

## **QUOTES OF SUPPORT**

“As an organization dedicated to serving our country’s most vulnerable children, youth, and families, again, we support Sen. Baldwin’s and Sen. Portman’s bi-partisan Treatment Family Care Services Act”, said Reyahd Kazmi, Chief Advocacy & Government Strategies Officer. “Although each state is different, we need a streamlined definition of therapeutic foster care, or Treatment Family Care, to ensure qualifying youth in every state can get access to and receive equitable services regardless of where they live,” **said Reyahd Kazmi of National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.**

“Access to evidence-based, trauma-informed therapeutic strategies for our children and youth with profound medical, emotional and psychological needs is critical to their well-being and long term outcomes. Treatment Family Care provides this to thousands of our children in foster care or living with kinship or biological caregivers, but current law does not provide a standard definition of the benefits under Medicaid. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption enthusiastically supports the Treatment Family Care Services Act, which will provide clarity, guidance, accountability and ultimately easier and greater access for those most in need. We are grateful to U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Rob Portman for leading this bipartisan effort supporting high-quality home-based care for our most vulnerable children and families,” **said Rita L. Soronen, President & CEO of Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.**

“Ensuring that every child lives in a safe, loving family is critically important, but it’s simply not enough. Many of these children and youth have suffered significant trauma in their young lives, and we are decidedly not providing them with the help they need unless we recognize and deal with that disturbing reality. The Treatment Family Care Services Act can and should be part of a comprehensive approach that gives the most-vulnerable among us the genuine opportunity to heal and thrive. Thanks enormously to Senators Baldwin and Portman for recognizing that we, as a society, have to do more than just say that children are our future – we have to act like we mean it. This important legislation does just that,” **said Adam Pertman, President of National Center on Adoption and Permanency.**

“As our nation continues to deal with a shortage of evidenced-based and trauma-informed family-like settings for some of our most vulnerable children and youth, it is critical that federal agencies work together to provide states with guidance and technical assistance. Youth Villages supports the Treatment Family Care Services Act that would require CMS and ACF to issue guidance to states identifying opportunities to fund treatment foster care (TFC) for children enrolled in any Medicaid eligibility group. Youth Villages looks forward to continuing to do our part to ensure youth are placed where they are able to thrive and receive the care they need,” **said Pat Lawler, CEO of Youth Villages.**

“Families, healthy and caring, are the bedrock of our society. However, all families need help at some time. When that occurs, especially for a youth due to serious behavioral or emotional disturbance, it is important the appropriate, competent, and efficient services be available for health and change. The Treatment Family Care Services Act providing functional and quality parameters is crucial in fulfilling our societal responsibility making sure intensive, individualized

services exist for each and every child in need of TFC,” said **Laura W. Boyd, Ph.D., a national child welfare consultant.**

“The Treatment Family Care Services Act is a critical component in setting the standards for which all therapeutic foster care programs should operate. Standardizing the definition along with obtaining CMS approval for funding would allow states to access the dollars to utilize therapeutic foster care, opening the opportunity to provide this evidence based, trauma informed service to the children and families who would most benefit. We welcome this bi-partisan effort on behalf of the many children and families we serve across the country,” said **Ray Culp, Vice President of Foster Care and Community Programs at KidsPeace National Centers.**

“We fully endorse the Treatment Family Care Services Act. It is so important that we enhance the quality of care to address the needs of families within the child welfare system. We can only do that if there is a commitment to fully provide these services and this legislation is an important step in that direction,” said **Christine James-Brown, President & CEO Child Welfare League of America.**