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NCFA'S 2016 Policy Priorities and Adoption- Related Legislation

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Since our inception in 1980, National Council For Adoption (NCFA) has served as a strong and principled advocate for children outside of family care, adopted individuals, adoptive families, birth parents, and the public at-large. Motivated by the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a loving, safe, and permanent home, NCFA continues to support laws, policies, and practices to help promote permanency for the many children worldwide living without permanent families.

Our January *Adoption Advocate* is always dedicated to presenting NCFA's policy priorities for the coming year and related legislation. NCFA rarely endorses specific legislation, but instead prioritizes educating key legislators and policymakers on the policies and practices that will provide essential services and the best possible support for children outside permanent family care, adopted individuals, birth parents, and adoptive families. At present, we are beginning the 2nd year of the 114th United States Congress, which began January 3, 2015 and continues until January 3, 2017. As we outline our priorities generally in this article, we will also take the opportunity to mention current pending legislation that is related to NCFA's legislative priorities.



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Permanency for Youth in Foster Care

Issue Overview

According to the most recent statistics, approximately 107,918 of the 415,129 children in foster care are eligible and waiting for adoption.¹ The number of children in care and those waiting for adoption have both grown since the previous year. There may be a number of factors, both positive and negative, varying from one locality to another that has resulted in more kids in care and awaiting adoption. Yet there is reason for concern given that the national trend of waiting children is once again growing, while the number of children adopted is in a slight decline (50,644 compared to an average of 51,833 over the previous four years).²

In 2008, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act brought major reform, enacting policies focused on promoting permanency and positive long-term outcomes for youth in care. However, child welfare experts agreed there was still immense need to help all children in foster care find the family permanency that is their right. In 2014, H.R. 4980 (introduced by Rep. Dave Camp), which became Public Law 113-183: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, brought further improvement. It changed the formula for state adoption incentives to include permanent guardianship options and adjusted the incentive calculation formula so that states benefit when children spend less time waiting and older children are placed for adoption or guardianship. The law also requires reporting on children who return to foster care after a placement for adoption or guardianship does not work out. This data will provide important insight about the number of children experiencing another disruption in their placement as well as ways to better serve them. Further, it requires notification of parent(s) of a sibling if the parent(s) have legal custody of the sibling, so that, when possible and appropriate, siblings can be cared for together. These are all seemingly positive steps whose impacts are not yet measurable, but are likely to provide a positive contribution to permanency for children.

We know though, that we need a coordinated plan to continue to address the ongoing and growing needs of waiting children. We know that youth who age out of care without permanency face heartbreaking outcomes including decreased high school graduation rates, low college attendance and graduation rates, early pregnancy, and high incidences of homelessness and incarceration.³

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (2015). AFCARS Report #22. Retrieved from: www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport22.pdf

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (2015). AFCARS Report #22. Retrieved from: www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport22.pdf

³ For more information on this issue see: *Adoption Advocate* #83 The Human Social, And Economic Cost of Aging Out of Foster Care.

NCFA Position and Goals

Although NCFA's strategic focus is specifically on children waiting to be adopted, we acknowledge other options that result in safe permanency are also desirable outcomes. Through public awareness campaigns, research, and legislative advocacy, NCFA seeks to encourage new and creative solutions to ensure that the best practices are in place to help find every child a permanent home.

There is a clear need for increased education and support services for adopted children and families, as we will expand upon in a later section. It is important to note here that our goal is never, simply, to find a family for a child, but to ensure that the child is placed with an adoptive family well equipped to meet their individual personal needs. The resulting outcome we seek is a thriving family.

To better ensure permanency for more children in foster care, it is essential to provide flexible funding and incentives to states that will encourage adoption and permanency options for children in care. We support initiatives that advance positive funding structures and research on improved permanency outcomes, specifically for children being adopted into families.

Relevant Legislation

S. 1932 the All Kids Matter Act was introduced on August 4, 2015 by Senator Bennet. It seeks to amend Foster Care and Adoption Assistance funds, revising state plan requirements to require the state to identify and provide appropriate prevention, intervention and support before placing a child in care. It also requires that standard services be provided to all children in foster care or who have left care and returned to families. States must submit, update, and revise appropriately a description of activities and delivery mechanisms for achieving increased permanency for all children.

