

Foreword

America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness describes the plight of America's homeless children. For the first time, vital information about our country's most vulnerable children is presented in a single report – giving us the opportunity to focus on the needs of these children and to galvanize a comprehensive response.

The Report Card presents a snapshot of homeless children at a moment in time. The state rankings highlight critical components of child homelessness, but they are only as valuable as the manner in which they are used. We hope you will use this report to develop programs, policies, and infrastructures that place a high priority on ensuring that no child in America spends even one night without a home.

We believe that working to end child homelessness will have far-reaching and lasting effects on the future of our society. Whether your state is at the top, middle, or bottom of these rankings, we urge you to take this report seriously and to use the resources of the National Center on Family Homelessness and its partners to support activities on behalf of these children.

When you have read this report, we invite you to begin a dialogue with the National Center on Family Homelessness and leaders in your community. Only by understanding many perspectives can we learn about what needs to be done to ensure that every child in our country has a safe and stable home.

Please visit www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org to get more information and to share your experiences. We urge you to do whatever you can to end child homelessness in your community as soon as possible. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for all children in our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr., United States Senator (Pennsylvania)

Chair, Advisory Board, Campaign to End Child Homelessness