

- U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin & U.S. Senator Rob Portman - Support for *The Family-Based Foster Care Services Act*

The legislation is endorsed by a number of national children's and mental health organizations including: The Foster Family-based Treatment Association, the Children's Defense Fund, Generations United, Child Welfare League of America, National Foster Care Coalition, First Focus Campaign for Children, KidsPeace, the Bair Foundation, the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, the Children's Leadership Council, National Council for Behavioral Health, and Voice for Adoption.

The legislation is also endorsed by Wisconsin children's and mental health organizations including: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Council on Children & Families, La Causa, Inc., SaintA, and Anu Family Services.

"As the largest provider of TFC in Wisconsin, we know first-hand that trauma-informed, therapeutic family placements are effective in providing for the safety and well-being of children needing a higher-level of care," said **Amy Herbst, VP Child Well-Being, Community Services Division, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin**. "This legislation will ensure that children with significant behavior or health challenges continue to have access to individualized, home-based, therapeutic care and that biological parents and kinship caregivers are eligible for the same specialized training and consultation that treatment foster care parents receive. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin applauds Senator Baldwin for championing this evidenced-based, cost-effective approach to protecting our most vulnerable children."

"We are very happy to support the *Family-Based Foster Care Services Act*. Children in our foster care system are among the most vulnerable Americans. The maltreatment they have experienced, often perpetrated by those they know and love, is traumatizing, as is their removal from their family," said **Ken Taylor, Executive Director of Wisconsin Council on Children & Families**. "Research shows that this trauma has long term negative consequences for their health, their mental health, and their ability to form relationships. Caregivers who are properly trained and supported to address the particular challenges of traumatized children with significant mental health challenges are essential to the child's current and future well-being. Having a standard definition of Treatment Foster Care under Medicaid will promote a strong, stable funding base for this very important and cost effective treatment for these very vulnerable children."

"Anu Family Services is grateful to Senator Baldwin for her consistent support of our nation's most vulnerable youth and the Senator's efforts to establish a Federal Medicaid definition of TFC through her sponsorship of the *Family-Based Foster Care Services Act*," said **Amelia Franck Meyer, CEO of Anu Family Services**. "Since this Act is inclusive of kin and biological families, it will help promote permanency and healing for youth who have so often been disconnected. Senator Baldwin's willingness to promote high-quality care through the use of accreditation is also an important advancement for children."

"SaintA has been providing high quality therapeutic foster care services since 1984. Treatment foster care is an effective family-based service for children who have experienced trauma, and it deserves a uniform federal definition and support," said **Teri Zywicki, President and CEO of SaintA**.