

**Letter To Editor (sample) for Chapters – Instructions**

- You can access your state’s data on the number of children maltreated in the 2021 NCANDS report: [Child Maltreatment 2021 | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- Letters to the editor (LTEs) get the most attention when they respond directly to a recent event or article in the news. When writing to your local news outlet, be sure to reference a specific story or community issue that’s related to child health and well-being.
- Verify the maximum word count for the outlet to which you’re writing; if your LTE is too long it will either be discarded or edited by someone else, sometimes deleting important elements. Up to 250 words is typical for local and regional papers, but many larger newspapers are limited to 150 or so, and some magazines limit letters to less than 100 words.

**Letter to the Editor Sample—Call to Action Focused**

We share a responsibility for the well-being and healthy development of children and families as it is crucial for the future health of [STATE]. This April’s National Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month is the perfect time to help people understand that prevention only happens in partnership. The theme of this year’s awareness and impact campaign, led by Prevent Child Abuse America and its national network of state chapters, is “**Building A Hopeful Future, Together.**”

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) released a national report showing that [STATE] had [\[DATA FROM NCANDS\]](#) children cases reported in 2021 with a total Referrals Rate of [STATE RR] per 1,000 children. Because of statistics like these, during CAP Month we want to encourage everyone who lives in [STATE] to commit to taking steps to improve this ranking and ensure all children and families are living a purposeful and happy life with hope for the future.

Prevent Child Abuse America and **[insert state chapter, affiliate, or stakeholder name]** are building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention. But we know we can’t do this alone – we all have a role to play as healthy partners in our communities.

Strong communities are built on stable foundations. All community members have a responsibility in ensuring children have positive experiences and families have the resources they need when they need them, before they are in crisis. We encourage you to volunteer at after-school programs or donate time or money to organizations like Prevent Child Abuse [STATE] that are focused on prevention. We must lift all families up because childhood lasts a lifetime. Collectively, these small steps will help create better brighter futures for children and families in [STATE].

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE]

Prevent Child Abuse STATE

