

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to request your support to restore funding for Purchased Adoption and Post-Adoption Services. Funding for these critical programs, housed in the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), is basic to moving children out of foster care into permanent loving homes. DFPS exceptional items request \$5.8 million to restore Purchased Adoptions and Post-Adoption Services.

In 2010, adoption was the goal for 49% of the children waiting in foster care after removal from their homes by DFPS because they suffered abuse or neglect. There are currently 6026 children in foster care awaiting adoption. Of those children, 35% are African American, 37% are Hispanic and 25% are Anglo. Purchased Adoption Services are used to find homes to match with these children and complete the adoption process. They accounted for 20% of completed adoptions in 2010. There will be no additional clients served through these programs in the next biennium unless funds are restored.

In 2010, 34.7% of children adopted had a disabling condition. Post-Adoption Services provide supports to families to ensure that adoptions of special needs children do not disrupt. Without these supports children can reenter the system and restart the cycle of finding a new home. This takes a tremendous emotional toll on the children involved.

[ Briefly identify who you are and what services you provide in the legislator's district.]

Thank you for consideration of this important issue.