H.R. 1868: Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2015⁴ was introduced by Representative Conyers on April 15, 2015. The bill seeks to better serve youth in foster care by requiring states to follow procedures in placing a child who has been removed from the custody of their parents. Procedures include notification within 30 days of child's adult relatives, explanation of option under federal, state, and local law for care and placement of the child, and a description of requirements to become a foster family along with additional supports available for the child.

It is essential to provide flexible funding and incentives to states that will encourage adoption and permanency options for children in care.

⁴ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1868?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%221868%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=2

Adoption Education and Support Services

Issue Overview

Across all types of adoption, adoption experts and advocates put a significant amount of focus on finding permanent adoptive families for children, and rightly so. In recent years, there has been an increased focus on not only putting children in families, but also providing education services to families, trauma- and adoption-informed care to children, and a variety of resources post-placement to help children succeed in their new family setting.

Reliable data regarding the exact number of adoptions that are disrupted or dissolved each year does not yet exist and more research is needed to understand the reasons these disruptions occur. However, The Strengthening Families Act created a requirement that some data be collected on children adopted from foster care who return to the foster care system; due to this change, improved data may be available in the future, at least for adoptions from foster care. Currently, we know that between 1% and 10% of all adoptions dissolve or disrupt, with some studies showing a higher rate of dissolution in adoption of adolescents. Anecdotally, we see that children who have faced trauma over longer periods of time have an increased likelihood of going through an adoption disruption. We also know that parents who receive relevant pre-adoption education on trauma, parenting children that come from hard places, and information about the availability of post-adoption support and resources are more likely to succeed.

Reports in recent years of inappropriate custody transfers after adoption, while small in number, are unacceptable. We believe that if families are well prepared, and children and families are provided the resources they need to succeed, than these outcomes will occur less often. Adoption professionals agree that more and better post-adoption services and support are necessary. Lastly, just as several states⁵ recently sought to close loopholes that allow for the unsafe and illegal transfer of children outside of the established child welfare system, ultimately *every* state must enforce existing laws and punish offenders whose decision place children in harm's way.

NCFA Position and Goals

NCFA places a strong emphasis on finding families for children, but does not believe the process should ever end with recruitment or placement. Our goal is for *every* child to find their way to a family where they can thrive. We know that for that to happen, every child needs a family particularly equipped to meet their unique needs. Children being placed from foster care or adopted internationally often come from hard places and have already had

⁵ www.examiner.com/article/states-moving-to-ban-private-re-homing-of-adopted-children

to deal with traumatic, life-altering experiences. Experiences are as unique as each child, but loss of birth family, the trauma of institutional care, facing abuse or neglect, separation from culture, language barriers, and separation from siblings and other family members are some of the ways adopted children can be impacted.

Children deserve all the support it takes for as long as it takes to ensure that they can succeed in their adoptive families. Services and support can mean a variety of things depending on a child's individual needs. One thing we have found to be valuable is the clear disclosure of a child's needs and advance education and training for parents in order to meet those specific needs. Education that provides an advanced understanding of the impact of trauma on a child is significant, but parents also need resources and training on how to parent a child who has faced trauma. We must not simply inform of the impact of trauma, but provide trauma-informed parenting resources to help families succeed as some more traditional parenting behaviors may be ineffective or even harmful to children impacted by trauma. Continued medical care, counseling, group therapy, and therapeutic support for children both independently and with family involvement are often also essential to help children reach their full potential.

Related Legislation

S. 369: The Supporting Adoptive Families Act was introduced by Senator Klobuchar on February 4, 2015 and **H.R. 2068: Protecting Adopted Children Act** was introduced by Representative Langevin on April 28, 2015. These bills seek to extend adoption promotion and support services to better support adoptions from other countries as well as domestic adoptions. They also create grant programs to develop and implement mental health service programs for all adopted children. Finally, they direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to amend its data collection system to collect and report information regarding the children who enter into state custody as a result of the disruption or dissolution of a domestic or intercountry adoption. The House bill further expands the scope of the existing Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in the Department of Justice to monitor for the illegal custody transfer of a child (sometimes referred to as "rehomeing").

