



National Association of Public
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

October 22, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Senate Hart Office Building, Suite 133
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

On behalf of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, we applaud your efforts to improve the health and well-being of foster children. As a former social worker, you understand the immense needs of this at-risk population.

NAPCWA works to enhance and improve public policy and administration of services for children, youth and families. As the only organization solely devoted to representing administrators of state and local public child welfare agencies, NAPCWA brings an informed view of the problems today's at-risk children and families face. Our members are on the front-line working to improve health and well-being outcomes for children in the custody of the state.

NAPCWA supports the Medicaid Services Restoration Act of 2009 (S. 1217). We particularly appreciate your efforts to codify many of the requests made by child welfare administrators during the previous administration's attempts to limit medically necessary services for foster children, particularly about case management.

We also thank you for defining therapeutic foster care in S. 1217. Child welfare administrators have struggled to find the necessary resources to support intensive foster care services for those young people with severe mental and physical health issues.

Again, we thank you for introducing S. 1217 and for your advocacy during the health care reform efforts. If you have any questions, please contact Courteney Holden at (202) 682-0100 x249 or by e-mail at courteney.holden@aphsa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita B. Light". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anita Light, Director
National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators