essential part of the safety net for very low-income families with children. These benefits do not provide families with the ability to live a lavish life style, they do provide a life line to families at a critical time in their lives, such as periods of unemployment or disability, or when a newborn joins a family. The goal of TANF is to be a temporary safety net and to help families in need to regain their balance, when a hard time causes them to lose their balance.

TANF provides access to paths out of poverty through services such as job training or counseling for mental health issues. State also uses the block grants for a wide range of work supports, including child care and transportation. For these reasons I support H.R. 2943.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2943.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2883) to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2883

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act".

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM.

(a) **EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.**—Section 425 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 625) is amended by striking "2007 through 2011" and inserting "2012 through 2016".

(b) **MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **RESPONSE TO EMOTIONAL TRAUMA.**—Section 422(b)(15)(A)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C.

622(b)(15)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting ", including emotional trauma associated with a child's maltreatment and removal from home" before the semicolon.

(2) **PROCEDURES ON THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS.**—Section 422(b)(15)(A)(v) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15)(A)(v)) is amended by inserting ", including protocols for the appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic medications" before the semicolon.

(3) **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.**—Section 422(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (16);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (17) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(18) include a description of the activities that the State has undertaken to reduce the length of time children who have not attained 5 years of age are without a permanent family, and the activities the State undertakes to address the developmental needs of such children who receive benefits or services under this part or part E."

(4) **DATA SOURCES FOR CHILD DEATH REPORTING.**—Section 422(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)), as amended by paragraph (3) of this subsection, is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (17);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (18) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(19) contain a description of the sources used to compile information on child maltreatment deaths required by Federal law to be reported by the State agency referred to in paragraph (1), and to the extent that the compilation does not include information on such deaths from the State vital statistics department, child death review teams, law enforcement agencies, or offices of medical examiners or coroners, the State shall describe why the information is not so included and how the State will include the information."

(c) **CHILD VISITATION BY CASEWORKERS.**—Section 424 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 624) is amended by striking the 2nd subsection (e), as added by section 7(b) of the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006, and inserting the following:

"(f)(1)(A) Each State shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the total number of visits made by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care under the responsibility of the State during a fiscal year is not less than 90 percent (or, in the case of fiscal year 2015 or thereafter, 95 percent) of the total number of such visits that would occur during the fiscal year if each such child were so visited once every month while in such care.

"(B) If the Secretary determines that a State has failed to comply with subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, then the percentage that would otherwise apply for purposes of subsection (a) for the fiscal year shall be reduced by—

"(i) 1, if the number of full percentage points by which the State fell short of the percentage specified in subparagraph (A) is less than 10;

"(ii) 3, if the number of full percentage points by which the State fell short, as described in clause (i), is not less than 10 and less than 20; or

"(iii) 5, if the number of full percentage points by which the State fell short, as described in clause (i), is not less than 20.

"(2)(A) Each State shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that not less than 50 percent of the total number of visits made by caseworkers to children in foster care under the responsibility of the State during a fiscal year occur in the residence of the child involved.

"(B) If the Secretary determines that a State has failed to comply with subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, then the percentage that would

otherwise apply for purposes of subsection (a) for the fiscal year shall be reduced by—

"(i) 1, if the number of full percentage points by which the State fell short of the percentage specified in subparagraph (A) is less than 10;

"(ii) 3, if the number of full percentage points by which the State fell short, as described in clause (i), is not less than 10 and less than 20; or

"(iii) 5, if the number of full percentage points by which the State fell short, as described in clause (i), is not less than 20."

(d) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 423(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 623(b)) is amended by striking "per centum" each place it appears and inserting "percent".

SEC. 102. PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM.

(a) **EXTENSION OF FUNDING AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 436(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(a)) is amended by striking all that follows "\$345,000,000" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016."

(2) **DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.**—Section 437(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(a)) is amended by striking "2007 through 2011" and inserting "2012 through 2016".

(b) **TARGETING OF SERVICES TO POPULATIONS AT GREATEST RISK OF MALTREATMENT.**—Section 432(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (8);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (9) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(10) describes how the State identifies which populations are at the greatest risk of maltreatment and how services are targeted to the populations."

(c) **REVISED PURPOSES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES AND TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES.**—

(1) **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Section 431(a)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term 'family support services' means community-based services designed to carry out the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

"(B) **PURPOSES DESCRIBED.**—The purposes described in this subparagraph are the following:

"(i) To promote the safety and well-being of children and families.

"(ii) To increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families).

"(iii) To increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.

"(iv) To afford children a safe, stable, and supportive family environment.

"(v) To strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages.

"(vi) To enhance child development, including through mentoring (as defined in section 439(b)(2))."

(2) **TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES.**—Section 431(a)(7)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(7)(B)) is amended by redesignating clause (vi) as clause (viii) and inserting after clause (v) the following:

"(vi) Peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers.

"(vii) Services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings."

(d) **UNIFORM DEFINITIONS OF INDIAN TRIBE AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—Section 431(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(5) and (6)) is amended by striking paragraphs (5) and (6) and inserting the following:

"(5) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 428(c).

"(6) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term 'tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 428(c)."

(e) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF STATE SUMMARIES OF FINANCIAL DATA; PUBLICATION ON HHS WEBSITE.—Section 432(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking all that precedes “shall” and inserting the following:

“(c) ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF STATE REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding after and below the end the following:

“(2) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED.—The compilation shall include the individual State reports and tables that synthesize State information into national totals for each element required to be included in the reports, including planned and actual spending by service category for the program authorized under this subpart and planned spending by service category for the program authorized under subpart 1.

“(3) PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Secretary shall publish the compilation on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services in a location easily accessible by the public.”.

(f) GAO REPORT ON MULTIPLE SOURCES OF FEDERAL SPENDING AND FAMILY ACCESS TO SERVICES.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) identifies alternative sources of Federal funding that are being employed by States or other entities for the same purposes for which funding is provided under subpart 1 or 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act; and

(2) assesses the needs of families eligible for services under such program, including identification of underserved communities and information regarding—

(A) the supports available for caseworkers to appropriately investigate and safely manage their caseloads;

(B) the length of the wait time for families to receive substance abuse and other preventive services; and

(C) the number of families on waiting lists for such services and the effect of the delay on healthy, successful reunification outcomes for such families.

(g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) Section 432(a)(8)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(a)(8)(B)) is amended in each of clauses (i) and (ii) by striking “forms CFS 101—Part I and CFS 101—Part II (or any successor forms)” and inserting “form CFS-101 (including all parts and any successor forms)”.

(2) Section 433(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629c(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FOOD STAMP” and inserting “SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS”; and

(B) by striking “benefits benefits” each place it appears and inserting “benefits”.

SEC. 103. GRANTS FOR TARGETED PURPOSES.

(a) EXTENSION OF FUNDING RESERVATIONS FOR MONTHLY CASEWORKER VISITS AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—Section 436(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “433(e)” and all that follows and inserting “433(e) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “437(f)” and all that follows and inserting “437(f) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016.”.

(b) REVISION IN USE OF MONTHLY CASEWORKER VISITS GRANTS.—Section 436(b)(4)(B)(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)(4)(B)(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking “support” and insert “improve the quality of”; and

(2) by striking “a primary emphasis” and all that follows and inserting “an emphasis on improving caseworker decision making on the safe-

ty, permanency, and well-being of foster children and on activities designed to increase retention, recruitment, and training of caseworkers.”; and

(c) REAUTHORIZATION OF REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS TO ASSIST CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE.—

(1) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 437(f)(3)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “2007 through 2011” and inserting “2012 through 2016”.

(2) REVISIONS TO PROGRAM.—Section 437(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “METHAMPHETAMINE OR OTHER”;

(B) in each of paragraphs (1), (4)(A), (7)(A)(i), and (9)(B)(iii), by striking “methamphetamine or other”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) REQUIRED MINIMUM PERIOD OF APPROVAL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant shall be awarded under this subsection for a period of not less than 2, and not more than 5, fiscal years, subject to clause (ii).

“(ii) EXTENSION OF GRANT.—On application of the grantee, the Secretary may extend for not more than 2 fiscal years the period for which a grant is awarded under this subsection.

“(C) MULTIPLE GRANTS ALLOWED.—This subsection shall not be interpreted to prevent a grantee from applying for, or being awarded, separate grants under this subsection.”;

(D) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of clause (ii);

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) 70 percent for the sixth such fiscal year; and

(v) 65 percent for the seventh such fiscal year.”;

(E) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking “shall—” and all that follows through “(A) take” and inserting “shall take”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

(iii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iv) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and moving each of such provisions 2 ems to the left; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE SECRETARY.—

Not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated or reserved for awarding grants under this subsection for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 may be used by the Secretary for salaries and Department of Health and Human Services administrative expenses in administering this subsection.”.

(3) EVALUATIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2012, and not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall evaluate the effectiveness of the grants awarded to regional partnerships under section 437(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)) and shall publish a report regarding the results of each evaluation on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services. Each report required to be published under this subsection shall include—

(A) an evaluation of the programs and activities conducted, and the services provided, with the grant funds awarded under such section for fiscal years 2007 through 2011, in the case of the evaluation required by December 31, 2012, and for fiscal years 2012 through 2016, in the case of the evaluation required by December 31, 2017;

(B) an analysis of the regional partnerships awarded such grants that have, and have not, been successful in achieving the goals and outcomes specified in their grant applications and with respect to the performance indicators established by the Secretary under paragraph (8) of such section that are applicable to their grant awards; and

(C) an analysis of the extent to which such grants have been successful in addressing the needs of families with methamphetamine or other substance abuse problems who come to the attention of the child welfare system and in achieving the goals of child safety, permanence, and family stability.

