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September 1, 2016

Commissioner Rafael Lopez
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Acting Associate Director, Children's Bureau
330 C Street NW
Washington D.C., 20201

Dear Commissioner Lopez,

Casey Family Programs deeply values our strong partnership with State child protection agencies to support efforts to make long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of all children and families. We also value our partnership with the Children's Bureau and we are pleased to unite into a new public private partnership to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act. We are committing to a new five year implementation effort in which we provide technical assistance to states to identify and implement evidenced based preventive services designed to assist parents to keep their children safe at home, to identify and implement practice models that will ensue only children requiring documented needs for higher levels of care are temporarily placed in time limited residential treatment facilities and supporting the use of best practices in data driven decision making. Furthermore, Casey Family Programs also commits to utilizing its Data Advocacy and Research Services resources to ensure that the long term impact and efficacy of this effort are documented and utilized to ensure the future success and continuity of this innovation in child and family services.

As the nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care, we have invested over \$1 billion nationally since 2006 in achieving our nation's shared vision of ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, stable and permanent family. Staff from our foundation have worked directly with communities, elected and appointed officials to keep children safe from harm and help strengthen struggling families. We provide a wide range of technical assistance to child welfare leaders, family court judges and local and state policymakers to support their efforts to forge an even more effective child welfare system. Casey Family Programs believes that Family First Prevention Services Act is a powerful opportunity to help us deepen this work together.

The Family First Prevention Services Act is the most important federal child welfare legislation in more than a generation. It will enable states to better prevent child maltreatment, increase evidence-based services that strengthen vulnerable families and develop a stable and effective workforce that meets the needs of those they serve. It will also help ensure that those children who must be removed from their families are placed in the most effective setting to prevent further harm and to help them heal.

Casey Family Programs has long considered this kind of federal funding approach a cornerstone of creating a 21st century child welfare system in America — one that keeps children safe before harm takes place rather than intervening only after maltreatment has occurred. We are fully committed to using our resources, experience and expertise to help states fully realize the benefits of this legislation.

We also understand that providing new opportunities and resources to improve child welfare isn't enough. States must be willing to undertake the challenging work of implementing changes that will achieve better outcomes. Casey Family Programs will be there to help.

We are proud of our work over the years supporting states in implementing legislation that has moved at the federal level to improve outcomes among children and families.

Therefore, in addition to the new efforts mentioned above Casey Family Programs will also build on our current efforts with states to support implementation of this legislation.

For example, we are at the ready to help with:

- Targeted geographic-based needs and strengths assessments in relation to prevention services.
- The use of Systems Analysis Framework strategies to examine the match between child/family needs and services.
- Supporting scale-up and evaluation of promising practices, including assistance in finding sustainable funding sources, identifying services that are ineffective, and where savings could be obtained so those funds could be re-invested in *Family First* related interventions.
- Rapid randomized control trials (RTCs) which are small-scale, quick and rigorous research trials of new strategies to save time and money in evaluating new interventions or validating current EBPs with new populations.

We look forward to engaging in this new public private partnership with the Children's Bureau to implement the Family First Prevention Service Act.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

David Sanders, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Systems Improvement



