



The Executive Director's Report for November and December are merged into one report. The November report was delayed awaiting a status report on legislative action that seemed imminent related to S.1351. As this calendar year begins to wind down and come to an end, it is with the sense that the Coalition of Residential Excellence has figuratively gone through a rite of passage of sorts.

I believe that good news should travel fast. Because of legislative advocacy on the part of CORE members, wise counsel provided by CORE's legislative committee, and the work of our legislative lobbyist in Washington, CORE's voice is having an impact on Capitol Hill.

Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence were opposed to passage of S. 1351 - Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act [the Paris Hilton Bill]. We have great compassion for Ms. Hilton and her experience as a young person. No youth should feel unsafe or experience trauma from an organization whose purpose is to help young people.

Under S. 1351, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is legislatively mandated to enter a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study to examine the state of youth in youth residential programs and make recommendations. The original bill clearly provided a pathway for legislative and administrative action. We interpreted that to mean regulatory action.

It was primarily for that reason that CORE members were opposed to the Act. Senators sensitive to CORE's concerns were able to stop passage of S.1351 until it could be rewritten. The newly revised bill was up for vote in the Senate on Wednesday, December 11th. The revised language still subtly referenced legislative and administrative action. On CORE's behalf, prior to passage of the legislation, all references to legislative and administrative actions were removed. The bill simply authorizes that a study will be done. Had that not been accomplished, passage of the legislation would have been blocked. Wednesday's vote had to be unanimous in order for the bill to pass.

Core still opposes the bill. The bill will now be sent to the House of Representatives. Core has been working in the House to prevent this bill from

passing. Core's Lobbyist, Gregg Harper, immediately contacted House leadership after S. 1351 passed the Senate.

The following text was received from Gregg on Thursday morning: “Just got word from the Speaker’s office that they confirmed with the Leader’s office that this bill will not be voted on this Congress!”

We are cautiously optimistic that this bill will not pass this year; but we will continue to monitor the legislation.

The Coalition of Residential Excellence has achieved an unprecedented higher level of accomplishment in legislative advocacy than ever before. This is something our membership should take pride in and value.

It really is true: “Two are better than one; they have a good return for their labor.”

Other Legislative Updates

H.R. 3852

Unfortunately, H.R. 3852 - Create Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Children Act will not become a reality this legislative session. We are very hopeful it will be refiled early in the next session. This is the legislation that figuratively puts children’s homes back into the continuum of care for children.

Other legislation filed in the 118th Congress related to children that CORE has carefully monitored also disappears on January 3, 2025 when the 119th Congress begins. Those additional bills include:

- **H.R. 755** Protecting Sibling Relationships in Foster Care Act
- **S. 102** Foster Care Stabilization Act of 2023
- **H.R. 756** Foster Care Stabilization Act of 2023

**Change of mailing address:
Coalition of Residential Excellence
300 New Jersey Avenue NW - Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20001**

The mailing address for the Coalition of Residential Excellence is almost the same as the former address of our virtual office. The only difference is that the Suite number has changed from the 9th floor to the 3rd floor.

2025 CORE Membership Dues

Later this month, invoices for 2025 CORE Membership Dues will be emailed to current members. The invoice will reflect the new address. Since the address is almost identical to the previous address, you may want to alert your business office of the change.

In addition, please have checks made payable to: **Coalition of Residential Excellence**. Last year, some agencies made checks payable to CORE. The bank was reluctant to allow us to deposit those checks. It will simplify the process greatly if you will assist in this way.

Welcome New Member

Homes of Hope located in Purvis, MS has been granted membership in the Coalition of Residential Excellence. Dr. Scott Hanberry is the Executive Director.

The agency began in 2005 and the campus resembles an upscale rural neighborhood. In addition to the cottages dedicated for provision of care for children, there is available housing for some of the staff. The executive director also lives on campus.

The agency admits private placements as well as those placed through children's protective services. To be eligible for admission, a child must be between the ages of four-to-seventeen. School age children attend schools in the Lamar County School District.

Children in care have access to the larger community for a myriad of activities and recreational opportunities. Children also attend church in the community.

Older children are permitted to hold an after-school job if they have an interest and can responsibly manage both their academics and work. Children are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities that align with their individual interests.

Homes of Hope also provides residents the tools and support they need to transition into adulthood. Residents can choose to remain in care after high school graduation and participate in a transitional living program. While in the transition living program, they

are provided an apartment on campus while they receive additional support in developing essential life skills and continuing their education or career training.

CORE
COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE

Save the Date!
(Registration Details Coming Soon)

WACO

2025 NATIONAL CORE CONFERENCE
OCT. 21 - 23 | WACO, TX

Hosted by  **Methodist Children's Home**
Offering Hope Since 1890

