Prevent Child Abuse America® advocates for policies and services that strengthen families, promote healthy child development, and prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. In the United States, at least one in seven children experience child abuse and/or neglect annually, and the total lifetime economic burden associated with child maltreatment is approximately $2 trillion. Greater focus on prevention now yields significant cost reduction later, saving taxpayers from long-term costly interventions, while simultaneously improving outcomes for children and families. Our nation must prioritize children in both policy and budget decisions by significantly increasing funding for prevention.

**PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA URGES THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS IN 2019:**

1. **REAUTHORIZE THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA) AND INCREASE BASELINE FUNDING TO $1 BILLION ANNUALLY, APPROPRIATING $500 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR TITLE I AND TITLE II RESPECTIVELY, AS WELL AS:**
   - Re-envision and modernize CAPTA by supporting policies that prioritize prevention, build up services and infrastructure, and disseminate and bring to scale best practices.
   - Prioritize Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CB-CAP) Grants and increase funding to $500 million annually.
   - Appropriate $500 million in funding for Title I and revise language to better promote systems-building and accountability, increase availability and accessibility of services, and coordinate multi-sector strategies.
   - Expand research and technical assistance.
   - Shift funding focus to primary prevention and family strengthening strategies.

2. **PRIORITIZE PREVENTION IN FEDERAL BUDGET AND POLICY DECISIONS**
   - Promote policies that ensure families are able to meet the basic needs of their children.
   - Ensure adequate federal funding for evidence-based and research-informed services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

3. **INCREASE SUPPORT FOR THE MATERNAL, INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING (MIECHV) PROGRAM, DOUBLING FUNDING FROM $400 MILLION ANNUALLY TO $800 MILLION ANNUALLY OVER THE REMAINING FOUR YEARS TO ENABLE MIECHV TO SERVE MORE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED**

4. **MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ENACTED PREVENTION POLICY AND EVALUATION**
   - Monitor the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to ensure implementation prioritizes prevention and states are issued the guidance they need for building up services and infrastructure. Advocate for inclusive definitions, including state definitions of imminent risk, to broaden access to these critical funds.
   - Monitor the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Evaluation (MIHOPE), a legislatively mandated, large-scale evaluation of the effectiveness of home visiting programs funded by MIECHV.

5. **PRIORITIZE EFFORTS TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, INCLUDING INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEX ABUSE**
OUR NATION’S FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

Our nation must work together to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect through necessary resources and support. Prevent Child Abuse America will work with the President, Congress, federal agencies, our allied partner organizations, stake holders, and national coalitions to ensure vital programs and services are funded so all of America’s children have the opportunity for the healthy and safe childhoods that lead to successful life outcomes.

ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

Founded in 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America is a national organization dedicated to healthy child development and the prevention of child abuse and neglect, with chapters in all 50 states and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visitation sites throughout the country. It promotes services that improve child well-being and develops programs that help to prevent all types of abuse and neglect.