S. 1964 and HR 3781 the Family Stability and Kinship Care Act of 2015 were introduced August 5, 2015 by Senator Wyden and October 21, 2015 by Representative Doggett. The bills amend the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance funds to give states the option to provide certain services to children and families outside of care when at risk of entering care or to children who exit care to family, but remain in need of certain services.

S 2166 the Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act⁶ introduced October 8, 2015 by Senator Blunt seeks to support the mental health and wellbeing of foster youth by amending funding to ensure that mental health screenings are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care, and that mental health assessments are provided under certain appropriate circumstances.

Global Adoption Outreach

Issue Overview

Uncounted, we cannot know exactly how many children live outside family care globally. Experts disagree on who should be counted and how this count should even be done. We do know that the number is in the millions, and includes children living in institutions, on the streets, and in temporary foster care or other settings. According to some estimates, there are approximately eight million children living in institutions worldwide.

In 2013, U.S. families adopted only 6,441 children born abroad, despite Americans' continuing interest in and commitment to intercountry adoption.⁷ This marks a drastic and ongoing decline from the peak, in 2004, at 22,991 intercountry adoptions. As a signatory to The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, the United States has established a commitment to international standards of practice with all nations that are Convention signatories. The Hague Convention aims to safeguard children, birth parents, and adoptive parents involved in the intercountry adoption process. The United States also has independent intercountry adoption agreements with some countries that have not signed The Hague Convention.

The Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act, which was signed into law in 2013, was fully implemented as of July 2014. It created high standards of accreditation for all adoption service providers, regardless of whether or not they work in Hague Convention countries. This change increased safeguards for adopted children, and has narrowed the difference between Hague and non-Hague adoptions in the United States.

NCFA Position and Goals

NCFA believes that intercountry adoption is one necessary and valuable part of a full spectrum of options appropriate for children living outside family care. It should be prioritized as a good option for children in institutions or temporary care settings. Any time that family preservation or reunification is not viable, and kinship care or in-country adoption

⁶ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2166?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22s2166%5C%22%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1

⁷ travel.state.gov/content/dam/aa/pdfs/fy2014_annual_report.pdf

options are not timely options, children should have the option of a permanent family instead of being left in temporary or institutional care settings. NCFA views the Universal Accreditation Act's implementation as a positive step towards ensuring a high standard of care and protection for children, birth families, and adoptive families. All involved in the adoption process deserve ethical adoption service providers subject to high standards of accountability.

NCFA remains concerned about the decrease in intercountry adoptions, given the large number of waiting children and the availability of potential adoptive families in the United States. We believe that instances of abuse and fraud within the adoption process are never acceptable and should be aggressively addressed. However, these are limited cases and should be treated as such and individually dealt with. Systemic adoption shutdowns should be the rare exception. Instead we should focus on bringing ethical practice through prosecution for misdeeds and systemic improvements. Legitimate concerns about abuse or corruption should never be exaggerated at the expense of the millions of orphaned and vulnerable children around the world who await love, safety, and permanency.

Intercountry adoption is one valuable part of a full spectrum of options appropriate for children living outside family care. Adoption is a human service; at its best, it helps move children from detrimental environments into family care, where they are far more likely to find love and support and reach their full potential. We believe it is a far greater crime to shut down an entire human service available to children than to criminalize those who act outside of the ethical processes of adoption. We will continue to encourage U.S. and foreign governments to investigate cases that should be investigated, but refrain from shutting down entire systems that help many children find their way to appropriate care. NCFA believes that post-adoption services are also crucial for children who join families through intercountry adoption. Further, we believe that families adopting internationally must be committed to helping their children learn about their cultures of origin and, in cases of transracial adoption, American families must also be prepared to address the challenges of parenting children of color in a society that has not overcome racial prejudice.

