

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 25, 2014

Mark Greenberg
Acting Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

We are writing in support of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)'s efforts to develop a National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative and are pleased that the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) is submitting a proposal to help develop this program. We are familiar with C.A.S.E. through its provision of direct mental health services to foster and adoptive families, as well as their collaboration with sites in many of our states to provide Training for Adoption Competency as we seek to build a mental health workforce to serve foster and adoptive children and families throughout the country.

With the support of major national foundations – the Freddie Mac Foundation, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the WW Kellogg Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation – C.A.S.E. has developed an evidence-informed standardized 78-hour training and case consultation program for licensed mental health professionals. The training is specifically designed to provide agency-based and community-based clinicians with the knowledge, values and skills that are essential in providing adoption-competent mental health services. The Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) curriculum was developed and pilot-tested in 2009. It is currently being implemented in eleven sites across the United States (Northern California, Nebraska, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Connecticut, Virginia, and Ohio), with two new sites being added soon (Iowa and Mississippi). A rigorous evaluation has been conducted throughout the implementation of the TAC, beginning with the pilot test at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. C.A.S.E. has integrated its TAC curriculum into five of the national Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) sites. This adoption competency training program for mental health professionals has been rigorously evaluated, and updated through an evidence informed approach to ensure effectiveness.

Thank you and we look forward to learning more from you about your efforts to build and adoption competent workforce to serve foster and adoptive children and families.


Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



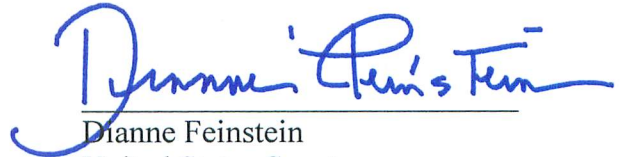
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Mary Landrieu
United States Senator



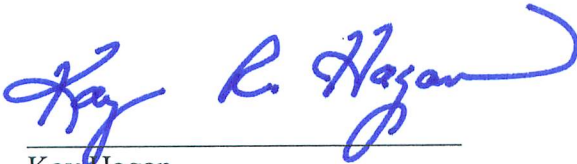
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Mike Johanns
United States Senator



Kay Hagan
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator