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March 20, 2017

Dear Colleague:

I am writing on behalf of Dade Legal Aid's Child Advocacy Project ("CAP") that provides zealous advocacy for foster teens including those who have not been adopted and remain in foster care until aging out of the system. During the past decade and a half, CAP has provided critical legal representation to hundreds of foster children and teens in our community facing challenging circumstances, including independent living program appeals, immigration support and systemic advocacy. Many of the children in foster care were abandoned and abused by their birth parents, have lived in countless foster care homes, are significantly behind in school because there is no familial support in their group homes, face daily uncertainty and fear of aging out of the system with no safety net in place. Fortunately, for these youth, Dade Legal Aid's dedicated staff and pro bono attorneys selflessly serve as the lawyer and mentor in these children's lives and guide them through the foster care system as they remain the court-appointed attorneys until the children age out of the system. To say that Dade Legal Aid's attorneys truly make the difference in the lives of the children they represent is an understatement.

Dade Legal Aid makes *access to justice* a reality for countless neglected youth. Without its dedicated staff and pro bono attorneys, these teens will fall further through the cracks of our community. I strongly encourage you to take a case and or donate to Dade Legal Aid so they may continue to provide the most vulnerable children in our community with a chance at success. This collaborative project is necessary to help our foster teens transition successfully into productive adulthood.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact Karen Ladis at 305-579-5733 ext. 2245 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey Rynor
President
DCBA

enc.