SEC. 104. COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) GRANT PURPOSES.—Section 438(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting “, including the requirements in the Act related to concurrent planning;”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) to increase and improve engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption;”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting “(A)” after “(4)”;

(B) by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding after and below the end the following:

“(B) to increase and improve engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption.”.

(b) SINGLE GRANT APPLICATION.—Section 438(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) SINGLE GRANT APPLICATION.—Pursuant to the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection, a highest State court desiring a grant under this section shall submit a single application to the Secretary that specifies whether the application is for a grant for—

“(A) the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a);

“(B) the purpose described in subsection (a)(3);

“(C) the purpose described in subsection (a)(4); or

“(D) the purposes referred to in 2 or more (specifically identified) subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this paragraph.”.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—Section 438(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (b)(2) that refers to 1 or more grant purposes for which an application of a highest State court is approved under this section, the court shall be entitled to payment, for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016, from the amount allocated under paragraph (3) of this subsection for grants for the purpose or purposes, of an amount equal to \$85,000 plus the amount described in paragraph (2) of this subsection with respect to the purpose or purposes.

“(2) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount described in this paragraph for any fiscal year with respect to the purpose or purposes referred to in a subparagraph of subsection (b)(2) is the amount that bears the same ratio to the total of the amounts allocated under paragraph (3) of this subsection for grants for the purpose or purposes as the number of individuals in the State who have not attained 21 years of age bears to the total number of such individuals in all States the highest State courts of which have approved applications under this section for grants for the purpose or purposes.

“(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

“(A) MANDATORY FUNDS.—Of the amounts reserved under section 436(b)(2) for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate—

“(i) \$9,000,000 for grants for the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a);

“(ii) \$10,000,000 for grants for the purpose described in subsection (a)(3);

“(iii) \$10,000,000 for grants for the purpose described in subsection (a)(4); and

“(iv) \$1,000,000 for grants to be awarded on a competitive basis among the highest courts of Indian tribes or tribal consortia that—

“(I) are operating a program under part E, in accordance with section 479B;

“(II) are seeking to operate a program under part E and have received an implementation grant under section 476; or

“(III) has a court responsible for proceedings related to foster care or adoption.

“(B) DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.—The Secretary shall allocate all of the amounts reserved under section 437(b)(2) for grants for the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).”

(d) EXTENSION OF FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 438(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(d)) is amended by striking “2002 through 2011” and inserting “2012 through 2016”.

(e) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Effective as if included in the enactment of the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006, section 8(b) of such Act (120 Stat. 513) is amended by striking “438(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 638(b))” inserting “438(b)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(b)(1))”.

SEC. 105. DATA STANDARDIZATION FOR IMPROVED DATA MATCHING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621–629i) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subpart 3—Common Provisions

“SEC. 440. DATA STANDARDIZATION FOR IMPROVED DATA MATCHING.

“(a) STANDARD DATA ELEMENTS.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with an interagency work group established by the Office of Management and Budget, and considering State perspectives, shall, by rule, designate standard data elements for any category of information required to be reported under this part.

“(2) DATA ELEMENTS MUST BE NONPROPRIETARY AND INTEROPERABLE.—The standard data elements designated under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable, be nonproprietary and interoperable.

“(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In designating standard data elements under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate—

“(A) interoperable standards developed and maintained by an international voluntary consensus standards body, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, such as the International Organization for Standardization;

“(B) interoperable standards developed and maintained by intergovernmental partnerships, such as the National Information Exchange Model; and

“(C) interoperable standards developed and maintained by Federal entities with authority over contracting and financial assistance, such as the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council.

“(b) DATA STANDARDS FOR REPORTING.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with an interagency work group established by the Office of Management and Budget, and considering State government perspectives, shall, by rule, designate data reporting standards to govern the reporting required under this part.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The data reporting standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) incorporate a widely-accepted, non-proprietary, searchable, computer-readable format;

“(B) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles; and

“(C) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF NONPROPRIETARY STANDARDS.—In designating reporting standards under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate existing non-

proprietary standards, such as the eXtensible Business Reporting Language.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2012, and shall apply with respect to information required to be reported on or after such date.

SEC. 106. PROVISIONS RELATING TO FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION.

(a) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR EACH FOSTER PLACEMENT.—Section 475(1)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(1)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “the placement” and inserting “each placement”; and

(2) in clause (ii)(I), by inserting “each” before “placement”.

(b) FOSTER YOUTH ID THEFT.—Section 475(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (G);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) each child in foster care under the responsibility of the State who has attained 16 years of age receives without cost a copy of any consumer report (as defined in section 603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act) pertaining to the child each year until the child is discharged from care, and receives assistance (including, when feasible, from any court-appointed advocate for the child) in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report.”.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF ADOPTION SPENDING.—Section 473(a)(8) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(8)) is amended by inserting “, and shall document how such amounts are spent, including on post-adoption services” before the period.

(d) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CHILD VISITATION BY CASEWORKERS.—Section 479A(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 679b(6)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the total number of visits made by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care under the responsibility of the State during a fiscal year as a percentage of the total number of the visits that would occur during the fiscal year if each child were so visited once every month while in such care; and”.

SEC. 107. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on October 1, 2011, and shall apply to payments under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, without regard to whether regulations to implement the amendments are promulgated by such date.

(b) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan developed pursuant to subpart 1 of part B, or a State plan approved under subpart 2 of part B or part E, of title IV of the Social Security Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this title, the plan shall not be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

TITLE II—CHILD WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

SEC. 201. RENEWAL OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS DESIGNED TO TEST INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES IN STATE CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS.

Section 1130 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–9) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) LIMITATION.—During fiscal years 2012 through 2014, the Secretary may authorize demonstration projects described in paragraph (1), with not more than 10 demonstration projects to be authorized in each fiscal year.”.

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) CONDITIONS FOR STATE ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of a new demonstration project under this section that is initially approved in any of fiscal years 2012 through 2014, a State shall be authorized to conduct such demonstration project only if the State satisfies the following conditions:

“(A) IDENTIFY 1 OR MORE GOALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall demonstrate that the demonstration project is designed to accomplish 1 or more of the following goals:

“(I) Increase permanency for all infants, children, and youth by reducing the time in foster placements when possible and promoting a successful transition to adulthood for older youth.

“(II) Increase positive outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families in their homes and communities, including tribal communities, and improve the safety and well-being of infants, children, and youth.

“(III) Prevent child abuse and neglect and the re-entry of infants, children, and youth into foster care.

“(ii) LONG-TERM THERAPEUTIC FAMILY TREATMENT CENTERS; ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—With respect to a demonstration project that is designed to accomplish 1 or more of the goals described in clause (i), the State may elect to establish a program—

“(I) to permit foster care maintenance payments to be made under part E of title IV to a long-term therapeutic family treatment center (as described in paragraph (8)(B)) on behalf of a child residing in the center; or

“(II) to identify and address domestic violence that endangers children and results in the placement of children in foster care.

“(B) DEMONSTRATE READINESS.—The State shall demonstrate through a narrative description the State’s capacity to effectively use the authority to conduct a demonstration project under this section by identifying changes the State has made or plans to make in policies, procedures, or other elements of the State’s child welfare program that will enable the State to successfully achieve the goal or goals of the project.

“(C) DEMONSTRATE IMPLEMENTED OR PLANNED CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT POLICIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall demonstrate that the State has implemented, or plans to implement within 3 years of the date on which the State submits its application to conduct the demonstration project or 2 years after the date on which the Secretary approves such demonstration project (whichever is later), at least 2 of the child welfare program improvement policies described in paragraph (7).

“(ii) PREVIOUS IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of the requirement described in clause (i), at least 1 of the child welfare program improvement policies to be implemented by the State shall be a policy that the State has not previously implemented as of the date on which the State submits an application to conduct the demonstration project.

“(iii) IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW.—The Secretary may terminate the authority of a State to

conduct a demonstration project under this section if, after the 3-year period following approval of the demonstration project, the State has not made significant progress in implementing the child welfare program improvement policies proposed by the State under clause (i).";

(C) in paragraph (5), by inserting "and the ability of the State to implement a corrective action plan approved under section 1123A" before the period; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) **INAPPLICABILITY OF RANDOM ASSIGNMENT FOR CONTROL GROUPS AS A FACTOR FOR APPROVAL OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**—For purposes of evaluating an application to conduct a demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall not take into consideration whether such project requires random assignment of children and families to groups served under the project and to control groups.

"(7) **CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT POLICIES.**—For purposes of paragraph (3)(C), the child welfare program improvement policies described in this paragraph are the following:

"(A) The establishment of a bill of rights for infants, children, and youth in foster care that is widely shared and clearly outlines protections for infants, children, and youth, such as assuring frequent visits with parents, siblings, and caseworkers, access to attorneys, and participation in age-appropriate extracurricular activities, and procedures for ensuring the protections are provided.

"(B) The development and implementation of a plan for meeting the health and mental health needs of infants, children, and youth in foster care that includes ensuring that the provision of health and mental health care is child-specific, comprehensive, appropriate, and consistent (through means such as ensuring the infant, child, or youth has a medical home, regular wellness medical visits, and addressing the issue of trauma, when appropriate).

