



February 5, 2016

Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Commissioner Colvin,

Last month, Community Legal Services, the Homeless Advocacy Project, and Juvenile Law Center recommended a change to Social Security Administration (SSA) policy to allow youth transitioning out of foster care to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits nine months before discharge. As we explained in our letter memorandum, this change would ensure that this vulnerable group is able to access benefits without delay upon discharge to ease the transition to adulthood.

Since our previous letter, numerous state and national groups have signed on to support the recommended policy change. These organizations, which serve thousands of foster children across the country, express strong support for this policy change and are confident in its potential to significantly improve the transition to adulthood for youth aging out of foster care. Please find a list of those groups attached, as well as a copy of the original letter.

Thank you again for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Claire Grandison, Community Legal Services, at (215) 981-3726 or cgrandison@clsphila.org.

Sincerely,

Claire Grandison and Maggie Potter
Community Legal Services

Laura Kolb
Homeless Advocacy Project

Karen Lindell
Juvenile Law Center



Organizations Supporting the Recommended Change to SSI Policy for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care

Melissa Rock
Advocates for Children and Youth (Maryland)

Denise Tanata
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)

Beth Rosenberg
Children's Action Alliance (Arizona)

MaryLee Allen
Children's Defense Fund

Jessica Haspel
Children Now (California)

John Sciamanna
Child Welfare League of America

Amanda Metivier
Facing Foster Care in Alaska

Shadi Houshyar
First Focus

Amy Lemley
John Burton Foundation (California)

Michele Corey
Michigan's Children



Lori Ross
Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association

Sarah Helvey
Nebraska Appleseed

Ezra Spitzer
New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks

David Derbes
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Joe Kroll
Voice for Adoption

Michelle Fay
Voices for Vermont's Children

Amy Woolard
Voices for Virginia's Children

Amber Twitchell
VOICES Youth Centers (California)

Alice Bussiere
Youth Law Center