



May 22, 2008

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), representing hundreds of public and private child-serving member agencies located in all fifty states, supports your legislation to strengthen our nation's adoption and guardianship programs. The Improved Adoption Incentives and Relative Guardianship Support Act of 2008 will take an important and critical step forward in recognizing the role that kinship placements hold in moving children in foster care toward a permanent and loving family. We are pleased that this bill takes the additional step of providing a financial incentive for those states that make kinship placements a permanency option.

We also extend our support to those provisions that would strengthen special needs adoptions by eliminating the outdated eligibility link to the 1996 AFDC program and those provisions that attempt to strengthen these placements by encouraging greater state efforts toward the adoption of special needs and older children awaiting adoptions.

CWLA joins with you in your efforts to move this legislation forward in the next few months. The need to address kinship care is an important initiative for all who seek to make improvements in our nation's child welfare system. We look forward to working with you and all members of the Senate Finance Committee and all members of Congress who advocate for greater support for kinship care and special needs adoptions.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

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

Christine James-Brown  
President/CEO