

Status of 116th Congress (2019-2020)

It is anticipated that Congress will adjourn as soon as they pass an omnibus spending bill to fund the U.S. Government beyond December 18, 2020. In addition, talk continues related to another COVID Stimulus Package. To date, the House and Senate are on separate pages concerning the items to be included and the maximum amount to be allocated. The 116th Congressional Session is set to end January 3, 2021.



[Note: Any proposed legislation filed by the 116th Congress not enacted as law by the January 3rd deadline is erased from the slate. The 117th Congress will begin with a fresh start in January 2021.]

H.R. 8443

Status Report on H.R. 8443 - **Cottage Homes To Improve Lives for Dependents [CHILD] Act**

The C.H.I.L.D. Act filed by Rep. Neil Dunn [R-Florida] on September 30, 2020, will ensure that cottage home care facilities providing care for children not needing treatment services will be added to the continuum of care for which federal funding can be provided. Rep. Alcee Hastings [D-Florida] filed as a co-sponsor for the legislation the day it was introduced.

The [Congress.Gov](https://www.congress.gov) webpage has not been updated to reflect other co-signers on the legislation. Reportedly, according to Rep. Dunn's office, three additional co-sponsors from Florida have also signed on as co-sponsors. They include Rep. Darren Soto [D-Florida] Rep. Greg Steube [R-Florida], and Rep. Valdez Demings [D-Florida].

I am not aware if other Congressmen have signed on as a co-sponsor to the legislation. The CORE Legislative Committee is currently looking at some tweaks to recommend prior to the bill being refiled in the 117th Congressional Session.

Once the legislation is filed in the next legislative session, it is imperative that members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence reach out to their legislators with a request that they sign-on as co-sponsors as well.

Currently, based on CORE's current membership, we potentially have access to 40% of Legislators on Capitol Hill. Hopefully, we can provide compelling reasons why passage of this legislation is badly needed.

S. 4172

Status Report on S.4172 Report of S. 4172 - **Child Welfare Emergency Assistance Act**

The Child Welfare Emergency Act was filed by Senators Sherrod Brown [D-Ohio], Kamala Harris [D-California and Vice President Elect], Robert (Bob) Casey, Jr [D - Pennsylvania] and Catherine Cortez Masto [D-Nevada] . There are currently 16 co-sponsors. Reported this legislation was introduced with the intent that it be added as an amendment to a budget bill

H.R. 7947

Status Report on H.R. 7947 - **Supporting Foster Youth & Families Through the Pandemic Act**

Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act was introduced by Rep. Danny Davis. This legislation is currently assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. 36 additional co-sponsors signed on the the legislation in September. There are currently 53 Co-Sponsors [29 Democrats and 24 Republicans

COMPELLING REASONS WHY COTTAGE HOME CARE IS NEEDED

In the October 2020 Executive Director's Report, I included references to news articles and publications highlighting the negative impact on recruiting and maintaining foster homes during the pandemic, the shortage of residential resources for children not needing treatment services, information regarding children staying in hotels and child welfare worker's office while they await foster homes, and the failure of child welfare workers to investigate complaints of child abuse/neglect in order to keep children safe.

In addition, I added information provided by CORE membership in response to questions regarding resources for children.

In building on that platform, I plan to continue adding additional information highlighting the lack of placement resources, child deaths related to children for whom CPS and law enforcement have made multiple investigations, etc.

The information will assist our membership in having resources to share with legislators that provide factual information regarding the plight of children for whom placement resources are needed.

- **Chicago** – WLS – November 26, 2020 **Youth in need of foster homes increases during COVID-19 pandemic**
https://abc7chicago.com/family/need-for-loving-foster-care-homes-increases/8284226/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- **NEW York** Impact 11/24/20 **New Survey Shows 1 in 3 New York Foster Families Lost Income in 2020, With City Hardest Hit**

“Meanwhile, the number of licensed foster homes in New York fell by more than 20% in 2020, erasing the significant gains from the prior year, according to The Imprint’s annual data analysis, Who Cares: A National Count of Foster Homes and Families... The survey also sheds light on the demographics of New York foster parent ranks: 90% of respondents were women, and more than two-thirds were working before the pandemic. Just 23% of those outside New York City were single parents, while in the city, over 60% were single parents.

<https://imprintnews.org/news-2/new-survey-shows-1-in-3-new-york-foster-families-lost-income-in-2020-with-city-hardest-hit/49450>

- **Florida** - November 18, 2020- 06:02AM ET | Herald Tribune **Florida’s children in the welfare system lose as group homes are closed.**

“Children in the welfare system are among the most vulnerable in our population. As law enforcement officers, we are often on the front lines of seeing tragic and unfortunate situations where children have to be removed from their homes. Whether its...”

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/2020/11/18/florida-sheriffs-youth-ranches-caught-disheartening-trend/6324130002/>

- **Washington, DC** - November 16, 2020 **Another child, known to police and CPS, dead of abuse in DC** - Child Welfare Monitor DC

https://childwelfaremonitordc.org/2020/11/16/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

SAVE THE DATE: April 20-22, 2021

**2021 CORE National Conference | Mooseheart
Child City School**

(Mooseheart is a residential childcare facility, located on a 1,000-acre campus 38 miles west of Chicago.)





Illinois Baptist Children’s Home and Family Services, located in Carmi, Illinois, is now a member of the Coalition of Residential Excellence.

Illinois Baptist Children’s Home and Family Services began as an orphanage for children in 1918. Today the agency provides a myriad of services to children and families from hard places. There are five distinct programs to assist families. They include residential care, individual and family counseling, maternity home services and adoption. In addition, the agency provides a pregnancy resource clinic.

The residential child care program serves children struggling behaviorally or those who are the victims of abuse, abandonment or neglect. The residential program is licensed for the care of 40 children. Reportedly, utilization is generally limited by the agency to 32 children.

By design, the cottage homes are limited to eight children per unit and each of the four units is licensed separately by the State of Illinois. The trauma informed care model employed by the agency is ARC [Attachment, Regulation and Competency]. It is an evidence-based model of care.

The agency does not accept state or federal funds and relies on a donor-base to provide the funding needed for operation of the home.

The residential child care program provides cottage home care for children with live-in houseparent staff who work a seven-day-on/seven-day-off staffing pattern. The home is located at 949 County Road 1300 N, Cami, IL 62821. The executive director/COO of the corporation is Denny Hydrick.

Renewal Notices

Applications to Renew Membership in the Coalition of Residential Excellence will be communicated electronically to each of our member agencies. Dues are due by the end of January 2021.



