

Other measures that guide out-of-home non-foster family placements, maintain services and programs for children and families, and incentivize permanency through adoption and guardianship placements.

We appreciate your bipartisan, bicameral effort to address child welfare reform, and specifically, the longstanding policy priority to expand Title IV-E for prevention so that children and parents/caregivers have access to services and interventions that maintain family stability. While the bill presents an unprecedented opportunity and many of our key leaders have shared their perspectives and concerns with Committee staff, some members will need to fully examine and understand the implications of each Title and section on their states and localities. We will continue to monitor and assess the impact of each Title and section to identify and share with you any unintended consequences. With Congress' support, we can help to ensure that all children and families can develop and live to their full potential.

Again, thank you very much for your hard work. We look forward to working with you and encourage you to contact Christina Crayton, Assistant Director, Policy and Government Affairs with questions or to request additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

TRACY WAREING EVANS,
Executive Director,
American Public
Human Services As-
sociation.

JULIE KROW,
President, National
Association of Public
Child Welfare Ad-
ministrators,
Deputy Executive Di-
rector, Community
Partnerships, Colo-
rado Department of
Human Services.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES,
June 13, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives.

Hon. SANDY LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, House of Representatives.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

DEAR WAYS AND MEANS AND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN BRADY AND HATCH, RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of Children and Family Futures, I am pleased to share our support for the Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 5456) introduced today by House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and joined by eleven other bi-partisan original co-sponsors.

Children and Family Futures, a national nonprofit organization based in Lake Forest, California, has more than 20 years of experience in improving outcomes for children at the intersection of child welfare and substance use disorder treatment agencies and

family courts. We recently had the opportunity to testify at Senate Finance and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Hearings on the effects of opioids on our nation's child welfare agencies. As you may know, there are 8.3 million children—almost 11% of America's children—who live with a parent who is alcoholic or needs treatment for illicit drug abuse. About two-thirds of the children who enter the child welfare system are affected by parents with substance use disorders, and when we ask children and youth in foster care what they need the most, they often ask for substance abuse treatment for their parents so that their family can stay together. Quality substance abuse prevention and treatment is one of the cornerstones of a strong and effective child welfare system.

H.R. 5456 takes several critical steps to ensure that parents and children receive the full range of supportive services they need to heal and thrive. By allowing federal IV-E dollars to be used in a time-limited way for evidence-based prevention services, including mental health, substance abuse prevention and in-home skill-based programs, the proposed legislation provides an unprecedented opportunity for child welfare agencies to expand the services parents need to continue to care for their children safely without unnecessary foster care placements.

In addition, allowing states to draw down Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments on behalf of children who are placed in residential family treatment settings with a parent who is receiving treatment is another effective way to ensure that families can stay together while getting the services and supports they need to get back on their feet. For children whose parents struggle with alcohol and illicit drug abuse, the elimination of the time limit to allow family reunification services to be provided to any child in foster care and for up to 15 months after a child is reunited with his or her biological family will allow children of parents who are still in the very first stages of recovery to get the ongoing help they need to maintain both stability and sobriety.

CFF also strongly supports H.R. 5456's reauthorization of the Regional Partnership Grant program that provides funding to state and regional grantees seeking to provide evidence-based services to prevent child abuse and neglect related to substance abuse and revised grant requirements based on lessons learned from the most effective past grants. In addition to updating the program to specifically address the opioid and heroin epidemic, the proposal legislation leverages what has been learned to ensure that new foster care prevention funding provided under the bill is used effectively.

In addition to providing much-needed attention to prevention services for children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system, the legislation's provisions to reduce the over-reliance on group care facilities are an equally important step in supporting children and keeping families together. The legislation's current approach to reducing unnecessary care while enhancing the protections and oversight for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTF) will ensure that young people who are struggling with their own substance use disorder or mental health issues have full access to clinically appropriate residential treatment options and that a continuum of quality services are available to help them transition back home to their families. Moreover, improving and expediting an effective assessment process and increasing judicial oversight of placement decisions on an ongoing basis also represent significant progress in connecting young people with the right services on a timely basis while also

maintaining positive family and community connections.

Untreated substance use disorders are among the most critical and devastating crises facing the nation's children and families. Thanks to the leadership and bipartisanship demonstrated by members of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees, H.R. 5456 offers a range of innovative solutions designed to keep children and families together and provide the services and supports they need to lead healthy and productive lives. We are deeply appreciative of your collective work on this bill and are confident that, if passed, it will continue to help thousands children and families, now and for years to come.

Sincerely,

NANCY K. YOUNG,
Ph.D., Director.
SIDNEY L. GARDNER,
M.P.A., President.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABBY
STEINER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abby Steiner of Dublin Coffman High School for winning the Girls 100 and 200 Meter Dash in the Ohio High School Division I Track and Field State Championship.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSA state level competitions have represented the highest achieving and most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the ranks of those who embody Ohio's proud history of athletic success.

Abby's victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. She has set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Dublin Coffman High School can be extremely proud of her performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Abby Steiner on her state championships. I wish her continued success in both her athletic and academic endeavors.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SALLY
DENISE THORNBURG

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sally Denise Thornburg who is set to retire after beginning her career in nursing in 1973. During her 43-year career, Denise served in many roles, including Charge Nurse, Clinical Manager of the medical floor and nursing in the Intensive Care Unit.

Sally Denise Thornburg joined El Centro Regional Medical Center (ECRMC) in 1973 after graduating from Imperial Valley College