

Prevent Child Abuse America advocates for policies, legislation and programs that not only promote healthy child development, but help to improve family functioning as well, supporting families and preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs. We must prioritize children in both policy and budget decisions and increase early funding for prevention to save taxpayers over the long-term while simultaneously improving outcomes for children at risk.

To accomplish this, Prevent Child Abuse America urges the President and Congress to take the following actions in 2018:



PRIORITIZE PREVENTION AND ENSURE SAFETY IN FEDERAL BUDGET AND POLICY DECISIONS



Assure Long-term Reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program

We ask that Congress and the President pass a 5-year extension with incremental funding increases up to \$800M per year for this successful federal-state partnership and pro-family program.



Reauthorize and Invest in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

Congress must act urgently to reauthorize CAPTA, including adequately funding and fully implementing provisions in the law. By fully funding CAPTA at \$200 million, Congress can help strengthen the network of support in states focused on prevention, investigation and treatment activities for families.



Reauthorize Title IV-E Waivers

We urge Congress to fund, reauthorize and prioritize these waivers, which are set to terminate on September 30, 2019.



Include Home Visiting in Plans of Safe Care to Ensure the Safety and Well-Being of Infants with Prenatal Exposure, Their Mothers and Families

We request that home visiting be utilized as a best practice when states start to develop their Plans of Safe Care.



Enact the Family First Prevention Services Act into Law

We urge Congress to enact the Family First Prevention Services Act into law so that these funds can be used for prevention services and programs.

BUILD AN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Congress and the President should build the infrastructure to empower future generations, including:



Support for flexible funding in existing entitlement programs to provide critical services in mental health, substance abuse, and in-home parent skills training



Develop standard definitions, investigative procedures, and reporting requirements across all 50 states in an effort to eliminate inconsistent state definitions of maltreatment that affect legal standards and create barriers to multidisciplinary coordination and data collection



Invest in a coordinated public health and safety approach to tackle complex social problems and support community change



Provide adequate funding for access to targeted and responsive services and supports for families that address underlying issues including prenatal care, mental health, employment, education, housing, early childhood education, paid family leave, parent skills training, as well as substance abuse and domestic violence programs



Issue guidance to states regarding the use of Medicaid, the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for wraparound services, where it is permitted, including what can be used to fund services such as mental health treatment, health screenings, and substance use screening and treatment

OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

Prevent Child Abuse America will work with the President, Congress, stakeholders and national coalitions to ensure important programs, services and funding are protected. Our nation must work together to address the social and economic challenges confronting a shared vision and help shape a future where all of America's children have the great childhood they deserve.

2018 should become the starting point for a call for universal services, a substantial increase in funding and state action plans based upon a collective agreement that every child deserves a great childhood. Prevention of child abuse and neglect should be a national priority and we hope Congress and the Administration act urgently to prioritize the recommendations in our agenda.

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