

**Ohio Empowerment Coalition's
Safe & Stable Families Campaign**

We call on county, state & federal policymakers to immediately adopt the following policies that will significantly help families become Safe & Stable:

Provide financial assistance to keep children with birth parents if the only reason for removal from home is poverty conditions (ex. utilities disconnected)

Increase "preferential status" for children to be placed with relatives if removed from parents

Increase supports to Kinship care providers: child care vouchers, transportation assistance, clothing & food assistance, mental health services for stress management & respite care for providers

Increase public assistance payments for Kinship care providers to be more equal to foster care payments

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

County _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

_____ Yes, my organization endorses the ***Safe & Stable Families Campaign.***

_____ Yes, I individually endorse the ***Safe & Stable Families Campaign.***

_____ I want to receive action alerts and updates on the campaign.

_____ I will take action to promote the ***Safe & Stable Families Campaign***
(writing letters, phone calls, etc.)

Please return this form to the Contact Center, 1227 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 or fax it to 513-381-4022. For more information call 513/381-4242.

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No children should be removed from their birth parents if the only reason is poverty conditions. Instead financial means must be provided to help alleviate the poverty conditions. This could be assisting the parent to find an adequate paying job; emergency rent assistance; utility assistance, and other. First and foremost, it is in the best interest of Society to keep children with their birth parents if the only barrier is poverty.

Increase “preferential status” for children to be placed with relatives if removed from parents

Grandparents and other relatives should be the first choice for children to be placed with if removed from their biological parents, as long as the relatives’ homes are safe. This benefits children by maintaining family bonds and helps keep siblings placed together in same home. It helps children have a sense of stability to see familiar and loved faces amidst all the other turmoil & upheaval in their lives.

Increase supports to Kinship care providers: child care vouchers, transportation assistance, clothing, food assistance, mental health care for stress management, and respite care

Grandparents and other relatives need support to do the sacrificial job of raising their grandchildren. Many grandparents are senior citizens who need their own supports and are often on fixed incomes. Respite care is important so that grandparents can get a “break” to relieve the stress of being “parents” again. The Contact Center supports improving governmental supports for kinship care providers.

Increase public assistance payments for Kinship care providers to be more equal to foster care payments

Currently in Ohio, a Kinship Care provider receives \$245 monthly for one child in her / his care on Ohio Works First. This is known as a “child-only” case. For an additional relative’s child, the Kinship Care provider receives \$91. In contrast, foster care payments in Ohio can range from a minimum of \$9 per day to a maximum of \$118 per day (Source: ODJFS).

Grandparents should be honored and awarded for stepping in to help their grandchildren during a time of crisis in their grandchildren's lives.