



## **Biography for Katherine (Kate) McLean**

### ***Executive Director, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute***

Katherine (Kate) McLean is Executive Director of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 2001 to remove barriers to safe, nurturing, and permanent families. Over its 25-year history, CCAI has supported hundreds of initiatives advancing adoption and family permanency. CCAI serves as a trusted resource on domestic and international child welfare issues for Members of Congress' Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) or "Adoption Caucus," the historically largest bipartisan, bicameral caucus in the U.S. Congress.

At CCAI, Kate leads federal advocacy, strategy, and congressional engagement to improve permanency outcomes for children, youth, and families. In her nine years with the organization, including five as Executive Director, she has advanced policies and programs that help more children find safe, stable, and nurturing families.

Kate brings deep programmatic experience from her time as CCAI's Director of Programs, leading initiatives like the Foster Youth Internship Program®, Angels in Adoption®, and National Adoption Day. Through both programs and policy, Kate has developed expertise in advancing family permanency and engaging individuals with firsthand experience from foster youth and adoptees to birth, foster, and adoptive parents, kinship caregivers, judges, and community organizations as essential partners in shaping effective solutions. Her work reflects CCAI's core belief that those most impacted by child welfare and adoption policies must play a central role in informing them, supporting efforts to make lasting family permanency a reality for all children.

Under Kate's leadership, CCAI has strengthened its capacity to serve as a trusted partner to Congress, federal agencies, advocates, and families in advancing evidence-based policies, strengthening relationships with Members of Congress, and elevating the organization as a leading voice in eliminating barriers to family permanency.

As a resident of the District of Columbia (D.C.) for more than a decade, Kate has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for D.C. youth in foster care. Kate holds a bachelor's degree in international affairs with a concentration in conflict resolution from The George Washington University and earned an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from Harvard Kennedy School in 2023.