

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions (HELP)
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Education &
Labor
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2022

Dear Senator Burr and Representative Foxx:

As organizations in North Carolina committed to supporting children and families in the state, we write to express our gratitude and thanks for your leadership on the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). CAPTA is foundational to North Carolina's work to prevent and address child abuse and neglect, and we wish to support you in ensuring that CAPTA reauthorization is passed into law this year.

A reformed and strengthened CAPTA is essential to providing important prevention and intervention services to North Carolina that build community capacity to support families, and it helps keep families together by reducing child welfare system involvement. In our state CAPTA provides funding for many prevention efforts, including effective parenting programs that, among other things, improve parent-child relationships, and strengthen parenting competencies and skills. These programs build parents' confidence in navigating the challenges of parenting – a critical ingredient for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. As a parent who participates in one such program in NC shared: "Before this course I really struggled with getting triggered and upset when disciplining my daughter. I have now focused much more on praise and ignoring and feel more in control and that I have a set of skills I can use so that I don't have to be so upset because I have solutions!"

In addition, CAPTA highlights the importance of parent leaders and involving parents in program planning and improvement efforts to better understand the unique strengths and needs of the communities and to develop approaches that are effective in reaching families facing a range of challenges. CAPTA also enables collaboration across agencies and with community and philanthropic partners. Funding supports implementation activities across North Carolina ensuring that programs are meeting fidelity and communities can feel the full impact of services.

Both the bipartisan House-passed *Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021* (H.R. 485) and Senate HELP Committee-passed *CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2021* (S. 1927) include numerous provisions that improve and strengthen the programs included in CAPTA.

These improvements include:

- A clear emphasis on prevention, including stronger language around family strengthening and integrating the protective factors into the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grants;
- Increased accountability and transparency in CAPTA state grants; thoughtful attention to families who are affected by substance use disorders;
- Provisions to reduce the number of child maltreatment fatalities; and

- Increased reauthorization levels to better equip states like North Carolina to implement the law's important provisions.

We are proud that two of our federal leaders have been so instrumental in strengthening this critical federal program. It is important to us – and to children and families in North Carolina – that CAPTA is reauthorized this year. Please consider us partners helping to move CAPTA reauthorization to the finish line this year.

Sincerely,

Access Family Services, Inc
 Alamance Partnership for Children
 Albemarle Alliance for Children and Families
 Alleghany Partnership for Children/Haven of Hope CAC
 Benchmarks
 Caring for Children, Eckerd Connects
 Catawba County Social Services
 Catholic Charities- Tar River
 Child Care Services Association
 Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina
 Children's Advocacy Institute
 Children's Home Society of NC
 Children's Hope Alliance
 ChildTrust Foundation
 Communities In Schools of Durham
 Cornerstone Families Understanding Nurturing
 CounterPart Consulting, LLC
 Crossnore Communities for Children
 Endless Opportunities
 Fairgrove Family Resource Center
 Family Centered Treatment Foundation
 Family Connects International
 Family Resource Center South Atlantic
 Foster Family Alliance of NC
 Foster Village Charlotte
 Guilford Child Development
 Help Inc. Center Against Violence
 Impact Center @ Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, UNC-CH
 Integrated Family Services
 KidSCOpe
 KidsPeace Foster Care and Community Programs (FCCP)
 Lutheran Family Services
 Mental Health Transformation Alliance
 MomsRising/MamasConPoder
 National Association of Social Workers North Carolina
 National Service Office for Nurse Family Partnership and Child First

NC Budget & Tax Center
NC Child
NC Early Childhood Foundation
NC Early Education Coalition
NC Head Start Collaboration Office
NC Healthy & Resilient Communities Initiative
North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS)
North Carolina Home Visiting & Parenting Education System
North Carolina Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association (NCIMHA)
North Carolina Parents as Teachers
North Carolina Partnership for Children
Omni Visions
ParentVOICE
Partnership for Children of Johnston County
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
Rapid Resource for Families
Ready for School, Ready for Life
Resilience High Point
Richmond County Partnership for Children
Rural Opportunity Institute
Smart Start of Mecklenburg County
The Carousel Center, Inc.
The Children's Council of Watauga County, Inc.
The Duke Endowment
Think Babies™ NC Alliance
University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center
Wilkes Community Partnership for Children