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**