

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the National Child Abuse Coalition and over 250 national and state organizations, we respectfully request that Congress provide substantial increases in federal funding for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) – specifically, \$500 million for Title I and \$500 million for Title II. These programs are critical to our nation’s efforts to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect, strengthen families and communities, and prevent future generations of system-involved children and families.

Congress is expected to pass key reforms to CAPTA this year as part of a reauthorization effort. But the reforms Congress envisions for CAPTA simply will not be realized without robust funding increases to Titles I and II. For too long, Congress has sought key improvements to this law but has failed to appropriate the funds that would allow states to successfully implement them. The House Committee on Education and Labor recently unanimously passed a CAPTA reauthorization bill, and the House of Representatives followed on May 20th, with strong bipartisan support. The House-passed bill recognizes that a much larger investment is needed to ensure CAPTA’s programs that prevent, intervene, and treat child abuse and neglect will work.

The national substance abuse crisis, which continues to place pressure on our public systems and push more children into foster care, only increases the sense of urgency for these resources. We thank you for the FY18 and FY19 CAPTA funding that ensured infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families are connected to needed treatment services. However, even with this increase, current federal resources in child welfare overwhelmingly support “back-end” services that support children *after* they are removed from their families and placed into foster care. Even though the Family First Prevention Services Act took vital steps to support more prevention

services, these services will be available only to children who are at *imminent risk* of entering foster care and their families – in other words, *after* they come to the attention of child protective services and *after* families are already in a deep crisis. States receive very little support from the federal government for effective prevention and intervention, and Title I and Title II are central to any effort to helping children *before* they are harmed

Robust funding for CAPTA will strengthen state and local systems aimed at empowering families and communities so they can provide healthy, safe homes for their children – ensuring that foster care is a system of last resort. Research supports this approach: when families are given timely access to appropriate services and supports, many children can remain safely with their parents – minimizing trauma to children, improving outcomes for all family members, and giving their families hope for a healthy future.

We urge you to consider increased funding for CAPTA as follows:

CAPTA Title I Grants

CAPTA state grants include a range of requirements related to states' child protection systems, including important provisions to support child abuse prevention and keep families together when possible – reflecting the entire continuum of supports to families from prevention to early identification to treatment. These requirements are essential to promoting child and family well-being, including for families impacted by substance use disorders. Title I also includes an important funding stream for child abuse and neglect research and for testing innovative programs. Increasing these investments is critical to helping ensure efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect are effective and efficient. States grants are funded at less than \$100 million annually, which does not come close to providing states the resources they need to prevent child abuse and neglect and provide effective intervention and treatment.

Substantially more resources for Title I are necessary for states to implement the systems and protections Congress has long mandated through this law. This is why the Congressionally-convened Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities recognized the fundamental role CAPTA plays in our national system to support families and keep children safe and how its chronic underfunding has compromised safety. In 2016, the Commission recommended CAPTA Title I appropriations increase to \$1 billion each year.

We request funding CAPTA Title I at \$500 million.

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CB-CAP) Grants (Title II)

Title II of CAPTA is unique in its primary prevention focus, with efforts that support families and prevent child and abuse – supporting states and community-driven solutions that strengthen families to be strong and successful, so they never come to the attention of the child welfare system. The grants, which leverage local and private dollars, allow states to support evidence-based programs tailored to unique local needs and the needs of vulnerable children and families. This dedicated prevention funding allows states to invest in true primary and secondary prevention services for families, and its programs have been shown to improve child and family

well-being and reduce future public costs. Title II currently receives less than \$50 million annually, which does not allow states and local communities to support the many different family strengthening services that we know can reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

We request funding CAPTA Title II CB-CAP grants at \$500 million.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. For more information about these requests, or our recommendations related to CAPTA reauthorization, please contact Ruth Friedman, the Executive Director of the National Child Abuse Coalition, at nationalchildabusecoalition@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Adobe Inc
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
American Psychological Association
Bethany Christian Services
Boys Town
Center for Public Interest Law
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Child Abuse Council
Child First, Inc.
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Home Society of America
Children's Law Center
Committee for Children
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Council on Accreditation
Easterseals
Education Development Center
Families USA
Family Focused Treatment Association
Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research
First Focus
First Star Institute
Foster America
Futures Without Violence
Healthy Families America
Lutheran Services in America
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Child Abuse Coalition
National Children's Alliance
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Crittenton
National Family Support Network
National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Respite Coalition
National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
Omni Visions
Parents Anonymous, Inc.
Partnership for America's Children
Prevent Child Abuse America
Ray E. Helfer Society
Rights4Girls
Voice for Adoption
Within Our Reach
ZERO TO THREE

Alabama

Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama, Inc.
Brantwood Children's Home
Camp Fire Alabama
CAPS of Tuscaloosa, AL
Child Abuse Prevention Services of Tuscaloosa
Coffee County Family Services Center
Family Support Center
FIRST Family Service Center
Pickens County Family Resource Center
SAFY of AL
Shepherd's Cove Foundation
St. Mary's Home
The Family Center
The Healing Place
Vineyard Family Services of Central Alabama, Inc.

