



A Future Oriented Source of Leadership

June 27, 2016

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Burr and Tillis:

The North Carolina Association of County Departments of Social Services (NCACDSS) is contacting you today in regard to the proposed Family Prevention Services Act H.R. 5456. NCACDSS is an association representing the 100 county social services departments in our state. NCACDSS' concerns center around the potential unintended impact this bill may have on states and counties as we work to provide for the needs of children in foster care. The primary concern we have about the bill is in relation to the prescriptive funding provisions regarding foster care placements in congregate care. Although we prioritize family foster homes and kinship placements for our children there is simply not a sufficient number of these placements available in North Carolina at the present time. Unfortunately, congregate care is necessary to protect foster children in our state. This bill, as presently written, may have the consequence of costing North Carolina significant federal IV-E dollars necessary to provide safety and protection to abused/neglected children. We are very concerned about the potential elimination of Federal reimbursement for many foster children with special needs that often need congregate care because it is their only option.

There are other provisions within the bill we enthusiastically support such as the opportunity to utilize IV-E funding for prevention services to help children avoid foster care. However, our concerns regarding the bill outweigh the provisions we support. At this time we are working with our state partners in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to assess the financial impact to our state and counties if the bill passes in its present form.

We urge you and your colleagues to carefully examine the provisions of the legislation and delay action until necessary amendments can be made to the bill to insure children are provided the level of foster care services needed without shifting mandated costs to our state and counties.

Sincerely,

Susan McCracken
President

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