

November, 21, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the National Child Abuse Coalition, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Working Group, and the 53 organizations listed below, we write to express our strong support for S.1927, the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2021 and S.1275, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 and urge you to include both bills in an end of year package. As the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress draws to a close, we want to ensure that the committed and bipartisan work of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, as well as the work of the advocates around the country, is not lost. Both pieces of legislation have not been reauthorized in **over a decade**, and each bill includes critically needed updates and improvements to ensure more survivors of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, family violence and dating violence have access to support and safety.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is foundational to our nation's ability to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. It supports the full continuum of services to children and families – from the primary and secondary prevention approaches that keep child abuse and neglect from occurring to tertiary prevention approaches and interventions that protect children who are maltreated. The CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2021 lays out an inspiring vision for CAPTA that reflects timely issues in the field and strengthens the law's focus on family support and primary prevention while reinforcing key child protective services for children who need them. This legislation provides an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that more children and families in the United States have the opportunity to stay together and thrive and prevent unnecessary placements into foster care.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) provides core funding to support more than 1,500 local, public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations and programs and over 250 tribes and tribal organizations in responding to the urgent needs of over 1.3 million domestic violence victims and their children a year.<sup>i</sup> As you know, there is still a great need to increase survivors' access to these vital programs as well as to address current unmet needs. Estimates show that due to a lack of capacity, nearly 200,000 requests for shelter can go unmet in a year.<sup>ii</sup> This bill not only provides critical support for shelters, coalitions, training and technical assistance centers, children's services, emergency response hotlines, and prevention initiatives, but also expands grant programs and makes many needed improvements to ensure more survivors have access to support and safety.

The improvements in these bills are critically important and reflect the priorities of the field and the needs of families, children, and survivors. As you lead the efforts to ensure swift and final passage of this legislation, we thank you again for your leadership on behalf of survivors, their families, and their communities around the country. We stand ready to support your efforts to ensure these bills are included in an end of year package.

Sincerely,

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center  
Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Caminar Latino - Latinos United for Peace and Equity  
Center for the Study of Social Policy

Child Welfare League of America  
Childhelp Inc.  
Children's Trust Fund Alliance  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Home Society of America  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Committee for Children  
Esperanza United  
Family Focused Treatment Association  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
Healthy Families America  
Keep Kids Safe  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Lovelace Consulting Services, Inc.  
National Association of Counsel for Children  
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health  
National Children's Alliance  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Family Support Network  
National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect  
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center  
National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
North American Council on Adoptable Children  
Parents Anonymous  
Parents as Teachers  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Raising Illinois  
Social Current  
StrongHearts Native Helpline  
The Army of Survivors  
The Institute for Human Services  
The National Domestic Violence Hotline  
The Ray E. Helfer Society  
Think of Us  
Together for Girls  
Triple P America  
Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community  
Voice for Adoption  
YMCA of the USA  
Youth Villages  
YWCA USA  
ZERO TO THREE

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/fysb\\_fvpsa\\_factsheet\\_oct\\_2020\\_508.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/fysb_fvpsa_factsheet_oct_2020_508.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/fact-sheet/domestic-violence-and-homelessness-statistics-2016>