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ADVOCACY ALERT: **Urge Support for CAPTA/PSSF Funding Increases;** **Contact House & Senate Appropriators TODAY!**

Upon reconvening after the July 4th break, House and Senate subcommittees are expected to draft Labor-HHS-Education spending bills that include funding amounts for CAPTA programs and Promoting Safe and Stable Families. As you may recall, the President's budget for FY 2005 requested that funding for CAPTA state grants (title I) be increased to \$42 million from \$22 million, and that CAPTA community-based grants grow from \$33 million to \$65 million. The President also requested that Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) be fully funded at \$505 million.

TAKE ACTION: Call your legislators TODAY and ask that they support these increases!

- Reference the Action Alerts at the end of this newsletter for more information and talking points.
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 and ask to be connected to your legislator's office. Ask to speak to the person who handles Labor-HHS appropriations.
- Send an email message to Senators and Representatives through PCA America's Legislative Action Center, at <http://capwiz.com/pca/home/>. Talking points can be found at this site.

It is critical that prevention advocates take action on behalf of CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families within the next week. The House is expected to mark up its Labor-HHS-Education bill as early as July 6th. Senate action will follow shortly thereafter. Funding amounts for CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families will be determined in these mark-ups.

There appears to be some support for these increases among appropriators, but money is especially tight this year. It is therefore important that Labor-HHS appropriators hear from constituents about the importance of CAPTA and PSSF. Legislative staff have made clear that programs with vocal constituent support will get the most attention. If your legislator is a Labor-HHS appropriator (see next page for the full subcommittee list), please make a contact and encourage others in your state to do so as well.



HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS:

Republicans

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Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Anne M. Northup, Kentucky
Randy Cunningham, California
Kay Granger, Texas
John E. Peterson, Pennsylvania
Don Sherwood, Pennsylvania
Dave Weldon, Florida
Mike Simpson, Idaho

Democrats

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Nita M. Lowey, New York
Rosa DeLauro, Connecticut
Jesse L. Jackson Jr., Illinois
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SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS:

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Thad Cochran, Mississippi
Judd Gregg, New Hampshire
Larry E. Craig, Idaho
Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Texas
Ted Stevens, Alaska
Mike DeWine, Ohio
Richard Shelby, Alabama

Democrats

Tom Harkin, Iowa, *Ranking Member*
Ernest Hollings, South Carolina
Daniel Inouye, Hawaii
Harry Reid, Nevada
Herbert Kohl, Wisconsin
Patty Murray, Washington
Mary Landrieu, Louisiana

53 House Members Show Support for CAPTA Increase

A letter initiated by Representatives George Miller (D-CA) and James Greenwood (R-PA) in support of the President's request to increase funding for CAPTA state and community-based prevention grants was circulated throughout the U.S. House in May. After garnering the signatures of 53 House members, the letter was submitted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young (R-FL) and David Obey (D-WI), who are the chair and ranking member, respectively, of the House Appropriations Committee.

The following are excerpts of the letter, PCA America helped distribute in conjunction with the National Child Abuse Coalition:

Billions of dollars are spent every year on foster care – too often the only option for families in crisis. While we should be protecting children who have been the most seriously injured, we can do a much better job at protecting children before the damage is so bad that we have no other choice than to remove them from their homes. Increasing funding for CAPTA's basic state grants and community-based prevention grants will help modest yet constructive manner to begin to address the current imbalance ...

As the passage last year of the legislation reauthorizing CAPTA demonstrates, an overwhelming bipartisan majority of our colleagues already believe that funding to help states and communities protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect is a major concern. It is time to increase funding for these programs to levels that will allow them to fulfill their basic missions, and ultimately spare children from the horror of abuse.



Many thanks to Representatives Miller and Greenwood, and to the following House members who signed on to their letter:

Representatives signing CAPTA support letter:

Rep. George Miller (D-CA)	Rep. James C. Greenwood (R-PA)
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)	Rep. Gene Green (D-TX)
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)	Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-FL)	Rep. Dale E. Kildee (D-MI)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)	Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX)
Rep. Michael R. McNulty (D-NY)	Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
Rep. Gerald Kleczka (D-WI)	Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-CA)	Rep. John B. Larson (D-CT)
Rep. Thomas Petri (R-WI)	Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ)
Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Rep. Leonard L. Boswell (D-IA)	Rep. Karen McCarthy (D-MO)
Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-NM)	Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-OH)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)	Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)
Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH)	Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA)	Rep. James Leach (R-IA)
Rep. Robert Cramer (D-AL)	Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Rep. Michael E. Capuano (D-MA)	Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
Rep. Diane E. Watson (D-CA)	Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)	Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Rep. Robert A. Brady (D-PA)	Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL)
Rep. Rob Simmons (R-CT)	Rep. Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA)
Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR)	Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-CA)
Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME)	Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS)
Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA)	Rep. Jane Schkowsky (D-IL)
Rep. John F. Tierney (D-MA)	Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL)	Rep. Gary L. Ackerman (D-NY)
Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL)	

If your Representative signed on to this letter, please be sure to thank him/her!

