

Contact: Lindsay Moore, (202) 289-4502 or lmoore@gu.org

October 8, 2008

PRESIDENT SIGNS THE FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT OF 2008

Today Generations United celebrates that the President has signed into law the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008.

The Act will help thousands of children and youth by promoting permanent families for children in foster care through relative guardianship and adoption and helping with access to other supportive services for grandparent- and other relative- headed families.

“This is a historic day for grandfamilies in that federal law acknowledges the tremendous contribution grandparents and other relatives make in raising our nation’s children,” said Generations United Executive Director Donna Butts. “We applaud the President, Senate, and House for taking this bipartisan action and proactively improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their families.”

The bill will provide support for children being raised by grandparents and other relatives and their caregivers by authorizing subsidized guardianship payments to relatives caring for children in foster care. It will also establish kinship navigator programs to help link relative caregivers both inside and outside of the child welfare system to a broad range of services and supports that will help them meet the needs of the children in their care. Additionally, the bill will extend federal support for youth to age 21 and help keep brothers and sisters together.

The bill is the most important reform of the country’s child welfare and foster care system in at least a decade. It also offers for the first time many American Indian children important federal protections and support and improves education and health care coordination for children in foster care. The bill unanimously passed both chambers and is fully paid for. It resolves differences between the House-passed Fostering Connections to Success Act (H.R. 6307) and the Senate Finance Committee-approved Chairman’s Mark of S. 3038, the Improved Adoption Incentives and Relative Guardianship Support Act.

Generations United looks forward to working with the Administration and the states to implement the bill fully. For more details on the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, go to <http://www.gu.org/Policy7231752.asp>.

Generations United, a membership organization of over 100 national, state, and local organizations representing more than 70 million Americans, works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies.