



COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE

Executive Director's Report July 2025

For the previous two-to-three months, care has been taken to broaden support for Rep. Greg Steube's filing of the CARE Act (Creating Accountable Respectful Environments for Children Act.) This is legislation that CORE's legislative committee assisted in drafting for the last Legislative Session. That legislation was filed by Rep. Neal Dunn.



The bill which identically mirrors the previous legislation reportedly is now slated to be filed before mid-August. Obviously, part of the delay has nothing to do with the merits of the bill. The obvious quagmire in Congress is driven by political party affiliation. Hence the legislative stalemate.

I believe that the plight of children in harm's way is enough for us to flex a level of concern that can be heard across both side of aisle. I will notify you when the legislation is filed. It is of most importance that this legislation be moved forward.

The following narrative is a one-page overview of the bill:

The Creating Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Child Act is aimed at increasing capacity, keeping sibling groups together, and providing children a normalized home and community environment with opportunities for age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities and the same freedoms afforded peers living with families.

The Act adds "cottage family homes" to the continuum of care for which Title IV-E funding can be used. The term "cottage family home" means a family-like home operated by a public or private child care agency licensed or approved by the state where it is located.

Cottage family homes offer a family-like living environment in a single-family style residence with no more than two children per bedroom unless it is in the best interest of children; and one in which children are under the care of live-in cottage parents that implement the reasonable and prudent parent standard and provide 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or caretakers.

The cottage family home model:

- Provides children with full time cottage parents available for supervision and nurturing around the clock.
- Enables siblings to stay together.
- Provides a myriad of checks and balances to ensure the child's safety.
- Offers community and enrichment opportunities for children.
- Creates a layer of support for the parents of children in care. Instead of attempting to replace parents of children, agencies work with parents and their children to resolve difficulties with the goal of reunification.
- Guarantees that staff receive extensive training and use a systemic approach in providing trauma informed care.

The health, safety and well-being of children is critically important. To maintain a high standard of care, this Act offers the following stipulations:

- 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 by agency's policies to prevent injury to self or others and prohibiting the use of prone physical restraint.
- Requiring providers to have a system in place for children to alert a staff person if they have concerns or feel they have unfairly been denied their rights or are subject to the threat of mistreatment.
- Requiring a continuous quality improvement methodology that regularly solicits information from children concerning their perceptions of the quality of care and identification of strengths and weaknesses of the program.

This Act is intended to address or assist in resolving the shortage of appropriate foster homes for children. It provides a system of checks and balances to ensure a child's on-going safety and well-being in a cottage family home and makes such a child's placement eligible for foster care maintenance payments.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring, please contact Ronnie Carabbia (Ronnie.Carabbia@mail.house.gov) in Congressman Steube's office.

Registration Deadline

- August 15, 2025 -



This is a conference you don't want to miss. This is a conference you don't want your staff to miss. This is a conference you don't want to miss. This is a conference you don't want your staff to miss.

CORE Conference 2025 and Willson-Johnson Lecture Series

October 21–23, 2025 | Location: Waco, Texas
Hosted by Methodist Children's Home
Rooted and Rising: Building Healing Communities

DAY 1: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 – WACO HILTON

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Pre-Conference Optional Activity (*Pre-Registration Required) Dr. Pepper Museum

2 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. | Welcome

TREY OAKLEY, President and CEO – Methodist Children's Home

2:05 – 2:10 p.m. | Speaker Introduction

JEAN WRIGHT, Senior Director for Organizational Effectiveness – Methodist Children's Home

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Willson-Johnson Lecture Series

DR. ROBERT ANDA, Co-Founder of ACE Interface

“Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities”

3:30 p.m. -3:35 p.m. | Closing

TRACI WAGNER, Vice President for Programs – Methodist Children's Home

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Waco Campus Tour

*Transportation Provided to/from Waco Hilton

5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. | An Evening Reception

Refreshments, Fellowship and Discussion

6:15 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Speaker Introduction

BROOKE DAVILLA, Vice President for Organizational Effectiveness – Methodist Children's Home

- **DR. ROBERT ANDA**, Co-Founder of ACE Interface
- **DR. JON SINGLETARY**, Dean of Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University
- **SHEN CHEFALO**, Founder and Lead Strategist of Chefalo Consulting

[NOTE: The full conference agenda will be available early next week. I will share the information as soon as I receive it]

ONLY 9 DAYS REMAIN

I AM PUZZLED - THE COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE IS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS. I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE AGENCIES THAT COMPRISE OUR MEMBERSHIP. NONE OF THE AGENCIES FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF MEDIOCRE.

EVERYONE EMPLOYED IN ONE OF OUR MEMBER AGENCIES HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE SOMEONE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES TO RECEIVE A 2025 CATHERINE HERSHEY AWARD:

- **ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**
- **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**
- **HOUSEPARENT(S) OF THE YEAR**
- **ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**
- **STUDENT OF THE YEAR**
- **TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR (A CORE AWARD)**
- **LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR (A CORE AWARD)**

I AM PUZZLED - PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE DON'T JUST HAPPEN. THEY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THE PROFESSIONALISM, COMMITMENT AND EXPERTISE OF PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION.

ONLY NINE DAYS REMAIN UNTIL NOMINATIONS FOR CATHERINE HERSHEY AWARDS ARE DUE - WHY NOT DO YOUR PART AND MAKE A NOMINATION.

SUBMIT AWARD NOMINATIONS