"(C) The inclusion in the State plan under section 471 of an amendment implementing the option under subsection (a)(28) of that section to enter into kinship guardianship assistance agreements.

"(D) The election under the State plan under section 471 to define a 'child' for purposes of the provision of foster care maintenance payments, adoption assistance payments, and kinship guardianship assistance payments, so as to include individuals described in each of subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of section 475(8)(B)(i) who have not attained age 21.

"(E) The development and implementation of a plan that ensures congregate care is used appropriately and reduces the placement of children and youth in such care.

"(F) Of those infants, children, and youth in out-of-home placements, substantially increasing the number of cases of siblings who are in the same foster care, kinship guardianship, or adoptive placement, above the number of such cases in fiscal year 2008.

"(G) The development and implementation of a plan to improve the recruitment and retention of high quality foster family homes trained to help assist infants, children, and youth swiftly secure permanent families. Supports for foster families under such a plan may include increasing maintenance payments to more adequately meet the needs of infants, children, and youth in foster care and expanding training, respice care, and other support services for foster parents.

"(H) The establishment of procedures designed to assist youth as they prepare for their transition out of foster care, such as arranging for participation in age-appropriate extra-curricular activities, providing appropriate access to cell phones, computers, and opportunities to obtain a driver's license, providing notification of all sibling placements if siblings are in care and sibling location if siblings are out of care, and providing counseling and financial support for post-secondary education.

"(I) The inclusion in the State plan under section 471 of a description of State procedures for—

"(i) ensuring that youth in foster care who have attained age 16 are engaged in discussions, including during the development of the transition plans required under paragraphs (1)(D) and (5)(H) of section 475, that explore whether the youth wishes to reconnect with the youth's biological family, including parents, grandparents, and siblings, and, if so, what skills and strategies the youth will need to successfully and safely reconnect with those family members;

"(ii) providing appropriate guidance and services to youth whom affirm an intent to reconnect with biological family members on how to successfully and safely manage such reconnections; and

"(iii) making, when appropriate, efforts to include biological family members in such reconnection efforts.

"(J) The establishment of one or more of the following programs designed to prevent infants, children, and youth from entering foster care or to provide permanency for infants, children, and youth in foster care:

"(i) An intensive family finding program.

"(ii) A kinship navigator program.

"(iii) A family counseling program, such as a family group decision-making program, and which may include in-home peer support for families.

"(iv) A comprehensive family-based substance abuse treatment program.

"(v) A program under which special efforts are made to identify and address domestic violence that endangers infants, children, and youth and puts them at risk of entering foster care.

"(vi) A mentoring program.

"(8) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'youth' means, with respect to a State, an individual who has attained age 12 but has not attained the age at which an individual is no longer considered to be a child under the State plans under parts B and E of title IV, and

"(B) the term 'long-term therapeutic family treatment center' means a State licensed or certified program that enables parents and their children to live together in a safe environment for a period of not less than 6 months and provides, on-site or by referral, substance abuse treatment services, children's early intervention services, family counseling, legal services, medical care, mental health services, nursery and preschool, parenting skills training, pediatric care, prenatal care, sexual abuse therapy, relapse prevention, transportation, and job or vocational training or classes leading to a secondary school diploma or a certificate of general equivalence.";

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) **DURATION OF DEMONSTRATION.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), a demonstration project under this section may be conducted for not more than 5 years, unless in the judgment of the Secretary, the demonstration project should be allowed to continue.

"(2) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—In no event shall a demonstration project under this section be conducted after September 30, 2019.";

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "(which shall provide," and all that follows before the semicolon;

(B) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (6);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) an accounting of any additional Federal, State, and local investments made, as well as any private investments made in coordination with the State, during the 2 fiscal years preceding the application to provide the services

described in paragraph (1), and an assurance that the State will provide an accounting of that same spending for each year of an approved demonstration project; and";

(4) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h);

(5) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

"(f) **EVALUATIONS.**—Each State authorized to conduct a demonstration project under this section shall obtain an evaluation by an independent contractor of the effectiveness of the project, using an evaluation design approved by the Secretary which provides for—

"(1) comparison of methods of service delivery under the project, and such methods under a State plan or plans, with respect to efficiency, economy, and any other appropriate measures of program management;

"(2) comparison of outcomes for children and families (and groups of children and families) under the project, and such outcomes under a State plan or plans, for purposes of assessing the effectiveness of the project in achieving program goals; and

"(3) any other information that the Secretary may require.

"(g) **REPORTS.**—

"(1) **STATE REPORTS; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Each State authorized to conduct a demonstration project under this section shall—

"(A) submit periodic reports to the Secretary on the specific programs, activities, and strategies used to improve outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families and the results achieved for infants, children, and youth during the conduct of the demonstration project, including with respect to those infants, children, and youth who are prevented from entering foster care, infants, children, and youth in foster care, and infants, children, and youth who move from foster care to permanent families; and

"(B) post a copy of each such report on the website for the State child welfare program concurrent with the submission of the report to the Secretary.

"(2) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate—

"(A) periodic reports based on the State reports submitted under paragraph (1); and

"(B) a report based on the results of the State evaluations required under subsection (f) that includes an analysis of the results of such evaluations and such recommendations for administrative or legislative changes as the Secretary determines appropriate."; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

"(i) **INDIAN TRIBES OPERATING IV-E PROGRAMS CONSIDERED STATES.**—An Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium that has elected to operate a program under part E of title IV in accordance with section 479B shall be considered a State for purposes of this section.".

TITLE III—BUDGET PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2883, the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, a bill that continues a tradition of bipartisanship in crafting child welfare legislation.

The bill we're considering today reauthorizes two important child welfare programs, incorporating a series of improvements developed during hearings held by the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources over the past few months.

In addition to continuing and making improvements to two major child welfare programs, this bill also renews authority for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve child welfare waivers during the next 3 years. Past waivers have allowed States to test new and better ways of helping children at risk of abuse and neglect.

Earlier this year, the House unanimously passed legislation renewing this authority, but the Senate has not followed suit.

This bill, which our colleagues in the Senate also support and which was favorably reported by the Senate Finance Committee yesterday, will allow innovation to continue and may yield information to improve child welfare programs in the future. The bill will also establish a process to create needed data standards in child welfare programs. This language is a first step towards improving collaboration between social service programs.

We have often heard in hearings that States and programs within States have difficulty coordinating services because of difficulty sharing data, and that this lack of coordination increases costs and decreases effectiveness. This bill directs the Secretary of HHS to work with the States to establish national data standards so that all State child welfare programs are speaking the same language.

To show the wide support for this bill, Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert letters of support into the RECORD from the following organizations: The National Conference of State Legislatures; the American Public Human Services Association; the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators; the American Institute of CPAs; the American Humane Association; the North American Council on Adoptable Children; Voice for Adoption; the Association on American Indian Affairs; the National Indian Child Welfare Association; Youth Villages; First Focus Campaign for Children; Zero to Three (The National Center for Infants, Toddlers and

Families); the National Foster Care Coalition; the Child Welfare League of America; the Children's Defense Fund; the Center for the Study of Social Policy; and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE COALITION,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2011.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BAUCUS, RANKING MEMBER HATCH, CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: The National Foster Care Coalition extends its support to the reforms made through the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011.

In these challenging times we still believe important reforms can be made with the child welfare system. Waiver provisions provide an opportunity for states to strengthen their child welfare systems in some very important ways.

We appreciate and support the inclusion of important provisions we highlighted including: Greater attention placed on the care and the development of infants and toddlers who come into contact with the child welfare system. Continuation of the substance abuse grants and that these grants will have a broader substance abuse focus. Funding for child welfare workforce development and the accompanying requirements on monthly visits to children in foster care. Additional clarification on the state tracking and reporting of the adoption maintenance-of-effort provisions as enacted by PL 110-351 will provide a greater assurance that more funds are re-invested into state child welfare systems. Clarification of the education protection for children in foster care. Provisions that will help address issue young people in foster care face with identity theft. Attention to youth rights, participation in transition planning, and connections with birth family members.

We also support the increased attention to tracking the use of psychotropic medications, the increased focus on addressing trauma, the new study on the recruitment of foster, adoptive and kin parents and we want to extend our assistance in addressing the challenges of making improvements to data collection and data matching.

We appreciate your efforts to move the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 forward in a bipartisan/bicameral way by the end of September. The National Foster Care Coalition will promote this legislation among its membership and is pleased to provide any assistance in moving the legislation forward.

Sincerely,
THE NATIONAL FOSTER CARE COALITION.

PCSAO,

Columbus, OH, September 14, 2011.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BAUCUS, RANKING MEMBER HATCH, CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: Public Children Services Association of Ohio supports The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011.

As a state that has shown improved outcomes related to our budget neutral Title IV-E Protect Ohio Waiver (Ohio leads the nation with a 43% Safe Reduction in the number of children in foster care between 2002-2010; AFCARS data), we strongly support Congress' recognition that children and families in other States can also benefit from Title IV-E Waivers allowing flexible funding. We encourage you to consider broader child welfare funding reform in the near future.

Ohio's child welfare system is also extremely supportive of reauthorization of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs under the present funding. Ensuring funds to strengthen families—keeping them intact, reunifying or finding and supporting alternate permanent families—is essential for our children's well being. We know that children grow best in stable, permanent families.

The Court Improvement Program in Ohio has aided in reforming our system. Courts play a critical role in decision making and oversight related to child safety and permanency, and the CIP in Ohio has focused on timeliness, improving procedures, focused well being oversight and adapting court philosophy and procedure as more children are raised by kinship families.

