

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2007

The Honorable Dave Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

We urge you to provide an additional \$10 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC NCIPC) to establish to establish a network of consortia on the medical aspects of child abuse and neglect.


Every year, almost one million American children are victims of child abuse and neglect. Many have suffered multiple incidents or types of abuse. Some are victims of chronic neglect. A growing body of research is demonstrating that child maltreatment has pervasive, pernicious long-term health effects. The CDC-funded Adverse Childhood Experiences showed dramatic correlations between childhood trauma and adult health risks including alcoholism, substance abuse, suicide attempts, and unintended pregnancy. The cumulative economic, medical, and societal burden of child abuse is staggering.

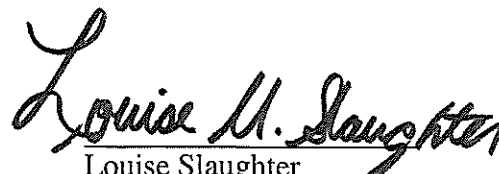
Health care providers, and particularly pediatricians, are uniquely positioned to identify at-risk families and prevent child maltreatment. Unfortunately, physicians who specialize in the field of child abuse and neglect are currently scattered and isolated. As a result, we are failing to capitalize on the opportunities to enlist physicians and other health care providers in the battle against child abuse and neglect.

We urge you to allocate an additional \$10 million to CDC's NCIPC to establish an infrastructure for health care providers in child abuse and neglect. This proposal envisions a series of regional consortia that would link pediatricians, family practitioners, dentists, nurses, and allied health professions to share information, develop educational programs, disseminate and implement best practices, and ultimately prevent child maltreatment. The network would not duplicate aspects of other programs -- such as Child Advocacy Centers or the National Child Traumatic Stress Network -- but would connect and leverage existing assets and serve as a resource to law enforcement, the judiciary, the child protection system, and others.


We hope you will agree that this modest investment of \$10 million would yield enormous benefits in both human and economic terms. We look forward to working with you to protect the health and wellbeing of our nation's children.


Sincerely,


  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

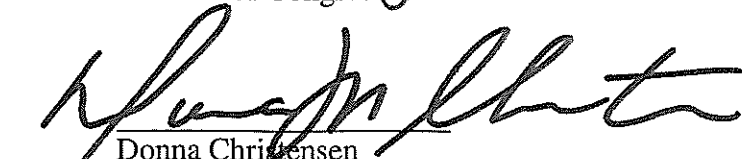
  
Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress


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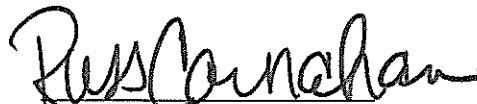
  
Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

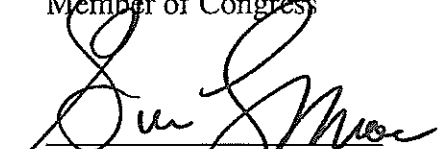
  
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
James Oberstar  
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Donna Christensen  
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Russell Carnahan  
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