



September 7, 2011

The Honorable George Miller  
United States House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) applauds your continued leadership addressing the abuse of children placed in facilities sometimes referred to as outdoor camps, wilderness camps or boot camps. As you know CWLA represents hundreds of public and private organizations that provide the full array of services to vulnerable children, including residential treatment services. Together we are committed to ensuring that children receive high quality services. It is in this capacity that we believe that there is a need for more stringent standards and improved monitoring to prevent practices that undermine confidence in quality residential programs for children. We believe that your bill can be a vehicle for ensuring a higher level of accountability.

Your legislation, the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs For Teens Act, has raised the profile of unsafe and unacceptable practices in some residential children's programs and this increased attention has resulted in positive changes.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of children and families and for the opportunity to once again express our support. We will welcome an opportunity to discuss our concerns. In particular we have a keen interest in the issues of management and coordination between federal, state and local oversight functions, and want to ensure we are not creating an onerous and overly regulated system, or establishing a level of federal oversight and monitoring that overlaps and potentially conflicts with the states.

We look forward to continuing to work on these issues and the process moves forward, and to advancing the positive reforms included in the bill.

Sincerely,

Christine James-Brown  
President/CEO