At the same time, NCFA knows that intercountry adoption is not enough to help children living outside of family care. Even at its height, 22,441 children adopted in one year has a miniscule impact on the great number of children without family care. We must do better. It is our priority to help increase awareness globally of the developmental detriment faced by children living outside family care. We want to work with the U.S. government and with international governments to help them understand

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the developmental need of a child for a family and the necessity of timely decisions. Although our systems are imperfect, we believe that we can use our knowledge – sharing both our strengths and weaknesses – to help other countries build child welfare systems that promote and prioritize the permanency of adoption for children living outside family care.

Related Legislation

Public Law No: 114-70: Adoptive Family Relief Act was introduced by Senator Feinstein and Representative Franks and signed into law by President Obama on October 16, 2015. This legislation seeks to provide financial relief to families who have adopted children, but for reasons beyond their control have been unable to bring their children home. This bill would waive immigrant visa renewal fees when children are unable to immigrate within the original visa expiration date.

National Responsible Fatherhood Registry

Issue Overview

Often established as a result of highly publicized, contested adoption cases, Responsible Fatherhood Registries – also known as putative father registries, paternity registries, or paternal claim registrars – allow an unwed biological father who registers in a timely manner to receive notice of any pending or future adoption proceedings involving his putative (or possible) child. While 32 states across the country have registries, 18 states and the District of Columbia do not.

Registry systems serve several purposes:

- Protecting a biological father's parental rights
- Providing greater stability for children by decreasing the likelihood of an adoption which may be contested or disrupted
- Creating a system that balances responsibility between both biological parents, as expectant mothers are not given the full responsibility of notifying and seeking participation from expectant fathers (this may be especially important in rare cases where it may not be safe or appropriate for the expectant parents to be in contact)
- Providing extra assurance to adoptive parents that when a child is placed in their care, both biological parents have been allowed opportunities to participate

While state registries serve many important purposes, they only work within a state. But adoptions often occur across state lines, and when to apply the rules of which state and how and where fathers should register can become confusing. A national registry would allow states to voluntarily

participate, give fathers a place to register in every state, and provide professionals a mechanism to access more complete information from all participating states to ensure the best, most complete and ethical checks are done before children are placed with adoptive families.

NCFA Position and Goals

NCFA believes every possible effort should be made to include biological fathers in the decision to place a child for adoption. A registry is one of the best tools to help reach the birth father, but the current system is inadequate and several states do not even have one. By creating a national registry whereby information could be passed between states and shared on a single database, the process of finding and contacting biological fathers would be easier and less time-consuming. It would also provide more security for all involved and help decrease the likelihood of a disrupted adoption.

Related Legislation

H.R. 2818 Protecting Adoption Act was introduced to the House on June 18th, 2015 by Representative Vicky Hartlzer. A companion bill, **S. 1637 Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2015**, was introduced by Senator Inhofe the same day. This act amends part B (Child and Family Services) of title IV of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish and maintain an automated National Responsible Father Registry, as well as establishing a nationwide campaign designed to inform possible fathers, unwed mothers, possible adoptive parents, and eligible parties of the National Registry,(1) the advantages of possible fathers registering either in the National Registry or State Responsible Father Registries, or both, (2) the rights and responsibilities of such parties with regard to a proceeding, and (3) the role of such Registries in a proceeding

As stipulated in the bill, it would require the Registry to contain specified kinds of information sufficient to identify a possible father, and provide a mechanism for men to register such identifying information directly with the Registry. This Act would limit access to Registry information to eligible parties, including: (1) public and licensed private adoption or child placement agencies, (2) licensed attorneys representing a party in a planned or pending adoption or in the termination of rights of one or more possible fathers, (3) state agencies or entities responsible for the placement of children, and (4) state courts. The bill also directs the Secretary to use all reasonable efforts to encourage states to enter into agreements to establish automated State Responsible Father Registries and centers that make registration forms easily accessible to possible fathers and authorizes the Secretary to make a grant to a state to establish a State Registry or modify an existing one to meet the requirements of this Act.

