



POLICY ALERT

Center for Public Policy Priorities

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Celebrate Grandparents' Day by Urging Congress to Support Relative Caregivers

Every child needs a safe, permanent family to help them grow and flourish. Grandparents and other relatives can be an important resource to provide permanent homes for thousands of children in foster care—but they need the same supports any other foster family gets. Common-sense reforms in Congress could help make this happen—if you add your voice to call for change.

In honor of Grandparents' Day (September 9) call your senators and representative and ask for their support of the bipartisan Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S.661/HR 2188). This federal legislation would help the more than 124,000 children—1 out of every 4 in foster care—who live with grandparents or other relatives. The bill would enable those relatives to become permanent guardians while maintaining crucial financial and social services support for things like medical visits, food, school clothes, and educational tutoring.

Call toll free at 888-226-0627 from Monday, September 10 through Friday, September 14th. You will be connected to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard. Ask to be connected to the office of your Senators and Representative. Not sure who they are? Ask the Switchboard Operator, or visit www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt. Message: "I urge Senator/Representative _____ to help grandparents and the children they care for by co-sponsoring the bipartisan Kinship Caregiver Support Act [S. 661 in the Senate; H.R. 2188 in the House of Representatives]. Children need safe and stable families. Thank you."

For more information about kinship care, visit <http://kidsawaiting.org/reports/files/timeforreform.pdf>.

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