

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and  
Science  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Vice Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and  
Science  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairwoman Shaheen:

As you begin work on your Subcommittee's Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you appropriate the authorizing funding level to the Victims of Child Abuse Act program. In 2014, Congress unanimously reauthorized the bipartisan Victims of Child Abuse Act. The Victims of Child Abuse Act provides funding to local Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the country, the four Regional Children's Advocacy Center programs, the National Children's Alliance, the National Children's Advocacy Center, and other essential programs serving victims of child abuse. We greatly appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for these critically important programs.

CACs are a critical law enforcement resource for local, state, and federal agencies. These community-based, public-private partnerships also bring together professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health, child protective services, and victim advocacy agencies to pursue the truth in child abuse investigations. Each center prevents further victimization by ensuring that investigations are comprehensive and meet the age-appropriate needs of the child. Communities with a CAC have demonstrable effects that increase successful prosecutions of perpetrators, reduce re-abuse rates for child victims, and provide better access to medical and mental healthcare for victims of child abuse. An analysis found that the use of a CAC in a child abuse case saved, on average, over \$1,000 per case.

We recognize the extremely difficult budgetary environment under which the Committee continues to operate and are greatly appreciative of efforts made to ensure these programs are funded at adequate levels. The need has certainly not abated; the number of child victims served by CACs has increased from 100,539 in 2000 to more than 324,000 in 2016. Funding for the Victims of Child Abuse Act will allow the National Children's Alliance, the Regional Children's Advocacy Centers, the National Children's Advocacy Center, and the almost 800 local CACs to continue serving child abuse victims nationwide, as well as provide opportunities for new development in tribal communities and the 1,000 underserved counties with no access to a CAC. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Victims of Child Abuse Act program be funded at the authorized level for Fiscal Year 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



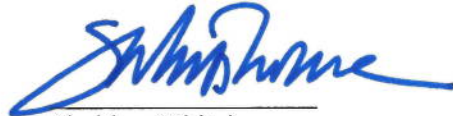
Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



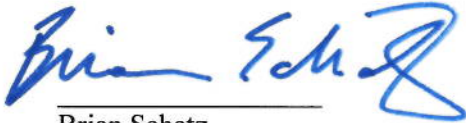
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



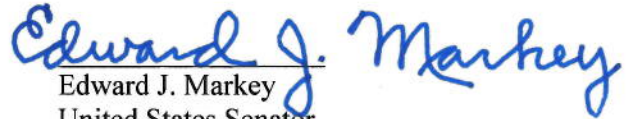
Todd Young  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



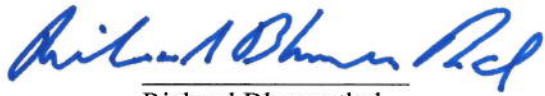
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United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



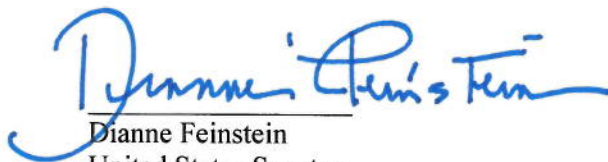
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Dianne Feinstein  
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Tammy Baldwin  
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Amy Klobuchar  
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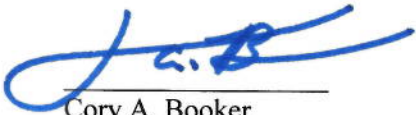
Margaret Wood Hassan  
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Ron Wyden  
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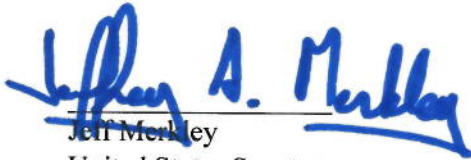
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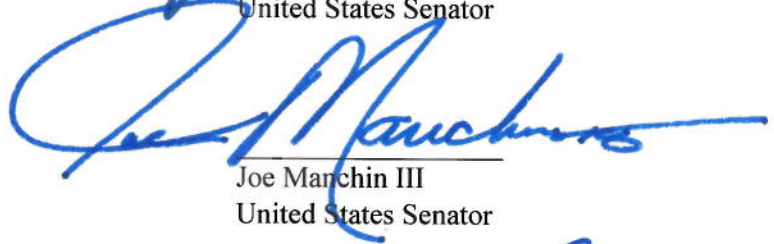
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



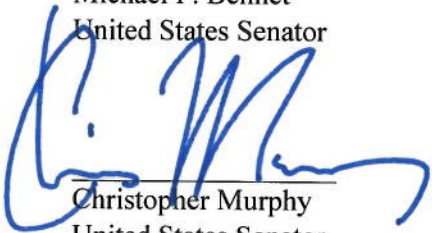
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



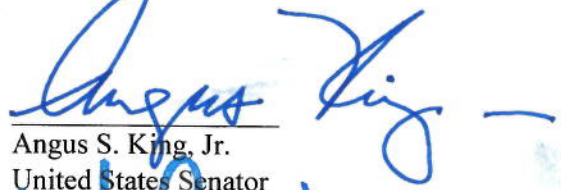
Michael F. Bennet  
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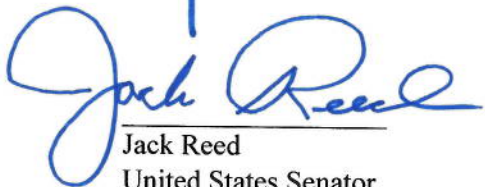
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Elizabeth Warren  
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Sherrod Brown  
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
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