See the March-April 2004 edition of *Prevention Advocate* for a list of 21 Senators who signed on to a similar letter to the chair and ranking member of the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

Pew Commission Releases Recommendations

After a year of deliberation and analysis, the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care has issued its final report and recommendations for financing child welfare services and juvenile court reform. In a report titled *Fostering the Future: Safety, Permanence and Well-Being for Children in Foster Care*, the Commission recommends maintaining federal foster care and adoption assistance as an entitlement, and eliminating the 'look back' provision so that title IV-E applies to all children, not just those whose birth families are AFDC eligible. Under the Pew proposal, any savings incurred through reductions in foster care could be reinvested by states into other child welfare services.



The Commission also recommends that title IV-E administration and training funds be rolled into an indexed grant with title IV-B programs, theoretically providing states with flexibility to spend funds on a continuum of services ranging from prevention to adoption promotion. An additional \$200 million above current funding levels would be provided for the Safe Children, Strong Families Grants in the first year; thereafter, the grant would be calibrated at 2% above the annual rate of inflation.

Pew also recommends allowing states to use title IV-E funds to support subsidized guardianship, now only available in states with waivers. The commission also suggests that the child welfare waiver program be expanded.

Overall the commission's recommendations are reflective of a growing consensus that resources should be redirected from foster care to more front-end services. Though not a legislative proposal, the report has garnered attention on Capitol Hill and in advocacy circles. It is not yet clear when, or if, legislation based in part on these recommendations, or based on alternative financing proposals, will be introduced.

The Pew Commission's report can be downloaded from <http://www.pewfostercare.org>.

Home Visiting Legislation Introduced

On May 12th, Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO) introduced the *Education Begins at Home Act* (S. 2412), which would establish a federal funding stream dedicated to early childhood home visitation programs. The bill would create a three-year, \$500 million program to help states expand and deliver home visiting services to families with newborns and young children.

As introduced, the bill allows states flexibility in determining an approach to home visitation that best suits their population's needs. Though the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program is specifically referenced, the definition of eligible home visiting programs is sufficiently broad to include other national models such as Healthy Families America (HFA). Given the variety of home visitation models operating in states, and the need for such programs, PCA America supports this approach.

The *Education Begins at Home Act* provides an excellent opportunity to educate federal policymakers about home visitation. PCA America staff are working closely with colleagues at PAT and other groups to generate support for this legislation.

A copy of the bill can be downloaded at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

More information about Healthy Families America can be found at <http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org>.

TANF Update: Program Extended (Yet Again) Through 9/30/04

Unable to complete TANF reauthorization before the current law was set to expire on June 30th, Congress has passed its 7th short-term extension of the program, allowing it to continue through September 30th. Though there have been periodic discussions on Capitol Hill of using extensions to bring about policy changes to the TANF program, each chamber passed what is called a "clean" extension of the current law.



The temporary extension also allows title IV-E child welfare waivers to continue through September 30th, the deadline now looming for TANF reauthorization. Unless the Senate is able to pass a TANF bill and conference with the House before the end of September, another extension will be necessary.

Recent Hearings on Capitol Hill

Government Reform: On May 20th, the House Government Reform Committee held a hearing on “Redundancy and Duplication in Federal Child Welfare Programs: A Case Study on the Need for Executive Reorganization Authority”. Citing more than 50 programs across four federal agencies focusing on child abuse and neglect, Committee Chair Tom Davis (R-VA) scheduled the hearing to explore authorizing the President to reorganize federal programs without full congressional review. Tom Delay (R-TX), Wade Horn, and officials representing the U.S. Departments of Justice, Agriculture, and Education, spoke at the hearing. More information can be found at <http://reform.house.gov/GovReform/Hearings/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=1023>.

Child and Family Service Reviews: Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA), Chair of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, held a hearing on May 13th to discuss federal reviews of state child welfare systems known as Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs). As of April 2004, the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) had completed CFSRs in all states; however, no state passed its review. Wade Horn and a host of other witnesses spoke at the hearing, described by pundits as contentious at times. Testimony can be found at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=detail&hearing=148&comm=2>.

Child Protection/Child Safety: Chairman Herger also held a hearing on June 10th in response to a tragic child welfare case in Baltimore in which twin infant girls died. The purpose of the hearing was to review the facts of the case as well as the implications of the case on efforts to improve the child welfare system. For more information, see <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=detail&hearing=156&comm=2>.

Nonprofit Regulation: The Senate Committee on Finance held a hearing June 22nd on the subject of government regulation of nonprofit organizations. Chaired by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), the committee heard testimony on a variety of issues related to nonprofits including governance and best practices of charities; charities accommodating tax shelters; donor gifts of tangible and intangible property; and current problems and issues in the charitable community. Subsequent legislation is anticipated. Testimony and a draft staff analysis can be found at <http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/hearings.htm>.

