

Voice for Adoption

SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN

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Dear Child Welfare Leader:

We all carry an enormous responsibility to the 114,000 children in our nation's foster care system who are waiting for a forever family. As we work to make these children's dreams of permanency and stability come true, we face serious challenges, but we also have many great resources available to us. This Guide is a valuable addition to the child welfare field, offering leaders and decision-makers in the child welfare system a powerful tool to help them improve policies and practices and connect waiting children with families.

As a national adoption advocacy coalition, Voice for Adoption (VFA) works for improved laws and policies on behalf of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. We are dedicated to helping break down barriers to finding permanent families for waiting children. Despite the fact that thousands of children in foster care go to bed each night without a family, we know that discrimination prevents many prospective adoptive parents from being able to provide permanence to waiting children. Many individuals from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community have expressed an interest in parenting these children, but have felt unwelcome, been discouraged, or been explicitly prohibited from adopting waiting children. In 2006, VFA established the following position statement:

“Voice for Adoption believes that children deserve every opportunity to have a permanent, loving family, and that ruling out prospective parents through discrimination limits children's options for permanency. We oppose policies and practices that discriminate against prospective parents, including but not limited to discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, family size, disability, medical condition, geographic location, employment status, occupation (including employment in the child welfare system), and educational attainment. We support making decisions about approving prospective parents and matching waiting children on a case-by-case basis, based on the strengths of the family and the best interests of each child.”

This Guide will be a key resource as the child welfare field works to break down all of the barriers that prevent children from achieving their dream of having a forever family. VFA applauds your efforts to continually improve your policies and practices in order to serve waiting children better.

Sincerely,

Alicia

Alicia Groh
Executive Director

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