

Resolution 3 In Support of the Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators recognize the importance of securing safe, stable, and permanent homes and positive outcomes for children in the foster care system; and
WHEREAS, in recognition of the effect of federal mandates on the state judicial systems and the critical oversight role that state courts play, Congress created and reauthorized the Court Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, state courts have completed comprehensive assessments, developed and implemented innovative solutions for improving court processes and procedures, and evaluated the effectiveness of reform efforts. Children across the country have benefited from this funding, as courts have been able to improve and expedite the processing of child abuse and neglect cases with the goals of placing children in safe, stable, and permanent homes and improving outcomes for these children; and

WHEREAS, state courts have been able to leverage the federal dollars to accomplish reforms, but additional enhancements and reforms are needed and the Court Improvement Program funds continue to be a critical factor for achieving these enhancements and reforms; and

WHEREAS, Senators John F. Kerry and Charles E. Grassley introduced the Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act (S. 3231) in the 112th Congress, which would create a semipostal stamp to support the Court Improvement Program and the Adoption Opportunities Program that improve outcomes for children in the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, funds secured through the stamp sales that would go to the Court Improvement Program will be used to support efforts to improve the child welfare court programs, which may include efforts for improved quality of legal representation for the children, reduced caseloads, updating systems to be more efficient, and overall steps to improve the court's role in achieving safe, stable and permanent homes for children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators strongly urge Congress to enact the Families for Foster Youth Stamp Act and other similar legislation.

Adopted as proposed by the CCJ/COSCA Courts, Children and Families Committee at the 2012 Annual Meeting on July 25, 2012.