Ohio is struggling with too many children coming into foster care due to pervasive addictions to prescription pain killers, heroin, and other substances—we support the substance abuse grants part of this bill, and appreciate the broader application for various substances, to allow time-limited treatment services so children can safely reunify with recovered parents.

Ohio is ready to embrace other bill provisions such as addressing issues for foster children and youth including prevention of identity theft and improving transitional youth planning, improving educational outcomes, strengthening sibling connections, and addressing the developmental needs of infants and toddlers in foster care. Our Child Fatality Review system already strives to review all available data and apply lessons and recommend improved policy to prevent future child deaths, and Ohio is dedicated to re-investing saved funds as more children become eligible for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance funds.

We appreciate your efforts to move The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 forward in a bipartisan/bicameral way by the end of September, 2011. As elected and representative Trustees of Public Children Services Association of Ohio, we urge Congress to promptly pass this important legislation.

Please contact PCSAO's Executive Director, Crystal Ward Allen, at 614-224-5802 or crystal@pcsao.org with any questions, concerns or requests.

Sincerely,
CRYSTAL WARD ALLEN,

Executive Director, PCSAO on behalf of Public Children Services Association of Ohio, 2011 Board of Trustees:

Chip Spinning, President/Director, Madison Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services;
Denise Stewart, Vice President/Director, Mahoning County Children Services;
Randall Muth, JD, Secretary/Director, Wayne County Children Services;
Moirra Weir, Treasurer/Director, Hamilton Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services;
Scott Ferris/Director, Allen County Children Services;
Andrea Reik/Director, Athens County Children Services;
Dwayne Pielech/Director Belmont Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services;
Kate Offenberger/Director, Carroll Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services;
Catherine Hill/Director Hocking County Children Services;
Teresa Alt/Director, Huron Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services;
June Cannon/Director, Miami County Children Services;
Gary Crow/Director, Lorain County Children Services;
Corey Walker/Director Paulding Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services;
Lisa Wiltshire/Director, Scioto County Children Services;
John Saros, JD/Director, Summit County Children Services.

FIRST FOCUS
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2011.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BAUCUS, RANKING MEMBER HATCH, CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: I am writing on behalf of First Focus, a bipartisan advocacy organization committed to making children and their families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions, to thank you for your leadership and commitment to moving forward The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 in a bicameral and bipartisan manner by the end of September 2011. We are pleased that the bill reauthorizes the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program, and restores waiver authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. We hope that Congress will follow your lead and swiftly pass this critical legislation.

First Focus is dedicated to the long-term goal of substantially reducing the number of children entering foster care, while working to ensure that our existing system of care protects children and adequately meets the needs of families in the child welfare system. We are especially concerned with increasing our federal investments in prevention efforts and providing supports and services for at-risk families to ensure they never enter the child welfare system in the first place.

As you know, initially created in 1993, PSSF was reauthorized in 1997 under the Adoption and Safe Families Act. The program was amended in 2001 and again in 2005 as part of the Deficit Reduction Act. The 2006 Child and Family Services Improvement Act extended funding for the program until 2011. It is currently authorized through Sep-

tember 30, 2011. The program supports a number of critical State (and eligible tribal) child welfare activities, including family preservation services, family support services, time-limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services.

PSSF is a relatively small funding stream compared to the open-ended entitlement for foster care under SSA Title IV-E, but is still critical to the work of State social service agencies given that it may be used to provide services to children and families in need and to help keep families together. In contrast to the bulk of federal child welfare funding, which is targeted solely at foster care, PSSF seeks to prevent child abuse and neglect, avoiding the removal of children in the first place while supporting timely reunification. These funds are often combined with other State and local resources as well as private funds, and support a range of services, including parenting classes that promote competencies and positive relationship skills; home-visiting services for at-risk parents as well as other family-based services; respite care for caregivers of children with special needs; and a range of other innovative programs and services for at-risk families. According to the FY 2009 National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), states reported that they provided prevention services to more than three million children. PSSF allowed states to pay for services to 30 percent of those children. These are critical services and we believe that the reauthorization of PSSF will only strengthen the program and its core goals, ensuring its success for years to come.

We also applaud your efforts to ensure that child welfare waiver demonstration projects are reauthorized and remain a critical vehicle for promoting flexibility while fostering innovation in practice at the state level. We are especially pleased that the bill authorizes ten new demonstration projects annually for a duration of five years. While we would urge you to consider extending waiver authority beyond FY 2014, we are encouraged by your efforts to ensure that demonstrations projects continue in the near term. Absent a broader reform of the child welfare financing structure, states are in need of greater flexibility in the use of available federal child welfare funds. In addition to title IV-B programs, child welfare waiver demonstration projects are a critical vehicle for providing a broad array of support services to children and families, and promote flexibility and foster innovation in practice at the state level.

Among other provisions, we are pleased that The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act includes new requirements for states to address the emotional trauma experience by children in foster care, adopt protocols for prescribing and monitoring psychotropic medications, and describe their efforts to address the developmental needs of young children in care and reduce their length of stay in care. The bill also continues grants to address substance abuse in families with children at-risk of entering into foster care, continues funding for the Court Improvement Program, and provides needed clarification with respect to a provision in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act related to ensuring the educational stability of foster children for each foster care placement.

First Focus stands prepared to work with you to ensure swift passage of The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act. We thank you for your leadership on this and other issues impacting children and families, and look forward to working

with you to ensure better care for our nation's most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY.

CWLA,

Washington, DC, September 15, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Longworth, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Longworth, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and our public and private member agencies that work directly with abused, neglected, and vulnerable children, youth, and their families, this letter is in support of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (HR 2883) to reauthorize Title IV-B of the Social Security Act and restore the authority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to authorize demonstration projects via a waiver of Title IV-E. CWLA members are located in all fifty states and provide a range of child welfare services from prevention to placement and permanency services including child protection, family support and preservation, adoptions, foster care, kinship care, and treatment services provided in residential settings. As a non-profit leadership and membership-based child welfare organization, CWLA is committed to engaging people everywhere in ensuring that all children and youth have the support that they need to grow into healthy contributing members of society.

Part I, Child Welfare Services (CWS) provides critical flexible funding for a broad range of services designed to support, preserve, and/or reunite children and their families. While we know that prevention services are underfunded, in light of current austerity we acknowledge that the maintenance of this program's \$325 million authorization is positive. However, with the expectation of further cuts to discretionary funding levels over the next decade, it is critical to reiterate within this context that vulnerable children and families should be held harmless in all budget balancing strategies.

State Child Welfare Services Plans serve as a lynchpin for the continuum of strategies designed to prevent and ameliorate maltreatment. Through requirements encompassing case reviews, permanency planning, program development, agency administration, and systems collaboration activities, fundamental protections and core service provision is ensured for the vulnerable populations served with these funds. CWLA commends the subcommittee for strengthening these plans. H.R. 2883 requires the plans to respond to identified emotional trauma needs associated with maltreatment and removal, strengthens oversight of prescription medication monitoring protocols, encourages activities to reduce time in foster care and address developmental needs especially for children younger than five, and mandates the reporting of child maltreatment deaths.

Part II, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) is an important funding stream for the operation of specific service categories. Although the services overlap, the four specified categories in PSSF create important distinctions in types of families in need. The additional targeted activities bring attention and resources to pressing needs including caseworker visits, substance abuse, court improvement, and mentoring for children of prisoners. CWLA supports the way that HR 2883 maintains this structure. Again, while we see a need for additional resources, we recognize the nation's strained financial condition. Therefore, we appreciate

the continuation of \$200 million in discretionary funds and the room appropriators have to fully fund the program. In recognition of the difficulty of increasing funding, we think it is important that HR 2883 amends the reporting requirements to Congress to include actual spending in addition to planned spending by service category. We believe that increased tracking of these funds will further reveal that they are supporting necessary and effective programs for vulnerable children and families.

Courts are an integral component of the child welfare system, providing pivotal decisions of maltreatment findings and approval of permanency changes. PSSF is one of the few places in child welfare law where funding is provided for the courts. We appreciate your receptiveness to our suggestions for the continuation of the \$30 million annual set-aside for the Court Improvement Program and the dedication of \$1 million specifically for tribal courts and are pleased to see them both included in HR 2883. In addition, we support the way the bill bolsters court improvement plans by clarifying that they should include requirements related to concurrent planning and increasing and improving the engagement of the entire family in court processes. CWLA also applauds the enhancement of the substance abuse and mentoring grants under HR 2883. Because all children affected by parental substance abuse, regardless of the particular substance used, deserve assistance, CWLA strongly agrees with the removal of the provision giving greater weight to applicants addressing methamphetamine abuse specifically.

CWLA welcomes the bill's data standardization and improved data matching section. We understand that the administration has undertaken efforts in this direction and appreciate the recognition in both branches of government of the critical importance of sharing information across systems. CWLA is also very pleased to see the changes HR 2883 makes related to foster care and adoption, including the clarification of the educational stability requirement for children in care, the efforts to address any credit issues for foster children at least 16 years of age, and the requirement for states to document savings from the de-link of adoption assistance payments. Furthermore, we support the related requirement to document spending on post-adoption services. This is a strong recognition of the importance of supporting lasting permanency.

