**Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) Reauthorization and CACs**

The Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides federal funding and guidance to States in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment activities and also provides grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, for demonstration programs and projects. Additionally, CAPTA identifies the Federal role in supporting research, evaluation, technical assistance, and data collection activities; establishes the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect; and establishes a national clearinghouse of information relating to child abuse and neglect. CAPTA also sets forth a Federal definition of child abuse and neglect.

This year, Congress is again working to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The House’s version – the ***Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act*** – passed on March 17, 2021. This bill shifts focus toward prevention by helping states to build networks of cost-effective and locally-driven services that prevent child abuse and strengthen families; builds the capacity of child protective services agencies that are overburdened with increased caseloads due to the opioid epidemic; improves the sharing and quality of data to better understand the scope of child abuse and neglect and ensure victims do not fall through the cracks; and supports evidence-based strategies to treat and prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed their version – the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2021 – June 10, 2021. Included in their version is language highlighting the use of CAPTA dollars for CACs and MDT investigations. Additionally, this bill created a new section focused on child abuse fatalities and efforts to combat them.

The Senate and House are currently working on a final compromise that can be agreed to and then sent to the president for signing.

NCA continues to urge Congress to provide significant increased funding for CAPTA and to explain and highlight the effectiveness and impact in using of CACs and MDTs for child abuse investigations.