



Information Sharing On Capitol Hill.

As planned, several member agencies of the Coalition of Residential Excellence came to Capitol Hill for visits with legislators on October 17th and 18th.

Those present included:

- Bill Frye, President and Maria Knapp, Vice President - Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. They were accompanied by 32 youth and staff members.
- Sean Milner, Executive Director of The Baptist Children's Village in Ridgeview, Mississippi.
- Jimmy Harmon, President of Black Mountain Children's Home in Black Mountain, North Carolina.
- Paul Schandavel, Director of Child and Family Services, Children's Home, Inc . in Paragould, Arkansas.
- Thomas Robinson and James Turner, from Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pennsylvania

The group representation by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches made a profound impact. The youth group adhered to the usual dress protocol on Capitol Hill. All of the boys were all wearing a coat and tie and the girls were wearing dresses. As a group, the youth were attentive, respectful and on their best behavior. They presented themselves and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in a very favorable light.

Rep. Darren Soto, this year's recipient of the CORE Award for Policy Maker of the Year, engaged the students in dialogue at his office on Capitol Hill. He posed several questions which were thoughtfully answered by the youth.

Rep. Soto is also one of the original cosponsors of H.R. 3852 – Create Accountable Respectful Environments for Children Act. The bill currently has fifteen cosponsors. Twelve are from Florida, two are from Mississippi and one is from Texas.

To date, Rep. Steube is the only member of the of the United States House Committee on Ways and Means that has cosponsored H.R. 3852.

CORE's presence on Capitol Hill was important because of the on-going capacity crisis that leaves children in harm's way. The intent of H.R. 3852 is to help address the capacity issue by increasing the number of appropriate residential placement resources for children and keeping sibling groups together. The bill requires providing children a normalized home and community environment with opportunities for age-appropriate normalized extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities and the same freedoms afforded peers living with families.

The legislation also includes a myriad of safeguards:

- Requiring the implementation of a trauma informed approach to care.
- Prohibiting the use of seclusion, mechanical or chemical restraints.
- Allowing the use of short-term physical restraint if approved in the agency's policies to prevent injury to self or others and the prohibiting the use of prone physical restraint.
- Requiring providers to have a system in place to alert staff person(s) if they

Why Is Passage Of H.R 3852 so important? Without resources for placement, children are not safe.

From a Nov 8, 2023 news report [By Andrew Hensel | The Center Square](#)

Since December six children have died in Illinois while on the states child protection agency's radar. In 2022, 171 kids died while on the departments radar screen or within 12 months after department contact was made with them.

Ann McIntyre, the newly appointed DCFS inspector general said: **"We need more resources. The state departments need more placements for our children. Right now, we don't have enough.** https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/article_c00e2a68-7e71-11ee-8c60-6b87621bde81.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

UPDATE ON OTHER LEGISLATION

H.R. 2955 - Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act

There are 46 cosponsors including the 3 original cosponsors. No new cosponsors were added in October.

S. 1353 - Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act

The Act has 16 cosponsors. Sen. Angus King and Sen Pete Ricketts signed on in October.

H.R. - 755 Protecting Sibling Relationships in Foster Care Act

The Act has 7 cosponsors not including its sponsor. No new cosponsors were added in October.

S. 102- Foster Care Stabilization Act of 2023

Currently, there are two cosponsors for the bill.



Aloha mai kākou!

Hello to all of our extended ‘ohana (family) throughout the CORE community. Our Residential Life team wanted to reach out to share our excitement about serving as hosts for the 2024 CORE National Conference in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. The tentative dates for the conference are Sunday, October 6th – Wednesday, October 9th. We would like to gather information on the approximate number of people from your institution attending the conference, their interest in lodging, and any interest in presenting at the conference. We recognize that it may be difficult to make a firm commitment to be in attendance, but your best guess would help with our planning.

Please complete the form [here](#) and provide us with valuable input for our planning.

Please also reach out to us at residentiallife@ksbe.edu if you have any questions for us as the 2024 National CORE Conference host institution.

Mahalo nui (Thank you very much),
Kamehameha Schools Residential Life Admin Team