Adoption Tax Credit and Other Financial Supports

Issue Overview

The adoption tax credit, introduced in 1997, offsets the high cost of adoptions from foster care, domestic infant adoption, and intercountry adoption. It was extended multiple times through legislation such as the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and the Tax Relief Act of 2010. In tax years 2010 and 2011, it was a refundable credit, which allowed families to reduce their federal income tax liability and, for lower income families, use the credits to offset adoption costs when their limited tax liability might have otherwise prevented them from taking advantage of the credit. In tax year 2011, the credit was provided, but it was no longer refundable – which meant that families who adopted with limited to no tax liability did not receive the full benefit of the credit. On January 2, 2013, the adoption tax credit was made a permanent part of the tax code through the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. While this was a victory, the credit was not made refundable, so many families adopting cannot receive the full benefit of the credit.

NCFA Position and Goals

NCFA is grateful that the tax credit was made permanent part of the tax code in 2012. Returning refundability is still a necessary change to help more families afford the costs of adoption. A refundable adoption tax credit makes the greatest impact for lower to middle-income families, who might benefit most from these funds, but most often do not get the full benefit of the credit due to low tax liability. Sixty-two percent of families adopting from foster care have low to moderate incomes, and so unfortunately most do not receive the benefit of the full credit. It is possible that many more families might adopt or adopt multiple children if they had access to this resource. Further, this investment is cost-effective for the government. The annual cost to maintain a child in foster care is estimated to be between \$65,000 and \$127,000, and continues as long as the child remains in care. Compared to the one-time cost of the adoption tax credit, this is a sound investment and contributes to the best outcomes for children.

NCFA is also supportive of other mechanisms that help to provide financial support or stability to families who bring children in need into their families.

Related Legislation

S. 950 The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015 was introduced by Senators Casey and Blunt on April 15, 2015. On May 21, a companion bill, H.R. 2434, was introduced in the House by Representatives Black, Davis, McDermott, and Franks. This bill would return the adoption tax credit to refundability, as it was in tax years 2010 and 2011. It would allow families with low to moderate incomes to receive the full benefit of the credit in the tax year the adoption takes place.⁸

S. 835 and H.R. 1542: Tribal Adoption Parity Act was introduced by Senator Heitkamp and Representative Kilmer on March 23, 2015. This bill allows Indian tribes to determine that a child is a child with special needs for purposes of the adoption tax credit, in the same way that states currently make this determination.

S. 469 and H.R.3365: Women Veterans and Families Health Service Act of 2015 was introduced by Senator Murray on February 11, 2015 in the Senate and Representative Wittman on July 29, 2015 in the House. It seeks to provide financial support for adoption to severely wounded, injured, or ill members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners.

Child Citizenship Act Amendment

Issue Overview

The Child Citizenship Act (CCA) of 2000 granted some foreign-born children adopted by U.S. citizen parents their U.S. citizenship automatically upon entry into the United States. The Act applied only to persons under the age of 18 on or after the effective date of February 27, 2001. But this act excluded other international adoptees. Depending upon the visa type the child traveled with, some adoptees acquired citizenship automatically, but others on IR-4 or IH-4 visas did not until parents “re-adopted” when they returned to the U.S.

The act also does not apply to children who came to the U.S. before February 27, 2001. Many adopted individuals who entered the U.S. as children, either on a non-automatic visa type or before the CCA was enacted, later discover that they are in fact not U.S. citizens or cannot provide documentation proving they are. This can prevent them from applying for passports, trying to join the military, applying for federal student aid. When it is discovered, as adults, that they do not have citizenship, it is a far more complicated process for these adoptees to acquire citizenship than it would have been had it been secured upon adoption or before they came of age.

