**CAC – LC 2021 Legislative Priorities and Hill Day Talking Points**

Introduce all group attendees

Thank members and staff for supporting CACs and urge action on legislative action that helps CACs. (Below are 3 top areas that members and staff can support that helps CACs and the kids we serve:

**VOCA Fix (#1 Priority**)

* Thank offices for their continued support of CACs and releasing as much from VOCA as possible.
* Point out that five years ago, CACs were receiving $21 million (total across all states), and now that total is at least $200 million and counting. Also, give them some examples of how this change is impacting your CAC. Urge them to continue to release as much funding as possible for VOCA grants in FY22
  + For House Reps, thank them for:
    - Passing the VOCA Fix by a vote of 384 to 38! (Included is a list of US Reps and how they voted)
  + In the Senate:
    - Thank the 55 Senators that have signed on as a sponsor/cosponsor to VOCA Fix Act
    - Urge the senators that have not signed on to add their names (a list is included in materials)
    - **Urge all senators to push Leader Schumer and Sen. McConnell to bring the VOCA Fix to the floor**

**FY22/Annual Funding**

Thank Senators/House Members/Aides for their help in fully funding the Victims of Child Abuse Act the past **NINE** years (most recently at $30 million.)

* Discuss that the President’s FY22 budget proposes $50 million for VOCAA
* Urge Senators to sign onto the Senator Coons/Blunt CAC FY22 funding letter.
* Thank the House Members that signed Reps. Costa/Wagner CAC FY22 funding letter. *A list is included.*
* Urge all offices to continually weigh in with CJS Appropriators and ask for *at least $48 million* in funding for the Victims of Child Abuse Act program.
* Discuss the impacts of pandemic, the backlog you are working through and the proposed cuts to VOCA to explain why these dollars are needed.

**CAPTA Reauthorization**

Discuss CAC focus/needs in CAPTA Reauthorization:

* Increasing CAPTA funding;
* Including CACs as an “eligible use” of these funds and highlighting that CACs are the models when using MDTs;
* Including provisions to provide for immunity from civil and criminal liability for individuals making good faith reports of suspected abuse
* Including NCA/National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths pushed recommendations:
  + Annual reports on fatalities from review panels with a uniform set of definitions;
  + Requiring multidisciplinary team collaboration;
  + Disclosure of confidential information to state agents to ensure child safety;
  + Interstate Data Exchange System for CPS;
* Including Jenna’s Law/Erin’s Law/child sexual abuse prevention education for the schools

In all visits, discuss CACs and the impact of federal funding to both the Chapter and the CAC. (Incorporate state and local statistics.)

**And, invite the Senator/Representative, or their staff, to visit your CAC during one of the upcoming recesses. Thank them for their time and support.**