

CHILD WELFARE  
LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2008  
CHILDREN'S  
LEGISLATIVE  
AGENDA

**CWLA**

MAKING CHILDREN A NATIONAL PRIORITY



Dear Friend of Children,

**T**he Child Welfare League of America is the nation's pre-eminent organization dedicated to children and youth—who have been or who are at risk of abuse or neglect—and their families. We are committed to ensuring that disadvantaged and vulnerable children are protected from harm and have the tools and resources necessary to grow into healthy, happy adults. Advocating for public policies that benefit America's children and families is fundamental to CWLA's mission. The first session of the 110th Congress underscored how critical that work is. Looking ahead to the second session of Congress in 2008 and beyond promises to be as challenging.

Central to our legislative priorities this year will be passing legislation to hold a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010. Members of Congress are already developing legislation to make this a reality. We urge all Senators and Representatives to support and cosponsor the bill.

The White House Conference represents a major change for the child welfare community, as it brings the nation's attention to our work. It will challenge us to examine our policies and practices and ask ourselves if we are doing our best to incorporate new innovations and research into our work. In addition to passing legislation in support of the White House Conference, other bills require passage by Congress to better children's lives.

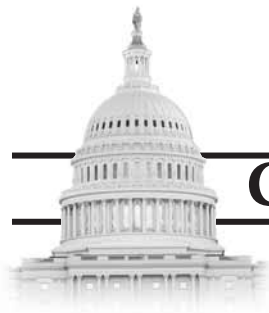
I'm pleased to present to you CWLA's 2008 Children's Legislative Agenda outlining what Congress can do this year to provide the necessary supports for children, youth, and families, including federal support for kinship care, expanding health coverage for children, reforming child welfare financing, and other legislation needed so that they are assured a safer, healthier, and brighter future. This Legislative Agenda is a launching pad for our call for the White House Conference. I look forward to working with you on the Conference and to making children and families truly a national priority.

Thank you for your commitment and outstanding efforts on behalf of the most vulnerable children and families. We look forward to your participation in this endeavor, and to the successes to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine James Brown".

Christine James-Brown  
President/CEO



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We are the Child Welfare League of America.  
We will lead the nation in building public will to ensure the safety, permanence, and well-being for children, youth and families by advocating for the advancement of public policy, setting and promoting standards for best practice and delivering superior membership services.

**HEADQUARTERS**

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