

# American Humane Association

The nation's voice for the protection of children & animals

September 23, 2010

The Honorable Pete Stark  
United States House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Foster Children Support Act

Dear Representative Stark:

American Humane Association supports the Foster Children Support Act which will assist youth in foster care to access their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. This bill is an important step in addressing the needs of some of the more than 30,000 young people who leave foster care each year due to the fact that they have reached their eighteenth birthday.

Since 1877, the historic American Humane Association has been at the forefront of every major advancement in protecting children and other animals from cruelty and abuse. As the nation's voice for the protection of children and animals, American Humane Association reaches millions of people every day through ground-breaking research, education, training and services that span a wide network of organizations, agencies and businesses. Our support for the Foster Children Support Act reflects an over 100-year history of progressively advocating at the federal, state and local levels for laws that protect children and animals.

The American Humane Association recognizes that far too many young people leave foster care not because they have a family but because foster care has ended for them. It is critical we act to provide greater support to those young people who may be eligible for SSI by helping them navigate the eligibility process. In addition, it is important that we assist states, and in particular the social workers who carry out these tasks, to do this critical work.

We also look forward to working with you and Congressman Langevin on his legislation to help young people in foster care in making the transition to independent living.

Thank you for your leadership on such an important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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