



National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

August 17, 2009

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chair, HELP Committee
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Member, HELP Committee
U.S. Senate
379-A Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
Subcommittee Chair, Children & Families
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Subcommittee Ranking Member, Children & Families
U.S. Senate
455 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kennedy, Dodd, Enzi and Alexander:

On behalf of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) and its affiliate the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA), we thank the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee for the opportunity to submit additional information and provide approximate cost estimates related to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) assurances.

In our previous letter to HELP Committee members, NAPCWA has expressed concern with Title I State Grants allocations and receiving inadequate funding to perform the existing assurances. Public child welfare administrators believe that additional assurances and limited resources make it challenging for them to maintain child protective programs. NAPCWA surveyed states receiving Title I State Grants and they responded by providing actual and estimate cost expenditures related to CAPTA assurances. Expenditures related to guardian ad litem participation involving child abuse and neglect cases; Citizens' Review Panels; background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents, relatives and non-relatives living in the household; and training for hotline staff, supervisors, and direct line staff were surveyed items. The following states have provided a breakdown of state and federal dollars used from FY2008 through FY2009 to perform these assurances:

Table with 4 columns: State, State Funding, Title I Grant Funding (fed), Total CAPTA Allocation. Rows include MN, IN, AZ, CA, AK, CO.

NJ	\$ 3,508,638	\$0	\$ 597,731
TX	\$ 5,512,462	\$0	\$ 1,621,139

As you can see by the information provided, states are spending more money on seven of these assurances than they are receiving in total annual CAPTA allocations. Currently, most states are using allocations from General Funds to operate their child protection programs and maintain compliance with CAPTA assurances. NAPCWA cannot support the draft legislation as it is currently written and strongly urges HELP Committee members to increase its funding levels and not move forward with additional assurances for CAPTA's reauthorization. If not, there will be the unintended consequence of states not applying for CAPTA grants. Public child welfare administrators are interested in using Title I State Grants to support their existing child protection programs and properly execute policies and practices under the current assurances. We appreciate your consideration of the suggestions we have included and look forward to work with you on this legislation. If you need additional information, please contact Rashida Brown at rashida.brown@aphsa.org or Courteney Holden at courteney.holden@aphsa.org.

Sincerely,



Erin Sullivan Sutton, J.D., President
National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators