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Senator Grassley Receives Award from the Iowa Child Advocacy Board

DES MOINES, IOWA (October 16, 2014) – Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley was recently recognized by the Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB) for his continued Congressional leadership on issues impacting America’s foster and adopted children and youth. The award was presented to the Senator by the Board Chairman, Judge Gerald Magee, during a ceremony held October 6 in the Black Hawk County Courthouse in Waterloo.

“Senator Grassley has provided outstanding leadership on children’s issues for more than two decades,” Judge Magee said. “He has garnered powerful, bi-partisan support for legislation promoting permanency and well-being for foster children throughout Iowa and the country.”

Over the course of the past 20 years, Senator Grassley has championed legislation that has:

- Promoted a doubling of the number of children adopted annually since 1997;
- Strengthened collaboration between courts and child welfare agencies;
- Increased the frequency of casework visits for children in foster care;
- Increased the opportunities for relatives to provide permanent care for children in foster care;
- Allowed states to extend foster care beyond age 18 to help youth pursue post-high school education; and
- Strengthened policies that promote interaction between siblings after termination of parental rights.

The award also recognizes Senator Grassley’s work with his colleagues to establish the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth, which provides a voice to older youth in shaping policies that help them transition successfully from foster care. “The Senator has also promoted the involvement of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) as a means to help raise the voice of the children in foster care about their needs for permanency, safety and well-being,” Judge Magee notes.

In accepting the award, Senator Grassley promised to bring the voices of children, youth and advocates to the forefront as he continues his work. Present at the recognition event were children from foster care settings, CASA advocates, judges, assistant county attorneys, and representatives from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and the Iowa Department of Human Services.