

ADOPTED**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION****COMMISSION ON YOUTH AT RISK
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION****SECTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW
COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE****REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**RECOMMENDATION

1 RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges Congress to change laws, including
2 amendment of Titles IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act, to broaden federal review of the
3 disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic minority children in the child welfare system
4 and require and fund states to track, report, analyze, and take and report on corrective action.
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6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges state, local, territorial and
7 tribal child welfare agencies, dependency courts and judges, and children's and parents'
8 advocates to help racial and ethnic minority families readily access needed services and to help
9 ensure that removal of children from their homes is based on objective child safety criteria so
10 that all families in the child welfare system are treated fairly and equitably.
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12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges state, local, territorial and
13 tribal child welfare agencies, dependency courts and judges, government, parents' and children's
14 attorneys, guardians ad litem and court-appointed special advocates to receive training on
15 cultural competencies, institutional and unconscious biases, and avoidance of disparate treatment
16 of racial and ethnic minority children and families and to develop and promote practices that
17 encourage recruitment and retention of racially and ethnically diverse judges, attorneys, social
18 workers and other staff, volunteers and foster parents.
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20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges federal, state, local,
21 territorial and tribal governments to enact law and policy changes that will help decrease
22 disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic minority children in the child welfare system
23 by offering additional support to relative caregivers, including (a) providing partial federal
24 reimbursement for state costs of subsidized permanent guardianships; (b) providing relative
25 caregivers with financial assistance and support no less than that given to non-relative caretakers;
26 (c) supporting housing assistance for relative caregivers, including changing policies to ensure
27 that kinship support or guardianship payments are not considered income for Section 8 Housing

28 Assistance purposes; and (d) giving states flexibility in establishing separate approval or
29 licensing standards for kinship placements, while still addressing key placement safety factors.

