

February 16, 2021

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Goldhaber, Acting Commissioner Barlow, and Acting Associate Commissioner Bock:

We write as child welfare stakeholders and advocates that work with and on behalf of youth in and leaving foster care. Young people with lived experience in foster care have suffered significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The recent passage of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*, which contains H.R. 7947, the *Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act*, provides an incredible opportunity to meet the urgent needs of young people while also providing child welfare agencies the increased capacity and funding to do so. A month and half has passed since the law's enactment and young people have yet to feel the impact of the law and have their needs met.

We write to urge you to provide clarity as soon as possible on several issues that are standing in the way of states moving forward with implementation and young people receiving the assistance that Congress intended as urgent pandemic relief. We urge you to communicate the responses to the following questions to the states, tribes, and territories as soon as possible:

1. What is the amount of the Chafee supplemental allocation for the states, territories and tribes?
2. When will the Chafee supplemental allocation be released to the states, territories, and tribes?
3. How long will states, territories, and tribes have to expend the Chafee supplemental?

Advocates and young people are thrilled with the passage of the law and are looking forward to relief reaching young people. Communication from the Children's Bureau to the states on these three issues is essential for states to begin implementation so that vital assistance can be provided to young people.

Sincerely,

ACTION Ohio (Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now)

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Law Center of California

Children's Rights

Child Welfare League of America

First Focus Campaign for Children

Foster Care Alumni of America

FosterClub

John Burton Advocates for Youth

Juvenile Law Center

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

National Center for Youth Law

National Foster Youth Institute

OHIO YAB (Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board)

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