Title II of the bill restores the ability of HHS to authorize demonstration projects through Title IV-E waivers designed to increase permanency, improve outcomes, and prevent abuse and neglect. CWLA believes that waivers can be helpful in testing and evaluating innovative approaches within the child welfare system that have promising potential. However, CWLA does not believe that the restoration of waiver authority constitutes a comprehensive solution to the problems facing the child welfare system. More ambitious approaches to reforming the federal financing structure should be undertaken. Accordingly, CWLA supports the bill's three-year restoration of waiver authority while consensus on more comprehensive approaches is being developed. CWLA specifically supports the eligibility requirements included in HR 2883. The policy conditions have the power to encourage states to implement practices that will improve their child welfare systems and the lives of those within them.

CWLA appreciates your leadership in crafting this important legislation. HR 2883 makes positive improvements to IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and we support its passage. If you have any follow up questions, feel free to contact Sean Hughes,

Director of Congressional Affairs at 202-590-8772 or Suzanne Ayer, Policy Associate at 202-688-4178.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE JAMES-BROWN,
President/CEO.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: We write in support for the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (H.R. 2883) and specifically to express our appreciation for the provisions that would promote the positive development of very young children in the child welfare system. Our organizations have worked together to identify ways that all levels of government could better address the developmental needs of infants and toddlers who have been abused or neglected. This work resulted in the publication last spring of *A Call to Action on Behalf of Maltreated Infants and Toddlers*, which advocates for child welfare policies and practices that view the care of young children through a developmental lens. We are so pleased that the legislation you have introduced would take important steps toward infusing child welfare policy with that developmental approach.

We particularly appreciate the provision requiring state child welfare plans to include a description of activities to address the developmental needs of young children. Early brain development occurs at life-altering speeds, making infants and toddlers particularly vulnerable to the effects of abuse and neglect. Maltreatment can literally alter the chemistry of the brain, weakening its architecture and placing young children at significant risk for later cognitive, social, and emotional deficits. If child welfare practices are not oriented toward supporting this sensitive stage of development, as well as families' ability to nurture their children, they can compound the effects of maltreatment. Ensuring that child welfare practices are informed by what we know from the science of brain development can promote early intervention that will improve the outlook for these babies and avoid the costs to both child and society resulting from developmental impairments.

The significance of the legislation you have authored becomes clear when we consider that infants and toddlers represent a quarter of children who are abused and neglected and almost a third of children entering foster care. We believe it will encourage states to reexamine how they are addressing child welfare cases involving young children and consider steps to systematically promote positive development for vulnerable babies.

We appreciate your leadership in highlighting the needs of young children within federal child welfare law. We stand ready to help the Congress, the Administration, and the states in building a child welfare system that helps all young children realize their potential.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HUMANE
ASSOCIATION,
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
SOCIAL POLICY,
CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF
AMERICA,
CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND,
ZERO TO THREE.

ZERO TO THREE

Washington, DC, September 19, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of Zero to Three, I write to offer our support for the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (H.R. 2883) approved by the Ways and Means Committee last week. Zero to Three is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of infants and toddlers. We believe this legislation will help ensure the well-being of our most vulnerable children: infants and toddlers in the child welfare system. We particularly appreciate the provision requiring state child welfare plans to include a description of activities to address the developmental needs of young children. This provision is a tremendous step forward for children whose development is threatened by maltreatment and, at times, foster care practices that are not informed by the science of early brain development. Other provisions adding services to enhance child development and facilitate family visitation will also promote child well-being and healing parent-child relationships.

These steps are particularly important, because infants and toddlers are the most vulnerable to maltreatment and comprise 31% of children entering foster care. The first three years of life are a time of rapid brain development, when the foundation for all learning that follows is created. Relationships are the context within which early development unfolds, so it is not surprising that babies are particularly sensitive to the effects of maltreatment. Maltreatment can literally alter the chemistry of the brain, weakening its architecture and placing young children at risk for later cognitive, social, and emotional deficits. Maltreated infants and toddlers are four to five times more likely than other young children to have developmental impairments. The removal of babies from their parents' care, coupled with foster care practices that often are not guided by their developmental needs, can compound the effects of maltreatment. The good news is that intervening early with practices that support healthy development can improve the outlook for these babies and avoid the costs to society that accompany developmental impairments.

Last spring, Zero to Three joined with American Humane Association, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Child Welfare League of America, and Children's Defense Fund to issue *A Call to Action on Behalf of Maltreated Infants and Toddlers*. This publication advocates for child welfare policies and practices at all levels of government that view the care of young children through a developmental lens. This legislation is the first step in answering that call. We believe it will spur states to bring the science of early brain development into their child welfare systems. We applaud your leadership in infusing this perspective into federal child welfare law and promoting positive development for vulnerable babies.

Thank you for all you do for young children who face great adversity in their lives.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW E. MELMED,
Executive Director.

□ 1330

I also want to thank the ranking member of the Human Resources Subcommittee, Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, for working with me on this legislation and for his efforts to improve how we serve children and families across the country.

Finally, I want to note that this legislation does not add to the deficit since it simply extends current funding levels of the programs that are extended.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman, Mr. DAVIS, is correct. We have worked on this together. We have participated in hearings and have learned together and cooperated on this very important subject to which we may bring differing perspectives but a common goal of wanting to respond to the needs of America's most vulnerable children.

I believe that this bipartisan legislation which I do fully support, is important; however, it is also important to understand what we support and where we have differences and to understand what this legislation accomplishes and what it fails to accomplish. This bill is certainly preferable to allowing two very important laws to expire next week.

Each year, over 700,000 children here in America become victims of abuse and neglect, perpetrated by the very people who are supposed to love and care for them. I think most Americans, as do my wife, Libby, and I, when we're back home in Texas and surrounded by Clara, Zayla, and Ella, our three granddaughters, believe it's just almost incomprehensible that parents or grandparents could cause harm to a member of their own families. Yet that is the reality that too many of our children face. One expert came to our committee during the hearing and suggested that, once every 6 hours of every day, a child dies in America as a result of abuse.

I agree that both the Child Welfare Services and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families laws should be renewed for another 5 years. I disagree that these programs should be continued at their current baseline funding levels since, with need growing and funding limited, too many of our most vulnerable children cannot access the services that they so desperately need. These are the children whose neglect not only produces problems for them, but will produce more problems for all of American society in the future. They are the children we should be helping today so that we are not incarcerating them after they have done harm to someone tomorrow.

Less than half of the children in foster care in America today receive federal assistance to help with the room and board. Today, 40 percent of children who are found to be victims of

abuse and neglect don't receive any follow-up or intervention at all. That is a very big gap that will likely only grow over the course of the next 5 years with the legislation that we are renewing.

In my home State of Texas, the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act accounts for a very significant source of funding to help our youngest Texans. According to one of our witnesses in committee, Dr. Jane Burstain of the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin, funding from this program accounted for \$2 of every \$3 supporting child abuse and neglect prevention programs last year. In San Antonio, for example, these programs provide important resources to help vulnerable families through the Bexar County Child Welfare Board.

This bill also grants States support for parental substance abuse programs. My friend Darlene Byrne, a district judge in Austin, Texas, who helped establish the Family Treatment Drug Court that was partially funded by dollars from this act that we're renewing, writes that she has seen new babies who are not drug positive, moms and couples reunify with their families, and workers receive their GEDs or high school diplomas and find employment. Those are the people that these programs help.

In short, she says that this program has contributed in transforming lives and in helping to stop the cycle of drug abuse, poverty, and violence in Texas. It is important both to those who benefit directly and to all of us who have a stake in having folks participate to the full extent of their God-given potential, not posing dangers to the rest of our society.

Today's legislation also includes, as Mr. DAVIS indicated, some modest policy changes that strengthen the States' abilities to respond to at-risk children. Mr. Speaker, the bill, I believe, leaves too many problems unresolved. I think, though, in this current climate that the renewal of the legislation as it's proposed is the best that we can do for our at-risk children. This bill reauthorizes help to at least some children who become victims of maltreatment. It provides family support and activities to some vulnerable families, and it promotes adoption services for those children who cannot safely return to their biological parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield 4 minutes to the former chair of this Subcommittee on Human Resources, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill to renew the Nation's child welfare programs. I'm glad to see this happening as it has in the past by unanimous consent, and it's important not just to keep these programs funded and renewed. With more than one in five chil-

dren in the country living in poverty and with so many odds stacked against foster kids, we need to do more. We need to make progress. That's why I'm so supportive of this bill, because it is not just an extension of the program; it has some important and targeted innovations.

Some States, especially my home State of Washington, have some truly new ideas about how they can do more to prevent children being put into foster care even in tough economic times. One of the real innovations of this bill is to give States waivers for some governmental funding restrictions so that they can test these innovative interventions in their child welfare programs. If the States can maintain their current quality and if the innovations they want to try meet solid criteria, the Federal Government should be a partner in making real progress. That's what these new waivers do.

Washington State is one of the leaders in innovating child welfare policy, and it has some things it has been eager to try out. Right now, the law doesn't allow for this kind of experimentation, but this bill gives States a way to begin. Washington State is not alone. There is room for 10 States to have these kinds of programs. There are some States already ready to make these moves.

Now, the Department of Health and Human Services allowed this kind of thing in the past, but it was allowed to lapse. This is really an extension of something we've had before. HHS was allowed to give out a number of waivers in the past, and some progress was made in a number of States. This bill restores that limited waiver authority and sets out criteria to keep the integrity and level of effort they need to have. We need to allow these States to do it.

In addition to extending the program and making more room for innovation, the bill does something else that's really important. In 2008, we passed the Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions law. This Fostering Connections law did a lot of good in helping foster kids have a better chance of truly making it in this country. Among other things, it addressed the health concerns of foster children who moved from home to home and from health care setting to health care setting, and it required States to develop health coordination plans for these kids so that they had some continuity of care. These plans had to include oversight of prescription medications, including psychotropic drugs.

