

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 10-0208R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, D’Adamo, Kraft, Cole, Holton, President Young,  
Councilmembers Henry, Middleton, Branch, Stokes, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, Curran,  
Spector  
Introduced and adopted: May 17, 2010

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**In Celebration – May is National Foster Care Month**

FOR the purpose of celebrating National Foster Care Month; expressing appreciation to all of the foster parents who open their homes to children in need, providing them a stable, secure, and nurturing place to call home; and encouraging others to do the same for the thousands of children across the nation living in out-of-home care.

**Recitals**

In May, the National Campaign for foster care brings together the nation’s leading child welfare organizations to present a unified, compelling, and robust public face for foster care by raising visibility for the issue and attaching a strong call-to-action message that encourages more people to get involved and support the half-million children and youth living in out-of-home care throughout the year.

The Campaign goals are to:

- Raise AWARENESS about the magnitude of the issue and the urgent and sustaining needs of children and older youth in foster care and their families;
- Issue a national CALL-TO-ACTION that motivates, inspires, and facilitates many more Americans to come forward and help *change a lifetime* for a young person in foster care; and
- Develop a positive framework for maintaining visibility and interest in the foster care issue in SUPPORT OF THE YEAR-ROUND EFFORTS of the National Foster Care Month Partner organizations and other child welfare agencies.

Currently, 463,000 children in the United States are in foster care because their own families are in crisis and are unable to provide for their essential well-being. Many of the children in care are unable to return home safely because their parents lack access to services that could help strengthen families. There are an estimated 12 million alumni of foster care in the U.S., representing all walks of life.

Youth in foster care need a meaningful connection to at least one adult, no matter the age of the child. Without families or stable relationships, far too many of these formerly neglected and/or abused children end up facing life’s challenges alone. Research shows that young people who age out of foster care are far more likely than their peers to endure homelessness, poverty,

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1     compromised health, insufficient education, unemployment, incarceration, early pregnancy, and  
2     parenthood.

3             Emphasizing the need for foster care parents in Maryland, Baltimore City will play host to  
4     the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Foster Parent Association Education Conference at the Baltimore  
5     Marriott Waterfront Hotel from Friday evening, May 28<sup>th</sup> to Monday afternoon May 31. Even in  
6     these hard economic times, more than 300 attendees are expected. The Secretary of the  
7     Maryland Department of Human Resources will be a keynote speaker, and the agency has given  
8     the Maryland Foster Parent Association a grant to pay the registration fee for 125 foster parents  
9     to attend.

10            In proclaiming May 2010 as National Foster Care Month, the President of the United States  
11     said: “Nearly a half-million children and youth are in foster care in America, all entering the  
12     system through no fault of their own. During National Foster Care Month, we recognize the  
13     promise of children and youth in foster care, as well as former foster youth. We also celebrate  
14     the professionals and foster parents who demonstrate the depth and kindness of the human  
15     heart.”

16            “This month, caring foster parents and professionals across the Nation will celebrate the  
17     triumphs of youth in foster care as they work to remove barriers to reaching a permanent family.  
18     Federal, State, and local government agencies, communities, and individuals all have a role to  
19     play as well. Together we can ensure that young people in foster care have the opportunities and  
20     encouragement they need to realize their full potential.”

21            **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
22     Body celebrates National Foster Care Month; expresses appreciation to all of the foster parents  
23     who open their homes to children in need, providing them a stable, secure, and nurturing place to  
24     call home; and encourages others to do the same for the thousands of children across the nation  
25     living in out-of-home care.

26            **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor; the  
27     Secretary, Maryland Department of Human Resources; the Director, Baltimore City Department  
28     of Social Services; the President, Maryland Foster Parent Association; and the Mayor’s  
29     Legislative liaison to the City Council.