

## **NCJFCJ Position Statement**

### **Supporting the Family First Prevention Services Act**

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), an organization devoted to ensuring justice and improving outcomes for children, families, and victims who are involved with our courts, supports the Family First Prevention Services Act.

We applaud those Senators and Representatives who provided bipartisan leadership in Congress for introducing legislation to reform federal child welfare funding to be invested in preventative services and programs for vulnerable children and families. Additionally, the continued federal support of the Court Improvement Program (CIP) is critically important to our families. CIP programs make a huge difference in the lives of abused and neglected children by improving the ability of courts and child welfare agencies to better serve them.

While no single legislative measure can fully address the complex issues facing our nation's most vulnerable children and families, the Family First Prevention Services Act makes significant progress toward improving child welfare systems so they can appropriately respond to this vulnerable population. The NCJFCJ is fully committed to continuing reform efforts with stakeholders and policymakers to ensure that legislative policy provides the best way to support child welfare systems. We must be mindful that in order for children and families to be helped by this Act, all states must benefit from it and there must be continued efforts to address any unintended adverse consequences to systems of care as the Act is implemented.

The NCJFCJ is nationally recognized for educating judges, court personnel, and other professionals working on behalf of our nation's children, families, and victims of domestic violence. We remain committed to advancing and reforming our nation's child welfare system and improving the well-being of and outcomes for young people and their families across the country.