As a psychiatrist who has worked with children in child welfare and the juvenile justice system, I am very concerned about the use of psychotropic drugs. It has bothered me for a long time. In the fostering care population, it is a particularly vulnerable group because of this question of continuity of care. You want somebody to be monitoring what's happening as they move from home to home to home. We need

to do more. We need to get a clearer picture of what is happening with these kinds of medications in the foster kids, and we need to make sure they are being used properly and are not overly prescribed.

□ 1340

One of the parts about this whole law that's crazy is that when a kid gets to 18 they could be on a medication. When they hit 18, they're done. Their Medicaid ends. They have no continuity of the drugs. They go off cold turkey. So there's some real questions that we need to answer here.

This bill takes the 2008 requirements another step forward and it requires States to adopt protocols for using and monitoring psychotropic medications among foster children.

Mr. Speaker, I speak strongly in favor of the bill and urge my colleagues to say "yea."

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from California (Ms. BASS), one of the leaders on this subject of foster children, who came and testified to our committee based on her long experience working in the State of California in the assembly on this subject.

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2883, the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act. As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Care, I am proud to stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in support of this important legislation.

Youth in the child welfare system fight for what so many of us take for granted—a family. In California, my home State, the Nation's largest foster care system in any given year, as many as 100,000 children can be placed in temporary out-of-home care. Foster parents and relatives are the frontline caregivers for children when their parents are unable to care for them.

A pool of dedicated, loving foster parents is critical for our Nation's foster youth as they wait to be reunited with their parents or achieve permanency with a relative caregiver or adoptive family. However, there is a significant shortage of foster parents.

In May, I introduced legislation calling for a study to find out how to best recruit and retain foster parents. This was included in the original House bill reauthorizing title IV-B child welfare programs introduced in August. I'm pleased that the modified bill before us today includes a provision that encourages States to develop and implement a plan to improve the recruitment and retention of high-quality foster family homes.

H.R. 2883 builds on some of the best practices that were shared with me as I've traveled California hearing from youth, child welfare workers, and parents. The bill also appropriately addresses challenges facing the child wel-

fare system by requiring States to address emotional trauma in foster children and to adopt protocols for using and monitoring psychotropic medications.

I am very pleased with the comments of my colleague, Mr. McDERMOTT, who talked about the use of psychotropics, and I would just add that, in too many cases, the children are prescribed multiple medications. And in talking with a number of youth up and down the State of California, one of the things that many youths said to me was, Can you please help me get off the medication.

I would like to thank Ways and Means Chairman CAMP, Ranking Member LEVIN, Human Resources Subcommittee Chair GEOFF DAVIS, and Ranking Member DOGGETT for their unwavering commitment to our most vulnerable youth.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), who has been very active in a Foster Youth Financial Security Act.

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act.

This bill includes a provision from the Foster Youth Financial Security Act that I introduced with my colleague from California (Mr. STARK) to address disturbingly high rates of identity theft among foster youth. I, along with many others, was absolutely outraged to find that foster children are disproportionately victims of identity theft since their personal information passes through so many hands.

Mr. Speaker, as I saw firsthand when my parents welcomed foster youth into our home over many years, they already faced tremendous obstacles without the increased threat of having their identity taken and their credit ruined, which prevents them from finding a place to live, accessing credit on their own, or obtaining other basic needs.

This bill would ensure that each foster youth over 16 years of age receives free credit checks before leaving the system and assistance clearing any inaccuracies that may have come to light. Reports have shown that if done effectively, the cost is minimal.

I want to thank, Mr. Speaker, the committee for their interest in this issue and the many advocates who have championed this cause. This is only the first step in providing foster youth the tools that they need and deserve to succeed, and I look forward to our continued work together on this issue.

As I pointed out so many times, the kids in foster care already face significant challenges of their own of a personal nature. It is a shame that their

identity is stolen and they're further victimized. This bill would identify problems early on and clear up the inaccuracies so they can start their adult life with a fresh start with their credit intact.

I thank both gentlemen, the chair, and the ranking member for their outstanding support of this provision.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, some in this House have suggested earlier in the year that the programs embodied in this legislation, and everything else that opens opportunities through government support from Pell Grants to Title I funding for education to the school lunch program to Head Start, that all of these are "welfare" and should be cut. Fortunately, that approach is not being taken here today. We are reauthorizing, in a bipartisan way, these two very important programs that would expire next week.

Mr. Speaker, however, it should be noted that, much like somebody might be flatlined, we are flat funding the renewal of these programs, meaning that in 5 years we are authorizing the same amount of money for these programs, if it can be appropriated, that existed last year. That means that there are many needs in our country that will not be fully addressed in this legislation. It means that last year, if less than half of those in foster care received support for food and board, they will be in the same situation over the course of this legislation. It means that the 40 percent of children who are subject to abuse and neglect are unlikely to be able to access services as they were last year.

But renewing this legislation remains, despite those deficiencies, an important accomplishment in the current political environment. And, as Mr. DAVIS and a number of other speakers have noted, we have made some modest improvements.

Another of those not touched on yet is our work in this legislation to ensure that children in foster care can stay in the schools that they started in, even though they may be moved between families. That's an important part of adding a little certainty to the lives of children who have been abused or neglected and find themselves with a great deal of uncertainty.

It is for the improvements in this act and the recognition of what harm would be done if this act were not adopted here in a bipartisan way that so many child advocacy groups have joined in supporting it—the Child Welfare League of America, First Focus, Zero to Three—as well as groups of those organizations that are involved in administering some of these funds: the National Conference of State Legislatures, the American Public Human Services Association, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

□ 1350

I believe this legislation is important. It's important to get it adopted promptly. I hope the Senate will respond to our bipartisan approval today, as Mr. DAVIS has suggested they have already begun to do in the committee process, and move forward to see it fully adopted by next week. I urge all of my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), for working with me to bring this measure to the floor today and thank him and thank both the majority and minority staffs for their hard work on this effort. H.R. 2883 is a bipartisan, bicameral, no-cost effort to extend and make modest adjustments to programs designed to help ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse and neglect. We need to do all we can to ensure more children remain safely in their homes, and this bill will help to do so.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF STATE LEGISLATURES,
September 13, 2011.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman, House Ways & Means, Cannon
House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

Hon. SANDY LEVIN,
*Ranking Member, House Ways & Means, Long-
worth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP AND REPRESENTATIVE LEVIN: On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we urge you to support H.R. 2883, a bill to renew the authority of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in state child welfare programs and reauthorizing the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program. Congressmen Geoff Davis and Lloyd Doggett have fashioned bipartisan legislation that helps create opportunities to enhance the state-federal partnership to assist our nation's most vulnerable children.

NCSL supports reinstating and expanding federal waiver authority so that states can test the results of increased funding flexibility on the development of service alternatives and on the overall delivery of child welfare services. This allows states to target programs to address the needs of their youngest citizens. By renewing and extending Title IV-E waiver authority through 2014, H.R. 2883 will give states an enhanced ability to provide early intervention and crisis intervention services that will safely reduce out-of-home placements and improve child outcomes.

NCSL supports the reauthorization of the PSSF program. The PSSF program enhances state efforts to develop additional family preservation, family reunification, and family support programs. We appreciate the flexibility provided to states in H.R. 2883 and that the legislation does not preempt current state laws.

H.R. 2883 will allow states to improve the quality of their child welfare interventions and reinvest savings in their programs. It will also provide both state and federal legislators tools to develop innovative an effective approaches to transform the lives of children who are at risk of abuse and ne-

glect. We applaud Congressmen Davis and Doggett for crafting this legislation.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. POUND,
Executive Director, NCSL.

NATIONAL INDIAN
CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION,
Portland, OR, September 13, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS, *Chair,*
Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT, *Ranking Member,*
*House Ways and Means Subcommittee on
Human Resources.*

Hon. MAX BAUCUS, *Chair,*
Hon. ORRIN HATCH, *Ranking Member,*
Senate Finance Committee.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DAVIS AND DOGGETT AND SENATORS BAUCUS AND HATCH: The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) writes this letter in support of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (HR 2883/S 1542) which would reauthorize programs under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act—Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services; Promoting Safe and Stable Families; Regional Partnerships on substance abuse; and the Court Improvement Program.

Committee staff on both sides of the aisle has been most open to meeting with us, and we thank them for their hard work and interest in more heavily involving Indian and Alaska Native communities in these programs. We especially thank Sonja Nesbit, Ryan Martin, Diedra Henry-Spires, and Becky Shipp.

NICWA has worked on several reauthorizations of Title IV-B, notably in 2006 when a number of improvements were enacted regarding tribal participation. The 2006 Act increased tribal allocations and provided common sense flexibility for tribal administration of the programs.

In fiscal year 2011, 170 tribes/tribal organizations received \$6.2 million from the Child Welfare Services Program and 126 tribes/tribal consortia received \$11 million from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. In addition, tribes are the lead grantee in six of the 53 Regional Partnerships substance abuse grants.

The Title IV-B program that has bypassed tribes is the Court Improvement Program and we are most grateful for the breakthrough on this matter in the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act. The bill would, for the first time, make tribes eligible to apply for competitive grants for this program and would allocate \$1 million annually for this purpose. There is a great need in Indian Country for assistance for tribal courts work in the area of child welfare. We also appreciate the provision which would allow tribes operating Title IV-E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) programs to apply for waivers for child welfare demonstration projects.