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

Arizona

Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Human Services Consultants, LLC
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
Carol Lopinski & Associates, LLC

California

Advokids
Aldea Inc.
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Coalition for Youth
California Family Resource Association
Centerforce
Children Now
Children's Advocates Roundtable
County Welfare Directors Association
Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center
Extraordinary Families
Family Care Network, Inc.
Family Health & Support Network
Lewis Law, A California Professional Corporation
The Village Family Services
United Connections FFA, Inc.
Youth Services Network

Colorado

Family Resource Center Association
SAFY of CO
Shiloh House, Inc.

Connecticut

Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut
Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families
Connecticut Children's Alliance
Connecticut Voices for Children
CT Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
CT Council of Family Service Agencies

Delaware

Prevent Child Abuse Delaware

District of Columbia

DC KinCare Alliance

Florida

Florida's Children First

Georgia

Bloom Our Youth, Inc.

Park Place Outreach Youth Emergency Services

CHRIS 180, Inc.

Georgia Emergency Stabilization & Assessment Centers for Children

Open Arms Home for Children

Safe Harbor Children's Center

Idaho

Idaho Children's Trust Fund/Prevent Child Abuse Idaho

Idaho Voices for Children

Iowa

Centers Against Abuse and Sexual Assault

STARS Mentoring Program

Southwestern Community College Early Childhood Education

Illinois

Alternative Schools Network

Caritas Family Solutions

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

Illinois Court Appointed Special Advocates

Indian Oaks Academy, Nexus

Kemmerer Village

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

Indiana

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, The Villages of Indiana

SAFY of IN

Iowa

Boone County Child Abuse Resources and Educational Services, Inc.

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa

Child Abuse Prevention Council of Warren County

Child and Family Policy Center

Families First Counseling Services

Learning Connection

Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Wapello County Children's Alliance

Youth Emergency Services & Shelter of Iowa

Kansas

Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County
Department for Children and Families
FosterAdopt Connect
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Appleseed
Kansas Children's Service League
Kansas Head Start Association
Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Wichita Children's Home

Kentucky

Children's Alliance
Home of the Innocents
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
SAFY of KY

Louisiana

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Massachusetts

Berkshire Children and Families
Boston University School of Social Work
Children's Trust
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Massachusetts Citizens for Children

Maine

Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Children's Trust

Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth
Allegany County Department of Social Services
Charles County Department of Social Services
Maryland Family Network
Prince George's County Department of Social Services
The Family Tree, PCA Maryland

Michigan

Ennis Center for Children
Michigan Children's Trust Fund
Michigan Federation for Children and Families
Michigan's Children

Missouri

FosterAdopt Connect
Lutheran Family & Children Services of Missouri
Missouri KidsFirst
Parents as Teachers

Minnesota

Minnesota Communities Caring for Children, home of Prevent Child Abuse MN

Nebraska

Voices for Children in Nebraska

Nevada

Children's Advocacy Alliance
SAFY of NV

New Hampshire

NH Children's Trust
The River Center
Waypoint

New Jersey

Grandparents Against Foster
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families

New Mexico

All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center

New York

Chautauqua County Health and Human Services
Children's Home of Jefferson County
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
Good Shepherd Services
JCCA
MercyFirst
NYS Kinship Navigator
The Children's Agenda

North Carolina

Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina
Durham County DSS
Homes for Youth
NC Child
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

North Dakota

Children and Family Services Training Center

Ohio

Ohio Children's Alliance
SAFY of OH

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Oklahoma Lawyers for Children
Parent Promise

Oregon

Children First of Oregon

Pennsylvania

Access Services
CenClear Child Services
Columbia County Family Center
Mercer County Family Center
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Turning Points for Children

Puerto Rico

Proyecto Nacer

Rhode Island

Parent Support Network RI/Prevent Child Abuse RI
Rhode Island Kids Count

South Carolina

Carolina Youth Development Center
CASA/Family Systems
Children's Place, Inc.
Children's Trust of South Carolina
HALOS
Just Say Something
SAFY of SC
Thornwell

Tennessee

ACE Awareness Foundation
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Tennessee Justice Center
The Family Center

Texas

Buckner Children and Family Services, Inc.
Lena Pope
Rock Solid Foundation, LLC
Texans Care for Children
Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
TexProtects/Texas Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

Utah

Children's Service Society
Prevent Child Abuse Utah
Quality Youth Services

Vermont

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Springfield Area Parent Child Center

Virginia

Families First of Virginia, Inc.
Families Forward Virginia
Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
The Barry Robinson Center
Voices for Virginia's Children

Washington

Clementine DuBois, Individual
Partners for Our Children
Seattle Children's

West Virginia

Children's Home Society of WV
Partners in Community Outreach
Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia
TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc./Prevent Child Abuse WV

Wisconsin

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Kids Forward
Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies