



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 12, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

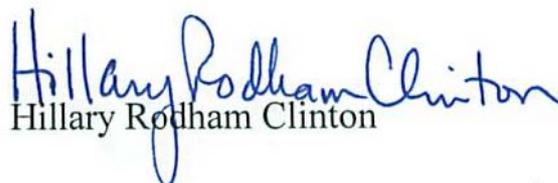
I am delighted to extend my greetings to the Evidence Summit on Protecting Children Outside of Family Care, a truly groundbreaking event.

For the first time in history, the U.S. government has convened some of the world's leading experts on child protection and vulnerability to closely examine the evidence base we have to support children outside of family care in developing countries. The need for this kind of collaborative, evidence-based approach to development is more urgent now than ever before. Though our government is helping millions of vulnerable children around the world every year through nearly 1,700 projects administered by seven U.S. departments and agencies, we know that millions more are still suffering. The global recession, compounded with potentially decreased funding here at home and abroad, means we must strive to be more resourceful, even as we seek to make a larger impact. Our interventions must help build sustainable child protection systems that effectively address the needs of all vulnerable children, and to successfully meet this challenge, we will need the energy, skill, and determined assistance of each of you gathered here today.

From my time working at the Yale Child Study Center as a law student to my present service as Secretary of State, I have committed a great deal of my adult life to working on behalf of vulnerable children, and I know just how important and transformative our efforts can be. But addressing the needs of children outside of family care is about more than securing their immediate health and safety - though these are of paramount concern - it is ultimately about securing the God-given potential of every child and the safety, peace, and prosperity of all people.

I regret I am unable to be with you today, but by pooling the talent and resources of government, academic institutions, and the non-profit sector, together we can put vulnerable children at the center of the development map and ensure our efforts on their behalf are grounded by the best research and experience available. Please know you have my best wishes, and that I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton