



Family & Children's Trust Fund of Virginia

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January 3, 2022

William A. Hazel, Jr. M.D.
Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
11350 Random Hills Rd. #730
Fairfax, Va. 22030-0152

Dear Dr. Hazel:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to reiterate our thanks to you for your leadership and support for increasing awareness and action on the critical public health issue of ACEs exposure for child.

As you know, FACT has been a leader in Virginia in providing support and awareness on issues related to family violence and trauma. To that end, we would like to bring to the attention of the incoming Youngkin Administration, the importance of establishing a Children's Cabinet in Virginia.

Issues effecting children are more complex than ever before. No single support or program is enough to ensure that children and youth are on track developmentally, educationally, socially, and emotionally. Additionally, the manner in which rules, regulations, and government structures are crafted make it difficult for leaders to create and implement coordinated programs and services that address the comprehensive needs families face. However, there is much that can be done to simplify and untangle the patchwork of rigid polices and funding streams so they are more efficient and effective.

A permanently staffed Children's Cabinet would serve as a policy-coordinating body to focus comprehensively on children and their families beyond the silos that often exist between agencies and Secretariats within government. Many other states have adopted this model to create a shared vision, goals and strategies across government and state and local stakeholders groups to address the comprehensive needs of children.

We believe that FACT is uniquely positioned to help support such an endeavor. As a private/public partnership, established through code, FACT is tasked to holistically support families. In addition to providing private funding, we provide research and coordination of work focused on the complex issues facing families. Our focus is in-line with that of a Children's Cabinet. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Youngkin Administration to adopt this innovative approach to streamline approaches to helping children and maximize outcomes for Virginia's families.

Sincerely,



Allison Lawrence