



## **Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute**

*is dedicated to eliminating the barriers that prevent children from being part of a safe, nurturing, and permanent family.*

### **ABOUT THE ADOPTION CAUCUS AND CCAI**

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 Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus (CCA).

Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) - the Adoption Caucus - is the historically largest bipartisan, bicameral caucus in the U.S. Congress. The CCA has consistently been the voice for the needs of children in need of safe, nurturing, and permanent families, both in the United States and around the world. In 2001, the four Co-Chairs of the CCA worked to create an associated nonprofit institute, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI).

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to eliminating the barriers that prevent children from being part of a safe, nurturing, and permanent family. 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 for over twenty years. CCAI believes every child deserves a family and every family deserves a caring community.

#### **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 Foster Care Month (May) and National Adoption Month (November)

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

- Supporting America's Children and Families Act
- Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- The Adoption and Safe Families Act
- John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
- 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 368,000 children in foster care.

On any given day, over 368,000 children are living in the U.S. foster care system. Over 108,000 of these children are eligible for adoption and they will wait, on average, almost three years for an adoptive family. In 2022, 18,538 (9%) emancipated, or aged out, of the U.S. foster care system. For youth who do not find permanency, the long-term outcomes are alarming, and our youth deserve better:



Approximately one in five youth report experiencing homelessness within two years of exiting care.



16% of foster youth at age 17 reported being incarcerated within two years of exiting care.



Just 3% to 4% of former foster youth earn a four-year college degree.



Unemployment rates among young people aging out of foster care are as high as 69%.

**18,000**

About 18,000 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 permanent family. Without these vital supports, they will fare poorer as a group in postsecondary educational attainment, employment, housing stability, and criminal justice system involvement.

**33,000**

Approximately 33,000 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

Knowledge is powerful. CCAI's main purpose and expertise is bringing awareness and education to the U.S. Congress by providing experiential and interactive resources and opportunities to the active membership of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) to stay up to date on child welfare policy information. 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  
expertise*

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  
PROFESSIONAL  
expertise*

Doctors  
Educators  
Faith Leaders  
Judges & Lawyers  
Child Welfare Professionals



Learn more at [www.ccainstitute.org](http://www.ccainstitute.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 are the:

### 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 CCAI 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 individuals 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 program participants 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 permanency*

#### 2 empowerment

*Empowering advocates as national leaders*



**263**  
FOSTER  
YOUTH  
INTERN  
ALUMNI



### impact:

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

## ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

Through Angels in Adoption®, 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 at a celebration held in their honor. Since 1999, thousands of Angels have traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in this program, and these extraordinary leaders return home 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 safe and nurturing families
- 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 permanency work

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

**3,261**

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 VISTED  
ON 22 TRIPS**



# 119TH CONGRESS

## CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION MEMBERS

SENATE CO-CHAIRS: **AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN) & KEVIN CRAMER (R-ND)**  
HOUSE CO-CHAIR(S): **ROBERT ADERHOLT (R-AL) & DANNY K. DAVIS (D-IL)**

### Alabama

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

### Alaska

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)

### Arizona

Sen. Ruben Gallego (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. Adam Schiff (D)  
Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D)  
Rep. Ami Bera (D)  
Rep. Julia Brownley (D)  
Rep. Ken Calvert (R)  
Rep. Judy Chu (D)  
Rep. Jared Huffman (D)  
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R)  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D)  
Rep. Doris Matsui (D)  
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D)  
Rep. Brad Sherman (D)  
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D)

### Colorado

Rep. Joe Neguse (D)

### Connecticut

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

### Delaware

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

### District of Columbia

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)

### Florida

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R)  
Rep. Kat Cammack (R)  
Rep. John Rutherford (R)  
Rep. Vern Buchanan (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. Jim Banks (R)  
Rep. Andre Carson (D)  
Rep. Erin Houchin (R)  
Rep. Rudy Yakym (R)

### 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. 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. Chris Van Hollen (D)

### Massachusetts

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

### Michigan

Sen. Gary Peters (D)  
Rep. Bill Huizinga (R)  
Rep. John Moolenaar (R)  
Rep. Tim Walberg (R)  
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D)  
Rep. Tom Barrett (R)

### Minnesota

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)\*  
Sen. Tina Smith (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. Jason Smith (R)  
Rep. Sam Graves (R)

### Montana

Sen. Steve Daines (R)

### Nebraska

Rep. Don Bacon (R)  
Rep. Adrian Smith (R)  
Rep. Mike Flood (R)

### Nevada

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D)

### New Hampshire

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D)

### New Jersey

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D)  
Rep. Christopher Smith (R)  
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)  
Rep. LaMonica McIver (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)\*

### Ohio

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

### Oklahoma

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

### Oregon

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

### Pennsylvania

Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)  
Rep. Mike Kelly (R)  
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R)  
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)

### Rhode Island

Rep. Seth Magaziner (D)

### 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. Tony Gonzales (R)  
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D)

### Utah

Rep. Blake Moore (R)

### Virginia

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

### Washington

Sen. Patty Murray (D)  
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)  
Rep. Adam Smith (D)

### West Virginia

Rep. Carol D. Miller (R)

### Wisconsin

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D)  
Rep. Glenn Grothman (R)  
Rep. Mark Pocan (D)  
Rep. Bryan Steil (R)  
Rep. Gwen Moore (D)