



**International Association of  
Chiefs of Police**

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January 24, 2014

The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Poe  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Fitzpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Coons, Blunt, Sessions and Hirono and Representatives Poe, Costa, and Fitzpatrick,

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our support for the Victims of Child Abuse Act (VOCAA) Reauthorization Act of 2013 (S. 1799/H.R. 3706). Increasing the funds available for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's) will help ensure that child victims of violent crimes get the services they need and that law enforcement are able to better protect children and hold perpetrators accountable.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are an important resource for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. CACs bring together a multi-disciplinary team of professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health, child protective services, and victim advocacy agencies to conduct forensic interviews of children who have been victims of abuse. These interviews are admissible in court, which prevents the child from having to recount his or her story multiple times and being further traumatized. These centers are a critical asset to law enforcement and our entire criminal justice system, by helping prevent further victimization through a comprehensive investigation process. CACs across the nation are designed to best serve their local community by providing a comprehensive, culturally-competent, multi-disciplinary team response to

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allegations of child abuse in a dedicated, child-friendly setting. CAC's provide child victims and their non-offending family members with comprehensive services designed to meet their individual needs.

The CAC model has been implemented in more than 850 communities throughout the United States, and served more than 286,000 children in 2012 alone. Every published research study related to the CAC model has found this model to have positive impacts in every domain studied – child and caregiver satisfaction, improved access to medical care, faster criminal charging decisions, and increased prosecution rates. With all of these positive findings, it is reasonable to suggest these coordinated efforts must be expensive. However, what has been found is that these coordinated efforts provide the improved outcomes identified above while also costing more than \$1,000 less per case based on elimination of duplication of efforts. Given these findings, the Victims of Child Abuse Act funding saves our nation more than \$286 million per year while improving outcomes for our children and public safety in our communities.

On behalf of our nation's law enforcement executives, we applaud you for introducing this important legislation. The IACP stands ready to assist you as we continue to work together on issues important to the law enforcement field and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yousry Zakhary", written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chief Yousry Zakhary  
President