



June 12, 2017

The Honorable Danny Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kristi Noem
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis and Congresswoman Noem:

The Child Welfare League of America offers its endorsement for HR 2834, Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act.

This legislation will continue the regional partnership grants while making small but important changes to strengthen the role of key state and tribal partners and by continuing current research.

Since these grants were first established we have learned a great deal about effective substance use treatment strategies. Recent trends in both substance use and its impact on foster care tells us we must do much more. Last year's foster care numbers released by HHS indicated that in 2015, 427,910 children were in foster care, an eight-percent increase since 2012. New data suggests that drug abuse by the parent was the primary reason for the child's removal in 32 percent of cases.

The progress of the recent past is being threatened by the increased use of opioids and other substances. To counter this, we need to continue to expand both access and options to substance use treatment. This legislation can be an important change to build on what we have already learned.

Again thank you for your support and interest on this and other child welfare issues. We hope we can come together around some important federal investments and reforms in child welfare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine James Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris James-Brown
President and CEO