



The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Collins, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of [Prevent Child Abuse America](https://www.preventchildabuse.org) (PCA America), the nation's oldest and largest organization committed to preventing child abuse and neglect *before* it happens, and 25 Prevent Child Abuse state chapters, we join today to urge you to include robust funding in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) for the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA), particularly the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grants.

PCA America promotes programs and resources informed by science that enable kids, families, and entire communities to thrive—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. We advocate for policies and services that strengthen families and communities, promote healthy child development, and prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. Our success relies on a nationwide network of state chapters and nearly 600 [Healthy Families America home visiting sites](https://www.preventchildabuse.org/healthy-families-america), which provide parents and caregivers a wide variety of services and resources in communities across the country.

CBCAP funding results in significant and positive outcomes and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for all children, providing states and communities with the resources to implement community-based solutions. Expanding CBCAP would be transformational for communities and families. The investment in primary prevention will ensure families get the support they need before they are in crisis, thereby preventing child welfare system involvement and the costly interventions needed at that point.

Though CBCAP represents the main federal investment in primary prevention programs, it minimally funds prevention services for children, resulting in a great deal of unmet need. CBCAP grants are instrumental in providing supports to ensure prevention in all 50 states, including voluntary evidence-based home visiting services, community-based parent support programs, early childhood and childcare programs, family resource centers, and coordination and connection with mental health, substance use, and domestic violence services, among others. CBCAP is rooted in the belief that early, nurturing relationships are the foundation for lifelong, healthy development.



We strongly urge you to **increase funding for CAPTA Title II (CBCAP) to \$270 million**. We greatly appreciated the \$5 million increase in funding appropriated in the FY23 Consolidated Omnibus Act bringing total current funding levels to \$70.7 million. Additional funding will expand these programs, which are critical to our nation's efforts to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect, strengthen families and communities, and prevent future generations of system-involved children and families.

As a nation, we have invested far more attention and resources on responding to child maltreatment than preventing it from occurring in the first place. Investing in children sets them up to thrive. Thank you again for your ongoing support of CBCAP and the families who benefit from this essential support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Merrick".

Melissa Merrick, President and CEO
Prevent Child Abuse America

Prevent Child Abuse State Chapter Network

Alaska	Alaska Children's Trust
Arizona	Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
Colorado	Illuminate Colorado
Delaware	Prevent Child Abuse Delaware
Idaho	Prevent Child Abuse Idaho
Illinois	Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Kansas	Kansas Children's Service League
Kentucky	Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
Louisiana	VIA LINK
Maryland	The Family Tree, Prevent Child Abuse Maryland
Minnesota	FamilyWise home of Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota
Missouri	Missouri KidsFirst
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Children's Trust
New Jersey	Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
New York	Prevent Child Abuse New York
North Carolina	Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
North Dakota	Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
Oregon	Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
South Carolina	Children's Trust of South Carolina
Tennessee	Nurture the Next
Texas	TexProtects
Utah	Prevent Child Abuse Utah
Virginia	Families Forward Virginia
West Virginia	TEAM for West Virginia Children
Wisconsin	Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin

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