

## **"Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008" signed by President Bush**

**On October 7**, H.R. 6893, the "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008," **was signed by President Bush.**

H.R. 6893 was approved by unanimous consent in both Houses. The bill was approved in the House on September 17<sup>th</sup> and passed in the Senate on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This bipartisan, bicameral bill, formally introduced as the Senate Finance Committee "Improved Adoption Assistance and Relative Guardianship Support Act" (S. 3038) is the product of a compromise bill between members of both houses.

H.R. 6893 was introduced on September 15, 2008 by House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support Chairman Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Ranking Member Jerry Weller (R-IL). The bill will primarily:

- provide Title IV-E funds for kinship providers, offering better permanency options for foster youth;
- offer direct access to Title IV-E funds for tribes serving youth in care;
- reauthorize and improve adoption incentives by de-linking adoption assistance eligibility from the 1996 AFDC income requirement for families;
- increase educational stability for older youth in care;
- improve outcomes and oversight of health needs for youth in care; and
- guarantees \$15 million for each fiscal year between 2009 thru 2013 for "family connections grant"

Most provisions in this bill would be effective October 1, 2010. H.R. 6893 is available on the Library of Congress website at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>