

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

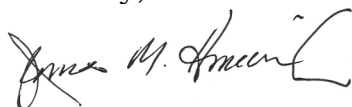
Thank you for your efforts to make investments in our nation's children and families a spending priority in the FY 2008 appropriations process. Your leadership, in particular with the Social Services Block Grant and the new home visiting grant within the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act is very much appreciated.

On behalf of Prevent Child Abuse America and our national network of 43 state chapters and over 400 Healthy Families America sites, I am, however, disappointed that Congress chose to decrease funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program.

- To reject the proposed 30 percent cut to SSBG was the right thing to do. As you know, SSBG is a significant source of funding for child abuse prevention.
- To increase CAPTA funding for home visitation services was the right thing to do.
- The House-Senate Conference Committee's agreement to make additional CAPTA funding available to a broader range of evidence-based services than first proposed was the right thing to do.
- Cutting PSSF, the largest federal funding stream for child maltreatment prevention services, for FY 2008 however, was not the right thing to do. While such decisions have to be made to help balance a budget, they do not take into account the additional expenses that will be incurred by taxpayers due to the on-going and lifelong adverse effects of abuse and neglect on children.

Please encourage a staffer to accept my personal invitation to attend an afternoon symposium being held in Washington D.C. on January 29th to present our research that documents the enormous economic impact of abuse and neglect on our country, our taxpayers and our children. Bridget Gavaghan, Director of Public Policy, (312-334-6819) can help your staffer register and receive information that promotes a new way of thinking about the cost benefits of child abuse and neglect prevention. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James M. Hmurovich
President & CEO

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President & CEO
James M. Hmurovich

Mission Statement

To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.

