



Sample Organizational Board Resolution in Support of a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010

Whereas, many children in the United States face serious challenges including an estimated 3,000,000 reports of child abuse and neglect and nearly 900,000 children are substantiated as abused and neglected each year;

Whereas, more than 500,000 children and youth are in foster care at the end of the federal fiscal year and nearly 800,000 spend at least some time in care throughout the year;

Whereas, while 50,000 children are adopted from the public child welfare system each year, more than 117,000 children are waiting to be adopted;

Whereas, each year approximately 22,000 youth leave the foster care system not because they have found a permanent family but because they have reached the age at which the foster care assistance ends;

Whereas, there is an over-representation of certain populations including Native Americans and African Americans within the child welfare system;

Whereas, the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives is increasing and should be encouraged, and the federal government recognizes through federal law that kinship care is an important permanency and placement option for many children;

Whereas, the state courts are key decision makers in the lives of children involved in the child welfare system and should be supported, and that these decisions may include determination of abuse or neglect, whether a child should be reunified with his or her family, or should be adopted or placed in another setting;

Whereas, the child welfare system includes a **professional workforce** in the courts, public and private child welfare agencies, mental health and health care programs, education settings, and citizen review panels, and volunteers such as the Court Appointed Special Advocates, which should be strengthened;

Whereas, the challenge of child abuse cannot be effectively addressed in a sustained manner until the nation addresses the outcomes for children in a comprehensive way;

Whereas, the White House Conference on Children and Youth had been the oldest White House Conference starting in 1909 and continuing every ten years until the last Conference in 1970;

Whereas, these Conferences had resulted in significant policies over the decades including creation of a Children's Bureau, standards of care for children, and had focused attention on critical needs of America's children;

Therefore be it

Resolved, That the (Agency Board Name, state legislature, city commission, etc) urges the United States Congress to authorize and the next President to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth to be held in 2010; and be it further

Resolved, That the (Agency Board Name, state legislature, city commission, etc) calls for this event to begin in 2009 with a series of state and local conferences to address the nation's child welfare system and to focus the nation's attention on creating better outcomes for all children of the United States.