Again, thank you. We look forward to continuing to work with you on child welfare matters.

Sincerely,

TERRY L. CROSS,
Executive Director.

YOUTH VILLAGES,
September 13, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS, *Chairman,*
*Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Re-
sources, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT, *Ranking Member,*
*Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Re-
sources, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of Youth Villages, I am writing in support of your bill, H.R. 2883, and to thank you for your leadership on this

issue. This legislation provides for the extension of the important Promoting Safe and Stable Families program as well as critical authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to extend the Title IV-E waiver program, which has demonstrated substantial impact since creation in 1994. These waivers provide states with greater flexibility in the use of Federal funds for alternative services and supports that promote safety, permanency and well-being for children in the child protection and foster care system.

Youth Villages is a leader in innovative and effective services for troubled youth and their families. Since 2008, Youth Villages has had the opportunity to work collaboratively with several local, privatized child welfare organizations, known as Community Based Care agencies in implementing Florida's Title IV-E waiver. Youth Villages has three offices in Florida and is working with local entities to implement our intensive in-home Intercept services, identify and serve underserved or 'stuck' populations, and provide them with outcome data to support the impact of their waiver effort.

As a result of the flexibility afforded by the Title IV-E waiver, intensive reunification and targeted prevention services are given greater focus in the state's child welfare service approach. Without the award of the waiver, it would have been difficult for Youth Villages to expand its Intercept program into the state to serve the child welfare population. In the three years that Youth Villages has been operating in Florida, we have served over 300 children across the Central and Southern regions of the state at a significantly lower cost than traditional child welfare placement services. More importantly, they have achieved such outcomes as: over 70% of children still at home, over 80% having graduated or actively engaged in school, and over 80% having had no trouble with the law six months after discharge from services.

Youth Villages pledges its full support of H.R. 2883, as this legislation has the ability to transform the child welfare system from one that incentivizes out-of-home placement to a system that promotes in-home treatment and family unification.

Regards,

PATRICK LAWLER,
CEO, Youth Villages.

VOICE FOR ADOPTION,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2011.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
*Hart Senate Office Building, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
*Longworth House Office Building, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
*Hart Senate Office Building, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
*Cannon House Office Building, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMEN BAUCUS AND DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBERS HATCH AND DOGGETT: On behalf of Voice for Adoption's members I am writing to thank you for your leadership and your bipartisan and bicameral effort to introduce the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (S. 1542/H.R. 2883). Voice for Adoption (VFA) is a membership advocacy organization; we speak out for our nation's 107,000 waiting children in foster care. Our members, who are spread across the country, recruit families to adopt children and youth with special needs. VFA members also provide vital support services both before and after adoption finalization to

help adoptive families through the challenges they often face raising children with painful pasts.

Voice for Adoption supports this legislation, which acts to reauthorize two major child welfare programs, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program. Under the PSSF program the adoption promotion and support services category provides funding to recruit and support families for children who are waiting to be adopted.

We commend the authors of this bill for not only acting in a bipartisan/bicameral manner, but also for making potentially impacting improvements in the reauthorization of these programs. We applaud the strengthening of language that requires states to document the use of dollars saved from the federal adoption assistance de-link, created under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351). Voice for Adoption hopes that through future guidance States are encouraged to spend a portion of these adoption de-link funds on post-adoption support services. VFA also supports other important improvements made in the bill including: the requirement for better reporting on post-adoption services spending and transparency to access this data, the requirement of States to address the developmental needs of young children and reducing their amount of time spent in foster care, the requirement of States to address emotional trauma and the clarification of educational protections for children in foster care, the requirement for state protocols and procedures relating to the use of psychotropic medications, ID theft issues for foster youth, inclusion of state waivers and measures that include quality of care improvements for foster children.

Voice for Adoption is proud to support this bipartisan/bicameral legislation, as it exists to reauthorize programs that protect children and families and promote both permanency and support for children in foster care. We are also happy to inform and encourage our members to support this bill.

Sincerely,

NICOLE DOBBINS,
Executive Director.

ASSOCIATION ON
AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Rockville, MD, September 14, 2011.

Re H.R. 2883 and S. 1542.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS, *Chair*,
Hon. ORRIN HATCH, *Ranking Member*,
Senate Finance Committee.
Hon. GEOFF DAVIS, *Chair*,
Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT, *Ranking Member*,
House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Human Resources.

DEAR SENATORS BAUCUS AND HATCH AND REPRESENTATIVES DAVIS AND DOGGETT: Thank you for your introduction of H.R. 2883 and S. 1542, the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act. The Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) strongly supports this legislation.

AAIA is an 89 year old Indian advocacy organization located in South Dakota and Maryland and governed by an all-Native American Board of Directors. We have been involved with Indian child welfare issues for decades, including working closely with the House and Senate on tribal provisions in the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 and the Fostering Connections to Success and Promoting Adoptions Act of 2008.

We are particularly supportive of the provisions in both bills that would allocate \$1

million for competitive Court Improvement Program grants to Indian tribal courts and allow tribes operating Title IV-E programs to apply for waivers for child welfare demonstration projects. We also appreciate and support the language that would make the definition of Indian tribes consistent in both Parts 1 and 2 of Title IV-B.

Once again, thank you for your support of this legislation and these tribal issues and to the House and Senate staff (Sonja Nesbit, Ryan Wilson, Diedra Henry-Spires and Becky Shipp) that have been so helpful in this process.

Sincerely,

JACK F. TROPE,
Executive Director.

AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION,
September 14, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House of Representatives.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Finance Committee, U.S. Senate.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House of Representatives.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Finance Committee, U.S. Senate.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS, CONGRESSMAN DOGGETT, CHAIRMAN BAUCUS AND SENATOR HATCH: American Humane Association extends its support to the reforms made through the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act.

Through the joint efforts of the House and Senate and the leadership of both parties, we believe you have written a strong bill to reauthorize the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs (Title IV-B part 1 and part 2).

In testifying last June in the United States House of Representatives, the American Humane Association outlined a number of important changes that could be made through this reauthorization. We appreciate and support the inclusion of many of those recommendations as well as several other provisions in this legislation that we believe will assist children and families touched by the child welfare system. Some of the key provisions of this bill that we see as particularly important include:

The greater attention placed on the care and the development of infants and toddlers who come into contact with the child welfare system;

The continuation of the substance abuse grants and that these grants will have a broader substance abuse focus;

The bill's continued funding for child welfare workforce development, the stronger language on workforce support and the accompanying requirements on monthly visits to children in foster care;

The clarification on the state tracking and reporting of the adoption maintenance-of-effort provisions as enacted by PL 110-351 (Fostering Connections Act);

The clarification on access to education for children in foster care;

The continuation of court improvement funding; and

The attention paid to the problem of identity theft for children and youth in foster care.

In addition there are several other improvements in this legislation in regard to reports by the Department of Health and Human Services and the extension of waiver authority which we have also talked positively of in past statements to both the House and Senate Committees.

Once again we restate our appreciation of your efforts to move this forward in a bipartisan fashion with all due speed. Please feel free to reach out to the American Humane Association for any additional assistance in moving forward with this legislation and other matters before your committees.

Sincerely,

JOHN SCIAMANNA,
Director, Policy and Government Affairs, Child Welfare.

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN,
St. Paul, MN, September 16, 2011.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
Longworth House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Cannon House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DAVIS AND DOGGETT: On behalf of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), I am writing to express our support for the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (H.R. 2883). We are grateful for your leadership in introducing this important legislation and strongly believe it will improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

NACAC is an adoption support and advocacy organization with more than 1,000 members nationwide. We represent adoptive and foster parents, adoptees, adoption professionals, parent support groups, and adoption agencies and organizations. Since 1974, we have supported the right of every child to have a permanent, loving family and advocated for adoptive families to receive necessary supportive services.

NACAC strongly supports the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program. In particular, we are happy that the PSSF program has required states to designate at least 20 percent of the funds to adoption support and promotion services. These funds have been used across the country to recruit families for foster children who cannot return home and to support families raising these children with special needs.

We were pleased that H.R. 2883 will continue these valuable efforts while also adding several enhancements. We strongly support requiring states to document how they spend the funds reinvested as a result of the maintenance of effort provision of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, which expanded federal eligibility for Title IV-E adoption assistance. In addition, however, NACAC would recommend that the legislation require states to spend a portion of these reinvestment funds on post-adoption services. Since special needs adoptions generate this additional revenue for states, it is reasonable to request that a specific portion of the funds be invested in post-adoption services. As you well know, the majority of children adopted from foster care have significant special needs, and post-adoption services ensure these children have the best chance of being adopted and for living successfully in safe and stable families.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to children and families through your introduction of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act.

Sincerely,

JOE KROLL,
Executive Director.

AMERICAN PUBLIC
HUMAN SERVICES ASSOCIATION,
September 16, 2011.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
*Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
*Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
*Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BAUCUS, RANKING MEMBER HATCH, CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), I write to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011. This legislation addresses the importance of prevention programs and support of community-based services for children and families at risk or in crisis, including through extending grant authority to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for new child welfare waivers through 2014. This legislation also reinforces Congress's recognition of the need for state flexibility and accountability to enable public agencies to be good stewards of public funds and to manage performance, self-correct, innovate and enhance their ability to achieve positive outcomes.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act reauthorizes two essential prevention and family support programs and outlines key improvements to child welfare practices designed to improve outcomes for at-risk children, youth and families. APHSA members appreciate the changes to the current methodology for calculating monthly caseworker visits. These provisions are closely linked with the recommendations that APHSA and The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) presented before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources during the "Hearing on Protecting At-Risk Youth." The change in calculation will not only better reflect states' performance on this indicator, but also highlight the diligent efforts made by casework staff.

