

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

file: child welfare

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

FAX COVER SHEET

Office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510-4802

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Phone: 202-224-6472

Fax: 202-224-7665

TO: Ann O'Leary

OFFICE:

FROM: Barbara

DATE:

OF PAGES:
(INCLUDING COVER)

MESSAGE:

Here's some work that DeWine & Rockefeller
are doing to work on funding -

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2000

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, House Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ernest Hollings
Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague,

We are writing you about funding for S. 2272, the Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 2000. This small, but important legislation just passed the House of Representatives this week by unanimous consent. The legislation authorizes three new grant programs to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of courts dealing with child abuse and neglect cases. The legislation is designed to follow up on the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and help move children from foster care into safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible.

We understand the enormous pressures you face, but we urge you to try to provide the \$25 million in funding for this legislation. This small amount of funding has the potential to dramatically change the lives of some of the 500,000 children in our foster care system. The three grant programs would be managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Planning.

This legislation passed the House and Senate with unanimous support. The legislation has the support of the American Bar Association, the National Conference of State Courts, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and numerous child welfare organizations. We realize this is a very last minute request, but the authorizing legislation just passed and children in foster care are some of our most vulnerable children who have been waiting too long for a safe, permanent home.

Sincerely,


Senator Mike DeWine
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV

I. Strengthening Abuse & Neglect Courts Act of 2000 (S.2272)

The Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 2000 is designed to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts through grants designed to provide computerized case tracking and technical assistance, innovative strategies to reduce caseloads, and expand CASA support to the underserved.

According to the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, States must focus on a child's safety, health and permanency. There is a new requirement that States should move to terminate parental rights once a child has been in foster care for 15 out of 22 months, except in limited circumstances. In order to meet these bold, new guidelines, an already overburdened abuse and neglect court system needs on-going training, and would benefit from grants established to provide computerized tracking systems, reduce number of abuse and neglect cases, and expand CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates). These programs would therefore reduce the average length of an abused and neglected child's stay in foster care, while improving the quality of decision-making and court services provided to children and families, and would ultimately increase the number of adoptions and place children in safe environments.

Grants to courts for computer automation and case tracking systems: A program to provide competitive state and local grants to abuse and neglect courts to create computerized case tracking systems, and to encourage the replication and implementation of successful systems in other court systems. Grants will be awarded based on eligibility criteria designed to encourage applications from both state and local courts, and a balance of urban and rural courts. Guidelines will also ensure that successful models can be disseminated to other courts. Applicants will need to include evaluation plans as part of the grant request. Grant program is \$10 million, with a 25% state matching requirement, also allowing for a hardship exemption.

Grants to reduce backlogs of abuse and neglect cases: A program to provide grants to court systems in order to reduce pending backlogs of abuse and neglect cases so that courts are able to comply with the time frames established in the Adoption and Safe Families Act. Competitive grants awarded to court systems to reduce backlogs by using night court sessions, hiring additional personnel to manage and reduce caseloads, or other innovative strategies. Grant program is \$10 million, and courts can use funding for up to 3 years.

Grants to expand the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program in Underserved Areas: A special grant program to expand the well-respected CASA program to the most needy areas, including the 15 largest urban areas and regional programs for rural areas. A single start up grant of \$5 million in 2000

Programs would be funded through Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Planning (OJJDP)

**Key contacts for securing funding for
S.2272 Strengthening Abuse & Neglect Courts Act of 2000 (S.2272)**

The Administration

The President
The First Lady
Office of Management and Budget

The Congress

House and Senate Leadership

Senate Appropriations Committees for Commerce, Justice, State & the Judiciary

The Honorable Judd Gregg, (R-NH) Chairman
The Honorable Ernest Hollings, (D-SC) Ranking Member
The Honorable Ted Stevens, (R-AK)
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, (R-NM)
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, (R-KY)
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson, (R-AZ)
The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell, (R-CO)
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, (D-HI)
The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg, (D-NJ)
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, (D-MD)
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, (D-VT)

House Appropriations Committee for Commerce, Justice State & the Judiciary

The Honorable Harold Rodgers, (R-KY) Chairman
The Honorable Jose' E. Serrano, (D-NY) Ranking Member
The Honorable Jim Kolbe, (R-AZ)
The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, (R-NC)
The Honorable Ralph Regula, (R-OH)
The Honorable Tom Latham, (R-IA)
The Honorable Dan Miller, (R-FL)
The Honorable Zach Wamp, (R-TN)
The Honorable Julian C. Dixon, (D-CA)
The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan, (D-WV)
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, (D-CA)

To _____

M Farhana

Phone 204-2578
Area Code Phone Number

FAX _____

Area Code Phone Number

Telephoned	☒	Returned Call	☒	Left Package	☐
Please Call	☒	Was In	☐	Please See Me	☐
Will Call Again	☐	Will Return	☐	Important	☐

Message

Signed _____

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

↑ file under welfare

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OFFICE:

FROM: Barbara — Can we talk 4-2578

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MESSAGE:

This passed both Senate & House by A.C.
passed House late yesterday. It's a great
bill but only an authorization — of course I'm
looking for \$25 million

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