

October 21, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
U.S. Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Finance Committee

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairman Wyden, and Ranking Member Crapo:

The undersigned 269 national, state, and local organizations write to express our support for the bipartisan *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* (H.R. 9076), which would invest critical new resources in Title IV-B of the Social Security Act and provide needed policy improvements, and to urge its swift consideration and passage in the U.S. Senate.

Over the past year, your bipartisan leadership has brought critical attention to the need to reauthorize Title IV-B and better support strong families. The *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* responds to three priority areas outlined in [consensus recommendations](#) for reauthorizing Title IV-B of the Social Security Act:

1. Family – deepening federal support for comprehensive approaches to prevent child welfare system involvement and keep children with their families and in family-based placements as much as possible;
2. Mental health – policy improvements that complement ongoing mental health efforts by federal policymakers and support a trauma-responsive child welfare system that promotes healing; and
3. Workforce – investing in a workforce that values and supports thriving families.

This bill would expand by \$10 million annually the Court Improvement Program, which is the only direct child welfare-related federal funding that state and tribal courts receive to manage nearly 600,000 children's cases in court each year. The bill would also expand by \$10 million annually the Regional Partnership Grants, which address the intersection of parental substance use and child welfare involvement. The bill also allocates more IV-B funding for tribes, reduces barriers to tribal participation in IV-B, and supports oversight of implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Recognizing the vital role of strong families in supporting thriving children, the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* would further bolster the role of Title IV-B in supporting kinship caregivers. It would also create a clear commitment in federal law that poverty is not neglect, by underscoring the role of family preservation services for families experiencing a crisis related to a lack of resources. The bill's new policy and investments in the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program would also highlight the role of IV-B

in primary prevention, by supporting community-based services and supports that prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement.

Responding to decades of level funding, the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* would provide the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program \$75 million annually in needed new mandatory funding.

We support the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* as an important step toward a child welfare system that better supports children and families. We thank the U.S. House for passing H.R. 9076 on an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 405-10, and look forward to the U.S. Senate's timely consideration and approval of this legislation.

Thank you for your continued bipartisan leadership in service of children and families. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Zach Laris at zach@bolderhorizon.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

A Second Chance, Inc.
America Forward
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Psychological Association Services
American Public Health Association
American Public Human Services Association
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Bolder Horizon
Boys Town
CarePortal, LLC
Center for Adoption Support and Education
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children and Family Futures
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Environmental Health Network
Children's Home Society of America
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Congressional Research Institute on Social Work Policy
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Families Rising
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Focused Treatment Association

Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children
FosterClub
Futures Without Violence
Generations United
Healthy Teen Network
INSIGHTS Intervention, LLC
Kidsave
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Child Abuse Coalition
National Council For Adoption (NCFA)
National Family Resource Center Coalition
National Foster Parent Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Northwest Prevention Science
Parenting Journey
Parents as Teachers
Prevent Child Abuse America
Raise the Future
Saint Francis Ministries
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts
Sevita
Social Current
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Ray E. Helfer Society
Think of Us
Thriving Families Safer Children
Triple P America - Positive Parenting Program
Voice for Adoption
Your Case Plan
Youth Villages
Zero to Three
11:11 Media Impact

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

Alabama A&M University
Alabama Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers
Alabama Parent Advisory Council
Alabama Parent Leadership Network
VOICES for Alabama's Children

Alaska

Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Alaska Children's Trust

Arizona

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Arizona Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Arkansas

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California

American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
CA Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Family Life Center Foster & Adoption Agency
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Five Acres - The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County
Laurel FRC
Orange County, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Sacramento County
San Francisco Bay Area, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families
Trinity Youth Services
Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services

Colorado

Beautiful Redemption
RE Services

Connecticut

Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families
Connecticut Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Connecticut Council on Adoption
CT Family Resource Alliance

Delaware

Children & Families First DE
Foster Well

Florida

Florida's Children First
Youth and Family Alternatives Inc.

Georgia

Together Georgia
Together with Families
Voices for Georgia's Children

Hawaii

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Idaho

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Prevent Child Abuse Idaho

Illinois

Ascend Justice
Brightpoint
Child Link
Family Forward Illinois
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Shelter, Inc

Indiana

Foster Success

Iowa

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa
Iowa Family Resource Collaborative

Kansas

Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky

Children's Alliance of Kentucky
Kentucky Chapter of the AAP
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
St. Joseph Children's Home

Louisiana

Bayou Lotus Corp
Clover New Orleans

Maine

American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter

Maryland

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Chesapeake Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Maryland Department of Human Services

Massachusetts

Ascentria Care Alliance
Children's League of Massachusetts
HopeWell
Key Program, Inc.
Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Children's Trust
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Michigan

Eastern Michigan University Social Work Program
MCHS Family of Services
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Minnesota

AspireMN
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Mississippi

Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Missouri

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Montana

Montana Children's Trust Fund

RE Services

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed

Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Nevada

Children's Advocacy Alliance Nevada

Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Waypoint NH

New Jersey

Acenda Integrated Health

New Mexico

New Mexico Pediatric Society

New York

Beautiful Mess Ministries

Catholic Guardian Services

Child and Family Services of Erie County

City Living NY

Children's Aid

Children's Home of Jefferson County

Columbia County Mental Health Center

Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)

Every Child Inc.

Family Ties of Westchester, Inc.

Glove House, Inc.

HOPE585

Justice For Orphans

Lawyers For Children
New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health
NYS AAP- Chapter 1
NYS AAP - Chapter 2
NYS AAP - Chapter 3
The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services
The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.
Vanderheyden
Western New York State Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

North Carolina

Children's Home Society of North Carolina
Johnson C. Smith University Department of Social Work
NC Child
North Carolina Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

North Dakota

North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association

Ohio

Adams County Children Services
Allen County Children Services
Ashtabula County Children Services Board
Athens County Children Services
Fairfield County Job & Family Services
Madison County Department of Job and Family Services
Morgan County Job and Family Services
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Providence House
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Summit County Children Services
Trumbull County Children Services
Wayne County Children Services Board

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Pivot, Inc.

Oregon

Options Counseling and Family Services
Oregon Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Pennsylvania

Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work
Voices for Children Coalition

Rhode Island

American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

Alston Wilkes Society
HALOS (South Carolina)
Palmetto Association for Children and Families
SC AAP
South Carolina Thriving Families Safer Children

South Dakota

South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Tennessee

Compassionate Care Inc.
Freed-Hardeman University Social Work Program
Frontier Health
Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.
Kharis Care, LLC
MillarRich, LLC
Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
TN Children's Alliance

Texas

Abrazo Adoption Associates
Families and Foster Care Coalition, Heart of Texas
Heart of Texas Goodwill
South Texas Alamo Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Texas Network of Youth Services
Texas Pediatric Society
TexProtects

Utah

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter
Children's Service Society of Utah

Vermont

Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia

Families Forward Virginia
People Places
Virginia Department of Social Services
Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE)

Washington

Akin
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children
NorthStar Advocates
Partners for Our Children
The Mockingbird Society

Washington, DC

American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter
DC KinCare Alliance

West Virginia

TEAM for West Virginia Children
West Virginia Child Care Association

Wisconsin

Bay View Community Center
Burnett County Family Resource Center
Child Care Resource and Referral Inc
Children's Wisconsin
Family Connect of Wisconsin
Family Connections, Inc.
Lakeland Family Resource Center
Supporting Families Together Association
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics