Action Alert – House FY21 CAC Funding Letter now circulating:
Urge your US Reps to add their names

Representatives Jim Costa (D-CA), Pete Olsen (R-TX), Ben McAdams (D-UT) and Ann Wagner (R-MO) are currently urging all House Members to sign a joint letter to the CJS Appropriations Committee to fund the Victims of Child Abuse Act at $40 million in the FY21 CJS Appropriations bill. (This is a $13 million increase over our current funding level!!) The CJS Subcommittee looks at these funding letters very closely and appreciates seeing programs that have widespread bipartisan congressional support like the support for the Victims of Child Abuse Act. Members can and do make a difference by adding their names in support!

With this in mind, please take a few minutes to call/email your U.S. Representative asking them to support CACs by signing the Costa/Olsen/McAdams/Wagner FY21 CAC Funding letter. (Instructions on reaching out to House offices can be found below.) **Deadline to sign the letter is March 11th.** This letter is for House Members ONLY. (A similar Senate letter will circulate soon.)

**ACTION STEPS:** Please take 10 minutes and make your call to ensure a much-needed increase in federal funding support to CACs in the upcoming federal budget year.

- Please call the DC office of your ONE Member of the House of Representatives and ask to speak with the legislative assistant to handles judiciary matters. In case you don’t know your member, you can locate specific Member information at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and the “Find Your Representative” tab.

- When you speak to the Member or their Aide, first, introduce yourself, give them the name of your CAC, tell them you are a constituent, and thank them for their past support of your CAC.

- Then, tell them you are calling to ask them to sign the Costa/Olsen/McAdams/Wagner Dear Colleague letter funding the Victims of Child Abuse Act/CACs in the FY21 CJS budget.

- If they signed last year’s letter remind them of that and thank them for it and let them know how much you would appreciate their support this year. (I am attaching a list of Members that signed last year’s letter.) If they did not sign it last year, simply express how much you would appreciate their support this year. Let them know how valuable this funding is to your center and how it helps abused kids.

- Email them the letter for their review. A copy is attached. Ask them to let you know if the Member’s decision.

**Let them know that the deadline to sign onto the letter is Wednesday, March 11th.**

- Explain that if they have any questions, they can speak with Chris Cunningham (McAdams’s office 5-3011), Michael Richards (Olsen’s office 5-5951) or Denise Edwards (NCA government affairs – 202-548-0090 ext. 103.) And, to sign on to the letter they can contact Chris Cunningham at [Christopher.Cunningham@mail.house.gov](mailto:Christopher.Cunningham@mail.house.gov) or Michael Richard at [Michael.Richards@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.Richards@mail.house.gov).

- Also, ask them to urge their CJS colleagues to release as much from the Crime Victims Fund/VOCA as possible. These CVF dollars are critical and help CAC serve abused children and their families.

- Thank them for their time and consideration of your request.

As we learn of names being added, we will send updates! If you have any questions, please email me at [dedwards@nca-online.org](mailto:dedwards@nca-online.org) or Will Laird at [wlaird@nca-online.org](mailto:wlaird@nca-online.org).