

THE DONALDSON ADOPTION INSTITUTE

September 30, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee Office
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

[The Donaldson Adoption Institute](#) is delighted to support the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act (H.R. 3205). The Adoption Institute is an independent, nonpartisan policy and education nonprofit organization that conducts research and analysis in order to improve federal and state adoption-related laws, policies and practices. Our "[Keeping the Promise](#)" initiative, for instance, aims to expand an essential tool to enable children in foster care to join, and remain in, permanent, safe and loving families: adoption support and preservation services.

The Adoption Institute is pleased that H.R. 3205 reauthorizes the Adoption Incentives program through FY2016, restructures awards to incentivize increasing adoptions of pre-adolescent and older children, and establishes a new award for increases in the rate of children leaving foster care for legal guardianship. We also applaud the mandate that states report savings resulting from the adoption assistance-income eligibility de-link and reinvestments in child welfare, as well as spend a minimum of 20 percent of savings on post-adoption services for children adopted from care.

We appreciate the Committee's bipartisan efforts, solicitation of expert testimony, and consideration of comments on the August draft proposal that it notes "informed several changes made to the bipartisan legislation introduced." We also are glad to see that the House schedule indicates that the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act may be considered this week on the House Floor.

We are communicating the Institute's support of H.R. 3205 to our stakeholders and asking them to contact their Members for their support as well.

Thank you for your leadership; it is truly a testament to the Committee's commitment to the over 100,000 children still waiting in temporary care for permanent families. Please feel free to contact us if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



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Ruth McRoy
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cc: Ryan Martin, Human Resources Subcommittee Majority Staff
Nicholas Gwyn, Human Resources Subcommittee Minority Staff
MaryLee Allen, Children's Defense Fund
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