Useful Resources for Advocates

- The General Accounting Office (GAO) has issued a report on the experiences of ACF and states during federal Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs), which measure child welfare performance on a set of outcomes related to child well-being and permanency. GAO finds that better use of data and improved guidance to states could improve the CFSR process. The report can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04333.pdf>.
- This year’s Kids Count Data Book is now available at <http://www.kidscount.org>. Kids Count, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, tracks benchmarks of child well-being state by state and nationally. An essay accompanying the Data Book focuses on disconnected youth.



- ❑ A new report from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) provides a state-by-state description of government-related marriage policies. According to CLASP, every state has made at least one policy change or taken on one activity related to strengthening marriage or couples. The report can be downloaded at http://www.clasp.org/Pubs/Pubs_Couples.
- ❑ Information about the 2004 elections can now be accessed through Prevent Child Abuse America's legislative action center. For candidate bios, candidates' statements on important issues, or information on voter registration, go directly to <http://capwiz.com/pca/e4/>, or visit our legislative action center (available via our website at www.preventchildabuse.org), and click on "Elections and Candidates".
- ❑ A *Grant Opportunities Notebook*, now available from HHS, includes information on: federal grant opportunities; how to become a grant reviewer; and the Compassion Capital Fund. The Notebook can be downloaded from the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives web page at <http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/docs/FBICI2004GrantsNotebook.pdf>.

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Prevention Advocate is published monthly.



ACTION ALERT



HELP INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL TO NEARLY DOUBLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS UNDER THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA)

FY05 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST:

The President's budget for FY 2005 requests that funding for CAPTA state grants (title I) be increased to \$42 million from \$22 million in FY 2004, and that CAPTA community-based grants (title II) grow from \$33 million to \$65 million. Urge your members of Congress to support inclusion of these increases in the FY 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Also ask that funding for CAPTA discretionary research and demonstration grants be held at the 2004 level of \$35 million.

CAPTA state grants provide funds for states to improve child protective services. The proposed increase will shorten the time that post-investigative services are delivered, and increase the number of children and families who receive services.

CAPTA community-based grants help states develop and implement effective approaches to preventing abuse and neglect. Prevention services eligible to receive CAPTA title II funds include family support programs, parenting education, home visiting programs, mutual self-help support groups for parents, crisis nurseries, and sexual abuse prevention activities. The proposed increase will fund prevention services for an additional 55,000 children and families.

RATIONALE FOR INCREASE:

CAPTA embodies the federal commitment to preventing child maltreatment, but has not been funded adequately to meet the need and demand for community-based prevention programs.

According to the most recent data from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were an estimated 896,000 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect in 2002; approximately 1,400 children died. To address the consequences of abuse and neglect, billions of dollars are spent each year on out-of-home care, health and mental health care, special education, juvenile delinquency, and adult crime. In contrast, very little money is dedicated to preventing harm before it occurs.

Urge Congress to increase the appropriation for CAPTA so that states and communities have the resources they need to protect children and prevent abuse and neglect.

TAKE ACTION:

Call, fax, or email your members of Congress and ask them to support the CAPTA increases. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 and ask to be connected to your member's office; or, for more information, visit our Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/pca/home/>.

For additional assistance, please contact Jane Ascroft at 312.663.3520 x 814 or jascroft@preventchildabuse.org.



ACTION ALERT



HELP INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL TO FULLY FUND THE PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

FY05 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST:

The President's budget for FY 2005 recommends full funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program at \$505 million. The program received \$404 million in FY 2004. Urge your members of Congress to support the inclusion of this \$100 million increase in the FY 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) -- also known as Title IV-B, Subpart 2, of the Social Security Act -- is one of the very few sources of federal funding for supportive services to prevent abuse and neglect. PSSF funds help state child welfare agencies pay for four categories of services: family support, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption promotion and support. Family preservation and family support grants focus on strengthening families, preventing abuse, and protecting children. Examples of family support services include programs that enhance parenting skills as well as home visiting programs like Healthy Families America (HFA).

RATIONALE FOR INCREASE:

An additional \$100 million in PSSF funds will promote the expansion of family support services in communities across the nation and provide more intensive help for families in crisis. By investing in positive outcomes for children and families, family support and family strengthening programs can also lead to fewer incidences of child abuse and neglect.

According to the most recent data from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were an estimated 896,000 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect in 2002; approximately 1,400 children died. To address the consequences of abuse and neglect, billions of dollars are spent each year on out-of-home care, health and mental health care, special education, juvenile delinquency, and adult crime. In contrast, very little money is dedicated to preventing harm before it occurs.

Urge Congress to increase the appropriation for Promoting Safe and Stable Families so that states and communities have the resources they need to support families, protect children, and prevent abuse and neglect.

TAKE ACTION:

Call, fax, or email your members of Congress and ask them to support the increased appropriation for Promoting Safe and Stable Families. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 and ask to be connected to your member's office; or, for more information, visit our Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/pca/home/>.

For additional assistance, please contact Jane Ascroft at 312.663.3520 x 814 or jascroft@preventchildabuse.org.

