



Toward Ratification

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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Our Task

- CWLA and the Campaign for US Ratification of the CRC
 - Policy Context
 - Advocacy Strategies
 - Finding our Inspiration
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CRC and CWLA

- 1909 White House Conference on Dependent Children
 - 1st formal assertion of the primacy of family life for children including those who were without parents
 - The establishment of two organizations to advance these concerns
 - The US Children's Bureau
 - The Child Welfare League of America – to establish a bureau and information exchange to improve practice for child caring agencies

Founding of CWLA to serve as

Background

- 1919 conference set minimum standards
 - Child labor
 - Health care for children and their mothers
 - Aid for special needs children
- 1930
 - Children's charter based on the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1924 Geneva Convention)

Policy Context

TANF Successes

- Promoting self-sufficiency for parents

- Focus on skill building and jobs that provide meaningful engagement in community that can support family

Challenges

- Continued problems of child poverty

- Child abuse (economy)

- Care of abused children (capacity, caseload and competence of the child welfare system)

Policy Context

- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions (2008)
 - Kinship care
 - Transition planning 18-22 y/o's
 - Education
 - Health Care
 - Indian Child Welfare
 - Adoption

Policy Context

ARRA Provisions Benefiting Children and Families

- **Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption**
 - Increasing federal matching for care and maintenance through 2010
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**
 - \$5 billion for Temporary TANF, to help states with rising caseloads
- **Child Care Development Block Grant**
 - \$2 billion for subsidizing child care for children in low-income working families and low-income families with parents in education or training



Policy Directions

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Reauthorization
- Health Care Reform
- Early Childhood
- Continuing Improvements in Child Welfare
- TANF reauthorization
- Deficit Reduction

Is There Support for Ratification?

- Support during the Campaign from
 - President Obama
 - Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton
 - Susan Rice
- Support of 59 Senators with around 20 on the fence and several opposed
 - Champions and supporters (Casey, Lugar, Snow, Boxer).

Next Steps

- Timeline – anticipated that it will be moved forward by the State Department for action by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2011
- Strategies Between Now and Then
 - Confirming and encouraging supporters in the Senate
 - Influencing those on the fence
 - Working key contacts in the administration

What Can You Do?

- Stay informed
- Build lists
- Send letters
- Join the campaign
- Educate others
- Let people know why it matters to you personally and professionally