

Rep. John Lewis

~~General Talking Points~~

**Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee
Child Welfare Legislation Hearing
February 27, 2008**

- First, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for hosting this important hearing.
- Last year, this Committee held a series of strong oversight hearings. We listened and learned from all sides of the child welfare system. You even included many young, experienced people from my State. This year, we begin by acting, or as I like to say – getting up and getting in the way.
- In my home state, there are three critical issues facing children in the welfare system -- kinship care, the ‘look back’ standard, and aging out of foster care. You addressed all of these issues in your legislation.
- In December, a coalition of Georgia’s child welfare advocates wrote me about important reforms to IVE. I shared this letter with your staff. Mr. Chairman, I ask

unanimous consent to submit a copy of this letter in the record.

- Mr. Chairman, you listened to our constituents. You consulted with the Members of the Committee. And I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Invest in KIDS Act.
- I look forward to continuing to work with you and Members of the Committee on the many issues facing our youth today.