



May 8, 2020

Dear Rep. Walberg:

Over the past several weeks, we, Michigan's Children, have relayed a wide range of information, policy recommendations and constituent feedback regarding issues impacting Michigan children, youth and families during this difficult time. We greatly appreciate your consideration. We have identified specific issues that reflect your positions, expertise, and communications we've had with your staff, and we would like to further discuss your willingness and ability to champion these priorities on behalf of our state's most vulnerable children, youth and families in future federal COVID response legislation:

Support Parent Skill Building and Family Literacy

Specific resources are necessary for maintenance and expansion of adult education and family literacy programs through WIOA and federal CTE programs. Parents participating in or eligible for adult basic education, GED and other high school completion programs are most adversely affected in the current crisis because they lack key foundational literacy skills and the educational attainment to leverage new resources in these changing times. Any decrease in funding would leave over 25,000 adults and families without the educational skills to succeed and fill high-need, in-demand jobs.

Support for Child Welfare and Foster Care Increased Costs

Michigan's Children has heard that young people exiting foster care preparing to enter the workforce are facing additional burdens than their peers because of generally lacking foundations of support, and families who used to benefit from home visiting programs are receiving limited services now, and would benefit from investment into community-based programs that provide supports to parents in times of stress.

- Support for abuse and neglect prevention programs through CAPTA Title II Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CB-CAP) Grants.
- Support older youth in and leaving foster care allowing states to draw down Title IV-E resources through age 21 and by increasing Chafee funding, removing some individual spending caps and extending eligibility.

Direct Financial Supports for State and Local Governments

Michigan, like other states, is facing significant revenue challenges due to this crisis. Critical public services, and supports for those services that go to nonprofits and other agencies can't continue without strong state and local governments to support them.

Thank you for your service for the children, youth, and families of Michigan, we look forward to working together.

Regards,

Matt Gillard
President & CEO

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