

## AG Fitch and CPS Commissioner Sanders Host Trump Officials for Foster Care Service Project



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*Lynn Fitch*

**(Jackson, Mississippi)** Yesterday, Attorney General Lynn Fitch and Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (CPS) Commissioner Andrea Sanders hosted a service project packing 1,350 child-sized suitcases for foster care children in Mississippi. They were joined by the Delegated Commissioner for Children Youth and Families, Cody Inman, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, Laurie Todd Smith, both from President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services, who came to observe and discuss Mississippi's efforts to care for children in foster care.

"Children in foster care face unique challenges, and it is not uncommon for them to possess few personal belongings when entering the system. In times of transition and uncertainty, we want to offer these children a piece of hope and comfort by giving them something they can claim as their own. Every child deserves to feel seen and cherished, and I am grateful to each of our volunteers and agency partners for their commitment to doing just that," **said Attorney General Lynn Fitch**.

"Movement is a reality of being in foster care nationwide. A suitcase replaces a trash bag or pillowcase with dignity, stability, and a sense of worth. Each packed suitcase sends a clear message: you matter, your story matters, and you are not disposable. Events like this reinforce an essential truth: government will always be a poor substitute for family. In Mississippi, family is sacred, and strong community partnerships help ensure children are surrounded by care, compassion, and support when they need it most," **said CPS Commissioner Andrea Sanders**.

Over 150 volunteers from State agencies participated by filling rolling suitcases with stuffed animals, age-appropriate Bibles, and handwritten notes of encouragement. CPS will distribute the packed suitcases to children in foster care. The suitcases and items packed inside were donated by Focus on the Family through their [Wait No More Suitcase Bundle Program](#). Focus on the Family Vice President of Child Advocacy Robyn Chambers and Manager for Foster Care and Adoption Derek Carter joined the Attorney General's Office and CPS for the event.

"Under President Trump and Secretary Kennedy's leadership, the Administration for Children and Families is committed to ensuring, nationwide, we have foster homes waiting on children, not children waiting on foster homes. To accomplish our agency's

goal of *A Home for Every Child*, we are eager to partner with states making a measurable impact in the lives of children and families," **said Cody Inman, Delegated Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families**.

"Mississippi's efforts to bring together state government, community partners, and national advocates to support children in foster care is the right model to make a demonstrable impact."

"Foster care is a jarring experience for a child," **said Robyn Chambers, Focus on the Family's Vice President of Advocacy for Children**. "It's moving here. It's moving there. Back. Forth. Stop. Go. Life is in a state of rapid change until they, hopefully, find their forever home. This suitcase is a constant and caring reminder in the middle of the moves. It's something they can keep with them, to remind them they are very loved and a valuable child of God."

There are nearly 4,000 children in the foster care system in Mississippi. Last year, the Mississippi Attorney General's Office legally cleared 647 foster children for adoption. Streamlining and improving foster care and adoption systems is a key pillar of General Fitch's [The Empowerment Project](#), a policy initiative focused on empowering women and promoting strong Mississippi families.

[Wait No More](#), Focus on the Family's foster and adoption ministries, raises adoption awareness through a whole-family approach. The program works to recruit foster and adoptive parents and provides free resources to encourage these families in their journeys.

A media kit can be found [HERE](#).

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