

2016 Federal Public Policy Agenda

Prevent Child Abuse America advocates for policies, legislation and programs that promote healthy child development and prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. We must develop a comprehensive continuum of primary prevention services at all levels of the social ecology. To that end, Prevent Child Abuse America urges the President and Congress to take the following actions in 2016:

1. Develop a National Strategy for America's Children

Congress and the Executive Branch should plan, guide and coordinate the development of a national strategy and policy framework to prevent child abuse and neglect. To lay the groundwork for this goal Prevent Child Abuse America will convene an expert working group to develop recommendations.

2. Reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) expired on September 30, 2015. CAPTA is the *only* federal legislation exclusively targeting prevention of child abuse and neglect. Congress must **act urgently** to reauthorize CAPTA, including adequate funding.

3. Prioritize Healthy Child Development in Federal Budget Decisions

Prevent Child Abuse America will work to ensure that decisions related to the federal budget maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the federal government's commitment to healthy child development.

4. Advocate Passage of Key Recommendations of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities (CECANF)

Prevent Child Abuse America will work with our national partners, state chapters and Healthy Families America network to ensure support for the Commission's goals to develop a national strategy and legislative recommendations for reducing fatalities from child abuse and neglect.

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

Alongside the national Home Visiting Coalition, Prevent Child Abuse America worked successfully to reauthorize an extension of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program through March of 2017. We will work to ensure a long term legislative solution for this important program; ideally, a full five-year reauthorization.

6. Monitoring Outcomes of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Evaluation (MIHOPE).

Prevent Child Abuse America will monitor the outcomes to understand evaluation findings and their implications for Healthy Families America and home visiting program improvement.

Prevent Child Abuse America will work with the President, Congress, stakeholders and our national coalitions to ensure important programs, services and funding are protected in 2016.

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