

February 7, 2020

Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 3025 - The Increasing Opportunities for Former Foster Youth Act

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

As leaders from States and local governments, national early childhood, elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, youth development, foster care, and maternal infant care, and evidence-based policy-making organizations as well as research and technical assistance organizations that support the use of evidence, we are writing today to offer our strong support for the Increasing Opportunities for Former Foster Youth Act (S. 3025), which you introduced on December 11, 2019. This bipartisan legislation would address the critical issue of improving services for older youth aging out of the foster care system.

In 2018, approximately 18,000 youth aged out of the foster care system across the United States. Yet, few programs exist to support their transition to independence, or to increase the knowledge of the effectiveness of these programs. Becoming independent is a critical stage in the life of any young person and we must ensure that the programs that support youth in this transition effectively prepare them for success.

S. 3025 would commit \$100 million over five years to support 10 to 15 programs each year aimed at helping older youth in foster care transition into adulthood. More specifically, this new federal grant program would award validation grants to local governments, State governments, or private service providers proposing to invest federal funds in interventions with preliminary evidence of effectiveness; development and replication grants to support interventions that are working to build causal levels of evidence and interventions with the strongest evidence of effectiveness.

The bipartisan Increasing Opportunities for Former Foster Youth Act will make great progress in building and using evidence of what works and innovative approaches to help youth who are transitioning to adulthood and independence, and will ensure that our investments produce positive changes in their well-being and life outcomes. Thank you for introducing this critical bill.

Sincerely,

## **Organizations**

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools  
America Forward  
Appletree Institute for Education Innovation  
Arnold Ventures  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Braven  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
Center for Research & Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University  
Children & Families First  
Children's Home & Aid  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
College Possible  
Communities In Schools  
Council of Family & Child Caring Agencies  
CSH  
Democrats for Education Reform Now  
Education Reform Now Advocacy  
Efficacity  
Empirical Education Inc.  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Family Ties Enterprises Inc.  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Foster Club  
Friends of the Children  
GreenLight Fund  
Jankowski Associates, Inc.  
Kempe Center and Foundation  
Knowledge Alliance  
Marzano Research  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
MercyFirst  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
National Crittenton  
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives  
New Profit  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Pace Center for Girls  
PeerForward  
Project Evident  
Research Institute for Key Indicators  
Results for America  
Social Finance

Social Innovation Research Center  
StriveTogether  
Success for All Foundation  
The Dibble Institute  
Third Sector  
Unfolding Directions  
Year Up  
Youth Villages

**Individuals**

Karen Anderson, Former Chief of Staff, President's Council of Economic Advisors, and Senior Director of Policy & Communications, Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago  
Lynn Cominsky, Professor, Sonoma State University  
Jenny Durkan, Mayor, City of Seattle  
Ron Haskins, Former Co-Chair, Evidence-Based Policy Commission, and Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution  
Jim Kohlmoos, Former Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education, and Partner, EDGE Consulting Partners  
Kathy Stack, Former Deputy Associate Director, Education, Income Maintenance and Labor, White House Office of Management and Budget  
Jessie Watrous, Evidence-Based Program Director, University of Maryland, Institute for Innovation and Implementation

To sign onto this letter, please contact Patrick Lester at [patrick@socialinnovationcenter.org](mailto:patrick@socialinnovationcenter.org) or fill out the form at this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeY4KM55JKUfGypZ9G5IUUEJ\\_vvnJPQmCWvDHI6K8eVcfVDcg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeY4KM55JKUfGypZ9G5IUUEJ_vvnJPQmCWvDHI6K8eVcfVDcg/viewform)