⁸ For more information on the Adoption Tax Credit visit: adoptiontaxcredit.org/

NCFA Position and Goals

NCFA fully believes that every child adopted by a U.S. citizen should also be automatically granted citizenship and have the same citizenship rights that any biological child born to a U.S. citizen would have. We fully support amending this bill to give all internationally adopted children, regardless of visa type, automatic citizenship and believe it is important to retroactively apply this to all previously adopted children of U.S. citizens. Intercountry adoption can be a difficult and confusing process – and was even more so before the enactment of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption. Internationally adopted children adopted before 2001, living their entire lives as U.S. citizens, many not even knowing they are not citizens, should not be punished for the mistakes of their adoptive parents or agencies. All international adoptees brought to the U.S. and raised as U.S. citizens should be granted the full protection, rights, and responsibilities of a U.S. citizen.

Related Legislation

S.2275: The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015 was introduced by Senator Klobuchar on November 10, 2015. This bill would provide automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for all international adoptees, regardless of visa type. If passed, the act will grant retroactive U.S. citizenship to all international adoptees, regardless of what year they were adopted, as long as they came to the U.S. when they were under the age of 18. It will also create a clear pathway for adoptees that have been **deported** for minor crimes and have served their sentences to come back to the U.S. At this time there is no companion bill in the House.

Other Adoption-Related Legislation

The following pieces of legislation are related to adoption, but are not amongst NCFA's 2016 priorities. We list them here as a resource to our readers who may find it useful to be aware of this legislative activity.

H.R. 3428⁹ is the Adoption Information Act introduced by Representative Wittman on July 29, 2015. It seeks to ensure that individuals receive information about adoption centers by requiring family planning service projects programs to provide each person who inquires about their services with a pamphlet containing a comprehensive list of adoption centers in their state.

Every child adopted by a U.S. citizen should be automatically granted citizenship and have the same citizenship rights that any biological child born to a U.S. citizen would have.

⁹ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3428?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22hr3428%5C%22%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1

H.R. 311: Adoption Promotion Act of 2015 was introduced by Representative Bill Long on January 13, 2015. In an effort to include adoption counseling for pregnant women, this bill seeks to ensure the option of counseling funded through training grants for family planning personnel include adoption counseling provided by experienced adoption professionals. It would further require research related to family planning and population to include the collection of data related to the number of pregnancy tests administered and their results and the quality, consistency, and outcomes of pregnancy options counseling.

S. 667¹⁰ and H.R. 1299¹¹ : Child Welfare Provider Inclusion act of 2015 was introduced by Senator Enzi and Representative Kelly on March 4, 2015. This legislation is an effort to ensure that organizations with religious or moral beliefs are allowed to continue to provide services for children. It would prohibit the federal government and states receiving federal funding from discriminating or taking an adverse action against a child welfare service provider that declines to provide, facilitate, or refer for a child welfare service that conflicts with provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions.

S. 1382¹² and H.R. 2449¹³ : Every Child Deserves a Family Act was introduced by Senator Gillibrand and Representative Lewis on May 19, 2015. The bill seeks to prohibit discrimination in adoption and foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1254: Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act¹⁴ was introduced by Senator Grassley on May 7, 2015. The Act seeks to provide funding by contributing a portion of the sales of a U.S. postal stamp to the Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Opportunities Program. The funds would go to support a variety of programs seeking to promote permanency including increasing adoptions of minority and older children, supporting permanency placements, adoption training and technical assistance, data collection, and post-adoption legal services for families who have adopted children with special needs.

¹⁰ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/667?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22s667%5C%22%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1

¹¹ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1299?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22hr1299%5C%22%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1

¹² www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1382

¹³ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2449

¹⁴ www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1254?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22s1254%5C%22%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1

Conclusion

NCFA is proud of its longstanding commitment to supporting adopted children and adults, birth parents, adoptive parents, and the public at-large in creating a better practice of adoption. We seek to represent the voices of all those impacted by adoption and encourage an ever improving professional practice. While adoption has an imperfect history, it has brought great improvements to the lives of many children and families over the years. It is an issue with bipartisan support and commitment, and one we are proud to work on with diverse populations to continually improve. We are grateful for the positive legal and cultural acceptance of adoption, and we hope our work will continue to encourage and grow that practice while also helping to improve adoption practices in other countries around the world. We are proud of our 35-year history of working to make adoption the best it can be, and look forward to continuing our zealous advocacy with your help in 2016.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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