



Hon. Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Ron Wyden
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Michael Crapo
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, D.C., 20510

November 15, 2024

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Wyden, and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA), we write today in **strong support of the bipartisan *Supporting America's Children and Families Act (H.R. 9076)*, and urge swift consideration and passage of this critical legislation which will further our ability to serve vulnerable children and families.**

The bipartisan, cost-neutral H.R. 9076 makes several improvements to child welfare programs authorized under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act as well as the Title IV-D child support program. County governments are fully or partially responsible for administering the child welfare system in California, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin, with these 11 states representing 33.7 percent of the population of children in formal foster care. Additionally, counties oversee the child support program in California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin, which represent \$8.5 billion, or 30 percent, of total collections.

The changes included in H.R. 9076 will support counties' ability to provide flexible services to children, youth and families at-risk for or currently involved with the child welfare system, as well as protect counties and our intergovernmental partners from steep and unnecessary administrative costs related to child support enforcement. In particular, counties strongly support the following provisions:

- \$300 million increase in mandatory funding over four years to support families affected by substance use disorders, improvements to child welfare legal proceedings, dedicated funding for Tribes and research and evaluation.

- New resources to support child welfare caseworkers, including funds for recruitment, retention and technology improvements, as well as flexibilities to conduct virtual visits with foster youth over the age of 18.
- New flexibility for formula grant dollars to help families short-term benefits to address a crisis or situation that is affecting the ability of the child to remain in their home.
- Preserves the ability of child support agencies to engage in successful public-private partnerships to support payment processing, customer service call centers, and maintenance of electronic case management systems.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. NACo and NACHSA look forward to working with you to ensure Congress quickly passes this legislation. Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Julia Cortina at jcortina@naco.org, Tom Joseph at tj@paragonlobbying.com, or Rachel Mackey at rm@paragonlobbying.com.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Dan Makelky
President
National Association of County Human
Services Administrators