

NASW [state chapter] SUPPORTS THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN and YOUTH

NASW [state chapter] is introducing a Joint Memorial to urge the [state] Delegation, Congress, and the Administration to convene a White House Conference on Children and Youth. From 1909 to 1970, it was held every 10 years. **It has been 40 years** since America's leading child welfare advocates have been brought together in the nation's capital to examine the current state of our children.

Fast Facts:

- In 2008, there were more than 3 million reports of child abuse and neglect; 772,000 children were determined to be victims.
- 1,740 children died due to abuse/neglect in 2008.
- Each year, over 500,000 children are in foster care, and approximately 125,000 are waiting to be adopted.
- In [state], there were 7,240 substantiated reports of abuse/neglect involving 11,090 victims in 2009.
- Each year, approximately 25,000 youth age out of the foster care system and face dire outcomes.
- Child abuse/neglect costs the United States an estimated \$104 billion annually.

Goals of the Conference:

A final report of the conference will be submitted to the chief executive officers of the states and will include:

- A coherent national policy on state child welfare systems;
- Research-based best practices that can prevent child abuse/neglect;
- Recommendations to improve health outcomes and measures of well-being for children; and
- Recommendations to reduce the over-representation of ethnic minorities in the child welfare system.

What Do Experts Say?

"Each of us must come to care about everyone else's children. We must recognize that the welfare of our children is intimately linked to the welfare of all other people's children." ~Lilian Katz, Professor, University of Illinois & expert on early childhood education

"The fundamental purpose of the 2010 White House Conference on Children and Youth is to fulfill the nation's need for an overall vision in child welfare." ~Christine James-Brown, President/CEO, Child Welfare League of America

Who Supports This Conference?

This bill has bipartisan support in Congress and the support of more than 800 organizations including:

- National Association of Social Workers
- Child Welfare League of America
- Children First for [state name]
- National Foster Parent Association
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Child Welfare Partnership
- Catholic Charities USA
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- 59 cosponsors in the U.S. House, 15 in the U.S. Senate