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July 11, 2001

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As an individual who works closely with troubled children and families, I am deeply concerned with the social issues facing our nation today. Ensuring that our nation's youth and their families receive quality health and social services is of utmost priority to The Jordan Institute for Families. The National Center for Social Work Research Act (S 70/HR 663) would help myself and tens of thousands of others working with troubled youth and families to do our jobs better and would help policy makers address the issues by providing the necessary information we are all in need of.

Social workers provide services every day to help people cope with youth violence, serious health and mental-health conditions, child abuse and neglect, and problems related to aging. They are all frontline workers. A National Center for Social Work Research will enable us to aid in building upon that daily experience, and allow for effective dissemination about the best methods of practice to social workers and other service providers.

The creation of a National Center for Social Work Research will also have a significant impact on the quality and quantity of information that policy makers will have available to them when they make decisions affection there lives of millions of citizens.

For those members of Congress already supporting the legislation, I thank you. For others, I ask each of you to please review HR 663/S 70 and consider the real beneficiaries of this social work research; the children, youth, adults, and families who receive health, mental health and social services from social workers and their interdisciplinary partners. Every citizen of the United States deserve the opportunity to succeed as individuals and to contribute to our society. Your support for this legislation will help achieve that.

Sincerely,

Deloris Jordan

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