

Legislative Lingo



Hello and HAPPY HOLIDAYS from McDonough to all of my fellow foster and adoptive parents!

Can you believe how fast this year has flown by? It just seems like yesterday we were ringing the new millennium and now here we are getting ready for a another new year. WOW! Time really seems to fly!!

It has been a very eventful year for the Wampler family. Among other things, we added to our family with our first adoption. He is a beautiful little

3-year-old boy and Heaven help me, he already acts like his new daddy! But I wouldn't change a thing!

The time has come again for all of us to get down to the business flooding the capitol with new letters asking the Governor and his budget advisors to remember us in this years budget. We are hoping to get a fifty cent raise in our per diem. We stand a very good chance this year BUT I NEED YOUR HELP!!!! I cannot do this alone!!

I was told by many of our legislators that they heard from more foster parents last year than ever before and that is why we were given that most important raise. We need to continue fighting for what we need. The people that run our state are more than open to us again this year, and with the new members and returning members of congress this year may be our best ever.

When you sit down to write your letter remember, your letter should start by telling the governor that we really appreciate last year's raise in our per diem. It has helped us greatly in caring for Georgia's foster children. Then, you need to tell these people a little about yourself and your family, especially about your foster kids. (Remember, don't break confidentiality!) Tell them why you became foster parent, how long you have been one, and how many kids you have loved. You have to make these people see you as a person and not just a name.

The next paragraph should state your issue for concern. For example, the low reimbursement rate, the costs associated with caring for the foster children and how this increase will help you in caring for these kids.

Next you must simply state what you would like to see happen; "I would like to see our state increase the foster care per diem rate from \$12.00 to \$12.50 a day."


Lastly, thank the Governor for helping and assisting in this important matter. Make sure to give them your name, address, phone number and email, so that they can contact you. You can write your letter to the Governor and cc. the others.

The addresses that you should use are:

Roy Barnes, Governor
State Capital Building
240 State Capital
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-1776
(404) 657-7332

Copy to: Bill Tomlinson, Director,
Scot Frederking, Analyst And Jerry Crocket
Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
254 Washington St. S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8500
(404) 656-3820 (404) 656-7198 Fax

I will leave you with this one thought: If you do NOT write or call and try to make a difference then you do NOT have the right to complain if we don't get this raise, nor do you have the right to celebrate if we do, so please make sure that you get your letter and/or phone call in today! The more we do, the harder we work, the more that help, then we know we will get noticed!

Have a wonderful Holiday season,  Risi Wampler
Legislative Chairperson

A WORD FROM OUR NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Georgia Foster Parents,

Please let me introduce myself. I am your Region 4 Vice President, representing you on the National Foster Parent Association Board. I want to represent you on the National Board in the best interest for foster parents and certainly in the best interest of our children in care as the top priority.

Please feel free to call on me at any time for any help that I can give you. I will be attending your conferences in February. Never have I felt that there is a time that foster parents need to be united and have open lines of communication. Foster Parenting is a special calling and it takes special people to open their hearts and homes to children in need. I am a foster parent and understand the joys, the heartaches and the issues that come with foster parenting.

Being a part of the National Foster Parent Association is a way to keep in touch not only with parents over our country, but it is also a means of support and voice for legislative changes in Washington. Your State President can put you in touch with the National organization or contact me. My email address is: bettyh@aeneas.net or my address, 40 Foust Lane, Hollow Rock, TN. 38342-1800. God Bless you!

Betty Hastings, NFPA Region 4 Vice President

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Calling All Volunteers!

The SEEKER and the new AFPAG website desperately need your help!

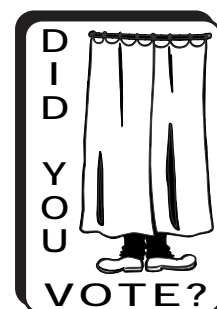
The creation of the newsletter has been an ongoing project for over a year now and has become quite a large responsibility. On top of that, the upkeep of the website is also becoming a large, time consuming project. Since these are not paid positions, the work load along with a regular 9 to 5 job can become very overwhelming and tedious, especially close to the print deadline.

The Editor/Webmaster, Rich Wampler, is presently looking for a talented individual or two who have document or article writing skills and/or web page creating knowledge and skills to help aid him during these tedious times. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Rich Wampler. His home number is (770) 957-5128 (Mon. thru Fri. after 6pm). You can also e-mail him at:

Wampler.Rich@BAPCO.blis.com
seeker@afpag.org or
webmaster@afpag.org

This is an extremely good opportunity to volunteer for a great cause! Please don't hesitate to call!

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I HOPE SO BECAUSE, EVERY VOTE COUNTS!