During the most recent Iowa Legislative Session, SF 2258 was proposed in order to align state law with the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. One of the child welfare practices covered by SF2258 prevented Iowa judges from giving youth under the age of 16-years-old an APPLA (“another planned permanent living arrangement”) permanency goal. When a youth has an APPLA goal, child welfare workers do not need to focus on family-centered permanency but can focus the casework plan on assisting the youth in aging-out of foster care with a greater emphasis on independent living skills. Important to mitigating opposition to SF2258 was research conducted by Markie Channon. Through diligent and critical research, Markie considered the possible fiscal consequence of Title IV-B and IV-E funding on Iowa if the federal expectations were not being followed. Additionally, Markie conducted additional research on the fiscal impact of youth achieving permanency by considering the youths’ functioning as adults. The depth of her research and critical thinking she applied in this process helped impact passage of SF2258, which will go into effect as state law on July 1, 2016.

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