



Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute

is dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and nurturing families and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right to a family.

ABOUT CCAI AND THE ADOPTION CAUCUS

In 1985, a committed group of Members of Congress shared a commitment to eliminating the barriers that hinder children from realizing their basic right to a family. Dedicated to making a difference, these Members united to form the adoption caucus, Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA).

In 2001, the four co-chairs of the CCA worked with a few key advocates to create the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). As an organization uniquely founded "by Congress, for Congress," CCAI has served as a trusted, principal source of the information, expertise, and resources needed by Members of Congress to make informed policy decisions about domestic and international child welfare. CCAI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and nurturing families and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right to a family.

Today, the CCA is the foremost caucus dedicated to supporting legislation that improves the lives of children. It has consistently been the voice for the needs of children without families, both in the United States and globally. The caucus is deeply committed to bipartisanship and brings together Democrats and Republicans with the shared goal of improving the lives of children by uniting to ensure that all children know the love and support of a family through legal permanency in the forms of adoption, guardianship, and kinship care.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

Although the CCA and CCAI are distinct entities, they are closely linked in partnership. Both CCA and CCAI are deeply committed to bipartisanship, strengthening families, and permanency. CCAI's initial and continued mandate includes service to the caucus. CCAI provides CCA Members the opportunity to partner in our flagship programs and events throughout the year including:

- Congressional Resource Program Events
- Angels in Adoption® Leadership Program
- Foster Youth Internship Program®
- 20/20 Vision Program Delegations
- National Adoption Day Celebrations and Media Opportunities

The CCA is the largest bicameral, bipartisan caucus in the U.S. Congress. Over the last 38 years, CCA Members have led Congress in the passage of historic legislation that has dramatically impacted the lives of children including:

- Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- The Adoption and Safe Families Act
- John Chafee Foster Care Independence Act
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act
- Hope for Children Act
- Intercountry Adoption Act
- Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act
- Intercountry Adoption Simplification Act
- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

Our vision is a world in which every child knows the love and support of a family.

FOSTER CARE BY THE NUMBERS

The odds are stacked against youth who spend time in the foster care system. There are significant opportunity gaps that perpetuate broader inequalities in our society.

There are over 391,000 children in foster care.

On any given day, over 391,000 children are living in the U.S. foster care system. Over 113,000 of these children are eligible for adoption and they will spend, on average, nearly three years in foster care before finding permanency. For children and youth who experience foster care:



20,000 About 20,000 young adults each year "age out" of the U.S. foster care system and a majority leave without the emotional and financial support necessary to succeed in life that other children can receive within a family. Without these vital supports, they will fare poorer as a group in postsecondary educational attainment, employment, housing stability, public assistance receipt and criminal justice system involvement.

48,000 Approximately 48,000 youth in U.S. foster care live in institutions, group homes, and other environments instead of with a family.

CCAI IS A CATALYST ON CAPITOL HILL

CCAI is entrusted with the great privilege of bringing voices of experience and expertise – from foster youth in the U.S. to children living outside of family care around the world, from brain scientists to psychologists – to the active membership of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) in the United States Congress.

Knowledge is powerful. CCAI's programs provide Members of Congress as policymakers the knowledge they need to use the power they have to make a difference on behalf of vulnerable children and families.

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

Voices of EXPERIENCE

Adoptees
Adoptive Parents
Foster Children & Youth
Foster Families
Birthparents

Congressional Resource Program

Foster Youth Internship Program®

Angels in Adoption® Program

20/20 Vision

Voices of EXPERTISE

Doctors
Educators
Faith Leaders
Judges & Lawyers
Child Welfare Professionals



Learn more at www.ccaainstitute.org

CONGRESSIONAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

Congressional Resource Program (CRP) is CCAI's primary means of sharing objective and relevant information to help educate policymakers on information critical to federal adoption and child welfare policy. CRP's two main goals:

1 engagement

Engaging with Members of Congress who are interested in improving the lives of vulnerable children and families

2 education

Educating Members of Congress on policy barriers that prevent children from finding permanent, safe, and nurturing families

CCAI serves as a key educational resource for policymakers on domestic and international child welfare issues. Throughout the year, we educate and engage the CCA by:

- **Sharing** objective, relevant, and timely information to help educate Members of Congress and their staff on information critical to federal adoption and child welfare policy
- **Creating** space for policymakers to hear from an array of impacted voices of lived experience with the child welfare system
- **Connecting** Members of Congress and their staff with experts in the field working to improve outcomes and programmatic implementation for vulnerable children and families
- **Convening** decision makers by hosting various events with relevant agencies, caucuses, and other community partners through educational briefings, panels, roundtables, networking, and receptions
- **Conducting** research to provide current federal policy resources

These efforts facilitate knowledge and dialogue amongst the leaders who desire to improve outcomes for child welfare and adoption policy, and as a result, they are able to effect real legislative change.

FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM®

Since 2003, the FYI Program provides talented young adults who have experienced the U.S. foster care system the opportunity to intern in a congressional office on Capitol Hill. Throughout the program, CCAI also coordinates retreats, advocacy training, networking, and meetings with policymakers and child welfare experts. The Foster Youth Interns also research federal policy recommendations based on their experiences in foster care and present their policy proposals to the U.S. Congress, White House, Department of Health & Human Services, and private sector. Many of these policy recommendations have been passed into law. Moreover, the Foster Youth Interns leave Washington, D.C. with experience and skills that continue to bolster their careers and provide a foundation for them to become lifelong advocates for youth in foster care.



goals:

1 engagement

Engaging and educating Members of Congress on the issues of foster care and adoption

2 empowerment

Empowering Foster Youth Interns as advocates



impact:

- Create **direct engagement** opportunities for Members of Congress and their staff through hosting a Foster Youth Intern in their office
- Promote **platform for former foster youth** to advocate for foster youth across the nation
- Generate **national child welfare policy impact** based on policy recommendations from the Foster Youth Interns' lived experience on barriers that prevent children from being in a permanent family



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FOSTER
YOUTH
INTERN
ALUMNI

ANGELS IN ADOPTION® LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Through the Angels in Adoption® Leadership Program, Members of Congress have an opportunity to recognize individuals, families, and organizations from across the country who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of vulnerable children and families. Once selected, Angels travel to Washington, D.C. to personally meet with federal policymakers, receive advocacy training, participate in Hill Day meetings with their Members of Congress, and receive recognition for their exceptional impact. Since 1999, thousands of Angels have participated in this program, and these extraordinary leaders return home to their own communities better equipped to effect change on behalf of children in need of safe and nurturing families.



impact:

- Create hundreds of **direct engagement** opportunities for Members of Congress and their staff with child welfare advocates
- **Celebrate thousands of hometown heroes** and dozens of celebrities who emphasize the importance of a safe and nurturing family in the life of a child
- Generate **positive media attention** to inspire communities across the nation
- Empowered honorees leave D.C. with a **renewed excitement and strong connections** to further their adoption and foster care work

The purpose of Angels is to
ENGAGE & EMPOWER
and since 1999

3,100

honorees have been recognized
as champions for vulnerable
children and families.

20/20 VISION PROGRAM

Through the 20/20 Vision Program, CCAI facilitates positive dialogue, education, and fact-finding trips between Members of Congress, foreign and domestic government officials, and private sector leaders. These trips bring thought leaders and national policymakers face to face with the realities faced by children living outside of family care, and present opportunities to share knowledge, innovation, and experience in providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children. CCAI 20/20 Vision delegations have visited California, Florida, Ohio, Ethiopia, Chile, Romania, Russia, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Uganda, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and others. CCAI also hosts foreign leaders and dignitaries from around the globe in the nation's capital and coordinates meetings with congressional leadership.

impact:

- **Create** meaningful opportunities to learn more about the full continuum of care for vulnerable children and families in the U.S. and globally
- **Learn** how integral federal and U.S. foreign assistance are to improving adoption and child welfare policy and practice
- **Provide** a way for Members of Congress to promote the importance of permanency for children.



18 COUNTRIES & U.S.
STATES VISITED
ON 22 TRIPS



118TH CONGRESS

CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION MEMBERS

SENATE CO-CHAIRS: **AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN) & KEVIN CRAMER (R-ND)**

HOUSE CO-CHAIRS: **ADAM SMITH (D-WA) & ROBERT ADERHOLT (R-AL)**

Alabama

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R)*
Rep. Barry Moore (R)

Alaska

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)

Arizona

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D)
Rep. David Schweikert (R)
Rep. Andy Biggs (R)

Arkansas

Sen. John Boozman (R)
Sen. Tom Cotton (R)
Rep. Bruce Westerman (R)
Rep. French Hill (R)