APHSA and our member agencies fully support the efforts to address children's emotional and behavioral health needs and welcome stronger, more collaborative partnerships with other agencies across the human service continuum to meet the enhanced data and tracking provisions outlined in the bill.

APHSA also fully supports the renewal and expansion of the HHS Secretary's authority to grant waivers for states to flexibly use IV-E funds to test innovative strategies in child welfare programs. Earlier this year, APHSA provided comments, concerns and recommendations to the previous House and Senate proposed waiver bills (H.R. 1194 and S. 1013) and are pleased to see that the current bill includes provisions consistent with our member states' practices, as well as new provisions that conform to our member states' views.

APHSA members are pleased to see the time period to operate a waiver expanded to five years. We are also pleased to see that states can apply for a waiver by implementing two program improvement areas and that only one of them needs to be a new program. APHSA also appreciates the clarification that states currently operating waivers and successfully achieving outcomes will be allowed to continue those improve-

ments as this bill expands the program to 10 new demonstration projects. In these current budgetary times, it is critical for new waiver states to innovate their practices and service array, while current waiver states increase the knowledge and evidentiary base for programs and practices that work.

APHSA also fully supports reauthorization of the Court Improvement Program. The Court Improvement Program allows our member agencies to work in close partnership with their state and local judicial system to meet the safety, permanency and well-being needs of children in a timely and complete manner. This program also supports the essential cross-system training of judges, attorneys and other legal representatives in child welfare cases.

Once again, we look forward to continuing the work of improving services and outcomes for at risk children. We continue to be available as a resource as regulations and guidance is developed to meet the provisions of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovations Act of 2011.

Sincerely,

TRACY L. WAREING,
Executive Director.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPAS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Re The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, H.R. 2883.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives Washington, DC.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of the 377,000 members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), I am writing in support of your legislation, H.R. 2883, the "Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act." The bill calls for grantees of Federal funds under the Child Welfare Services program and the Safe and Stable program to report certain data to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and for DHHS to develop a rule designating standard data elements and data reporting requirements for the information to be reported. The legislation specifies that DHHS "shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate existing nonproprietary standards, such as eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL)."

The use of data tagging to enhance both the transparency and the ability to analyze financial and other data has been proved time and time again. XBRL provides a detailed yet customizable approach to gathering data and will provide significant transparency to the Federal government and the American people regarding the use of taxpayer funds.

XBRL has been used for a number of years by the Federal government in areas such as Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation call reports and public company financial reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Importantly, such standardized business reporting is also expanding in both the United States by state governmental agencies and worldwide, where data standards are being leveraged to significantly reduce the compliance reporting burden and, at the same time, enhance the usability and transparency of reported information. Including provisions to require reporting of information under the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act will make the reporting process more efficient and en-

hance comparability of such information for DHHS, the Congress, and other stakeholders who need to monitor and analyze the use of these funds.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. We are also happy to discuss with you additional areas where implementation of data standards can further enhance reporting and make it more valuable to all types of stakeholders of data. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact Diana Huntress Deem.

Sincerely,

BARRY C. MELANCON, CPA,
President and CEO.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES,
CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS,

Washington, DC.

Re Child and Family Services Act (HR 2883).

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, we write to support the Child and Family Services Act that includes reauthorization of the three Court Improvement Program (CIP) grant programs through FY 2016 at the current \$30 million level. The three Court Improvement Program (CIP) grant programs are critical for state courts as they provide the only federal funds to state courts for the purpose of improving state court oversight of abuse and neglect cases; and have been invaluable in assisting courts to improve and expedite our processes and procedures. These funds have resulted in abused and neglected children moving more expeditiously to safe and permanent homes and improved outcomes for children in need of protection. Our work, however, is not complete, so the reauthorization of these funds will allow us to continue our work to improve results for these children.

We appreciate the new purpose which would allow CIP funds to be used "to increase and improve engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption". This new purpose provides state courts with greater flexibility in the use of the funds. We also support the provision that would allow state courts to submit a single application for the three CIP grants. This will allow state courts to eliminate duplicative paperwork and reporting, which will free up time for reform efforts. While the legislation reduces the amount of funds available to state courts, we do understand the need to also provide financial assistance to tribal courts.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of state courts. If we can provide you with additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us or Kay Farley, who is with the Government Relations Office of the National Center for State Courts.

Sincerely,

CHIEF JUDGE ERIC T.
WASHINGTON,
President, Conference of Chief Justices.

ROSALYN W. FRIERSON,
President, Conference of State Court Administrators.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Child and Family Services Improvement

and Innovation Act (H.R. 2883). This legislation shows that we can work together across the aisle to improve our child welfare system. Yet this bill is just one step in our ongoing efforts to fix the foster care system. In this time of unacceptable poverty and inequality, we must continue to support families in order to prevent kids from being neglected or abused. As we debate how to shrink our debt, we must also ensure that preserving and improving the safety net that protects our children is a higher priority than protecting special interest tax breaks.

Despite the fact that I am not on the Human Resources Subcommittee for the first time in many years, I am pleased that my colleagues still listen to some of my ideas. Last year, Congressman LANGEVIN and I introduced a bill to reduce the high number of foster youth who are victims of identity theft and are unable to secure student loans or even get a credit card. Today's legislation includes a provision from our bill that will provide youth who are about to age out of foster care with a copy of their credit report as well as resources to help clear up any credit issues. This provision is what I hope is the first movement toward ensuring that foster youth leave the system with a clean financial slate and a chance to succeed.

There are many important provisions in today's bill: maintaining a set-aside to support caseworker visits with foster children; decreasing the overuse of psychotropic drugs on foster youth, and improving education stability for children in care.

Children in foster care are our collective responsibility. The reforms made in this bill will make children safer. I thank the Chairman, the ranking Member, and all the staff involved in crafting this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2883, "The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act," which reauthorize Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, including the Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Child Welfare Services programs, while also reinstating the authority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to authorize States to implement innovative demonstration programs through Title IV-E waivers.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have been a stalwart supporter of protecting the health and welfare of children and families. Today there are more than 463,000 children and youth that are in out-of-home care. Every day, more than a half million U.S. children are in the foster care system with over 120,000 waiting to be adopted. With no permanent legal guardians, they are our Nation's children, and we have a responsibility to ensure a bright future for those who are handed a rough start in life. Foster children like all children deserve a safe environment to grow and nourish in. This piece of legislation is a step in the right direction in addressing the needs of our Nation's children when they need our help the most. There are many silent heroes who have opened their homes and taken on the role of foster parents, social workers, mentors, caregivers and volunteers to the children in this Nation. These young kids need to know someone is looking out for them and supporting legislation like the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act provides these silent heroes with additional resources and requirements to meet the needs of children in care.

There are an estimated 12 million foster care alumni in the U.S. representing all walks of life. Each and every one of the 12 million alumni has a story of their struggles, challenges and success. The Foster care system is supposed to ensure that children are cared for by members of our communities on a full-time or temporary basis when their parents are unable to provide adequate care. Often the natural parents cannot provide for a child's care for a variety of reasons such as due to incarceration, physical or mental illness, behavioral difficulties, or problems within the family environment. These issues may include child abuse, alcoholism, extreme poverty, or crime. These children often become wards of the State and we have the responsibility to protect their interests and to ensure they are provided with the care they need.

If even a single child continues to be abused or neglected while under state supervision then that is one child too many. This legislation, although not ideal, is a valid attempt to address the needs of families in crisis. In 2001, an estimated 903,000 U.S. children were found to be victims of abuse or neglect. This number is above the estimated 879,000 child maltreatment victims in 2000 but below the annual estimated highs of more than 1 million child maltreatment victims recorded through the mid-1990s. For the year 2001, States reported 59 percent of these victims experienced neglect, compared to 63 percent in 2000 and 58 percent in 1999. The percentage of physical abuse and sexual abuse victims has declined over the past 5 years but held constant between 2000 and 2001. These children need our protection. There are over 500,000 children in foster care and with this economic downturn I hope this number does not keep on rising. But hope is not enough, we need to continue to fund programs to help these children and their families.

The size of the foster care caseload rises or falls depending upon both the number of entries to foster care—children who are removed from their homes in a given year—and the number of exits in that same year—children reunited with their families, adopted, emancipated, or placed in another permanent setting. The number of entries to foster care has outpaced the number of exits for two decades.

Accountability is key, children who received "services from Child Protective Services died as a result of abuse 16 times more often than children in the general population 16.3 percent of all fatalities were children who had received services or were 'known to the system'. These children were already in a high risk category however, we must do our best to transform these numbers and ensure their safety. Currently at least 716 thousand children received "services" (28 States reporting) or 1 percent of the general population. If CPS intervention had no effect, 1 percent of this group would have suffered a fatality; if CPS intervention had made an improvement, the percentage would be less than 1 percent. However, it is 16.3 times that amount. (18 States reporting)

At this time children are again bearing the brunt of families in crisis. When a household falls into poverty, children are exposed to increased parental distress, inadequate childcare arrangements, and poor nutrition. This will lead to an increase of families needing child welfare services. For these reasons I support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2883, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2608, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 405 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 405

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 399 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 405 provides for a closed rule for the consideration of H.R. 2608. It's a temporary continuing resolution that will fund the operations of the