



February 10, 2008

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), representing hundreds of public and private child-serving member agencies located in all fifty states, applauds your legislation to address the abuse of children placed in facilities sometimes referred to as outdoor camps, wilderness camps or boot camps. Your legislation, the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs For Teens Act of 2009, will provide much needed management over programs and facilities that have for too long operated without adequate regulation or licensing by either state or federal law. The intent of your bill is an important step toward reducing the number of youths abused at these types of programs. We believe this legislation will provide much needed regulation to assist with preventing future abuses in these programs and facilities.

We commend your leadership demonstrated through this legislation in highlighting the needs of young people and their families who relied on these facilities and who experienced sometimes tragic consequences.

We look forward to continuing to work on these issues and this bill as the process moves forward. 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. Also, we recommend the careful integration of the national hot-line program with existing similar efforts, and urge consideration of enacting additional oversight for children attending nonresidential day types of boot camps.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of children and families. We look forward to working with you on crafting this legislation and advancing the reforms included in your bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine James-Brown".

Christine James-Brown
President/CEO