California

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D)
Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D)
Rep. Ami Bera (D)
Rep. Julia Brownley (D)
Rep. Ken Calvert (R)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D)
Rep. Jared Huffman (D)
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D)
Rep. Doris Matsui (D)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D)
Rep. Adam Schiff (D)
Rep. Brad Sherman (D)
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D)
Rep. Tony Cardenas (D)

Colorado

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R)
Rep. Joe Neguse (D)

Connecticut

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D)
Rep. Jim Himes (D)

Delaware

Sen. Christopher Coons (D)
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D)

District of Columbia

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)

Florida

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R)
Rep. Kat Cammack (R)
Rep. John Rutherford (R)

Georgia

Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R)
Rep. David Scott (D)

Idaho

Sen. James Risch (R)

Illinois

Sen. Richard Durbin (D)
Rep. Danny Davis (D)

Indiana

Sen. Mike Braun (R)
Rep. Andre Carson (D)

Iowa

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R)

Kansas

Sen. Jerry Moran (R)
Rep. Sharice Davids (D)

Kentucky

Rep. James Comer (R)
Rep. Andy Barr (R)

Louisiana

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R)
Sen. John Kennedy (R)
Rep. Garret Graves (R)
Rep. Mike Johnson (R)
Rep. Julia Letlow (R)
Rep. Steve Scalise (R)

Maine

Sen. Susan Collins (R)
Sen. Angus King, Jr. (I)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D)

Maryland

Sen. Ben Cardin (D)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D)

Massachusetts

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D)
Rep. Seth Moulton (D)

Michigan

Sen. Gary Peters (D)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)
Rep. Bill Huizenga (R)
Rep. Dan Kildee (D)
Rep. John Moolenaar (R)
Rep. Tim Walberg (R)
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D)

Minnesota

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)*
Sen. Tina Smith (D)
Rep. Dean Phillips (D)
Rep. Pete Stauber (R)
Rep. Tom Emmer (R)
Rep. Angie Craig (D)
Rep. Betty McCollum (D)

Mississippi

Sen. Roger F. Wicker (R)
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)
Rep. Trent Kelly (R)

Missouri

Sen. Josh Hawley (R)
Rep. Ann Wagner (R)
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D)
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R)
Rep. Jason Smith (R)
Rep. Sam Graves (R)

Montana

Sen. Steve Daines (R)

Nebraska

Rep. Don Bacon (R)

Nevada

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D)

New Hampshire

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D)
Rep. Ann McLane Kuster (D)

New Jersey

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D)
Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D)
Rep. Christopher Smith (R)
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)

New York

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)
Rep. Joseph D. Morelle (D)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D)

North Carolina

Sen. Thom Tillis (R)
Rep. Greg Murphy (R)
Rep. David Rouzer (R)

North Dakota

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R)*

Northern Mariana Islands

Rep. Gregorio K. Camacho Sablan (D)

Ohio

Rep. Dave Joyce (R)
Rep. Joyce Beatty (D)

Oklahoma

Sen. James Lankford (R)
Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R)
Rep. Stephanie Bice (R)

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden (D)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D)

Pennsylvania

Sen. Robert Casey, Jr. (D)
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)
Rep. Mike Kelly (R)
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R)
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)

South Carolina

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R)
Rep. Joe Wilson (R)
Rep. Ralph Norman (R)

South Dakota

Sen. John Thune (R)
Sen. Mike Rounds (R)
Rep. Dusty Johnson (R)

Tennessee

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R)

Texas

Rep. John Carter (R)
Rep. Joaquin Castro (D)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D)
Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D)
Rep. Kay Granger (R)
Rep. Tony Gonzales (R)
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D)

Utah

Rep. Blake Moore (R)

Virginia

Sen. Mark Warner (D)
Rep. Rob Wittman (R)
Rep. Ben Cline (R)
Rep. Don Beyer (D)

Washington

Sen. Patty Murray (D)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)
Rep. Adam Smith (D)*
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)

West Virginia

Sen. Joe Manchin, III (D)

Wisconsin

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D)
Rep. Mike Gallagher (R)
Rep. Glenn Grothman (R)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D)
Rep. Bryan Steil (R)

146 Members (71 Democrats, 74 Republicans, 1 Independent)
43 Senators (20 Democrats, 22 Republicans, 1 Independent)
103 Representatives (51 Democrats, 52 Republicans)
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