

# CWLA

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

HEADQUARTERS • 440 First Street, NW, Third Floor • Washington, DC 20001-2085  
202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

**PRESIDENT/CEO**

Shay Bilchik

September 13, 2005

**BOARD CHAIR**

George W. Swan III

The Honorable Jim McDermott  
United States House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**PAST CHAIR**

Timothy F. Noelkar

**VICE CHAIRS**

Kate Sides Fischer

Charles A. Haas

Dear Congressman McDermott:

**TREASURER**

Ross E. Wales

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), with our 900 public and private child-serving member agencies, endorses H.R. 3711, the Emergency Action for Vulnerable Children Act. We applaud your leadership in highlighting the needs of vulnerable foster children and families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

**ASSISTANT TREASURER**

Andrew M. Eassa

Many CWLA member agencies are working in the disaster area to connect children with their families and to continue to provide services to those children in care. They report to us directly about their struggles in attempting to meet the needs of children and families devastated by this disaster.

**SECRETARY**

Faith Roessel

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

Rhett N. Mabry

H.R. 3711 begins to address these issues by providing federal assistance to ensure that foster children receive the supports and services they need, including mental health treatment. H.R. 3711 allows the kind of broad and flexible funding that will assist Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, as well as help other states that are extending their hands in support of the relief efforts.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Normer Adams

Marilyn B. Benoit

Raymond P. Carpenter

Fred Chaffee

Andra Cooper

April M. Curtis

Bob Danzig

Lucille A. Echowawik

Celeste Edmunds

Alicia Renee Farris

Richard H. Fleming

Saundra M. Foster

Carolyn Jenkins-Jaeger

Mike Jordan

Lowell Kalapa

James M. Karcz

Dick Maggiore

Darleena McHenry

Michael B. Moskow

Paula Mosen-Tolson

CT O'Donnell II

Luanne Panacek

Dallas Pierson

Richard G. Pfluka

Joan B. Polisk

Jestina L. Richardson

Peter L. Rubin

Marcin R. Sinnott

Kenneth Sipes

Johnny Wade Sloan

Julie Sweeney-Springwater

Robert S. Tsushima

Anne A. Wolf

It is clear that it will take a sustained effort on the part of volunteers and local, state, and federal governments to help these children and families cope. This legislation provides an assurance that the federal government stands as a partner with state and local governments to meet the needs of these children.

Thank you again for your continued leadership on behalf of children and families. Count on CWLA to work with you in any way possible to help the children and families affected by this disaster.

Sincerely,



Shay Bilchik  
President/CEO