

# UNIVERSAL MANDATORY REPORTING

Advocacy Plan Presentation

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## THE PROBLEM

- 700,000 children are abused in some way within the United States every year (National Children's Alliance, 2015).
- In 2015, an estimated 1,670 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States (National Children's Alliance, 2015).
- 18 states have universal mandatory reporting laws



## FEDERAL POLICY

### CAPTA: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

- Defines child abuse and neglect
- Supports research on the topic
- Provides funding for states
- Universal standards for mandated reporting are needed

(Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2017)



## UNIVERSAL REPORTING LAWS

- The states with universal reporting laws not only see an increase in the number of reports made, but also an increase in the number of confirmed reports and increased child contact with child protective agencies (Matthews, 2015)
- This increase of reports resulted in increased investigations and treatment services. This combination caused child deaths in the USA to fall from 3,000-5,000 to about 1,100 annually (Mathews, 2015).



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- In the last few centuries a change occurred in the view of children as objects of value and manual labor to the protection of children and their rights (Brown et al, 2014).
- Little to provide protection for children
- Prosecution was one of the only methods for dealing with crimes against children.
- The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- “Battered Child Syndrome”.
- Non-government societies began to protect children
- Prior to this, there had been little research conducted.
- By 1967 all states had some version of reporting laws enacted.
- By 1974 nearly 60,000 cases of child abuse or neglect had been reported, pushing the federal government to action and to the creation of CAPTA (Myers, 2008).



**“SPEAK UP TO PROTECT EVERY ABUSED  
KID ACT”**

**S.982 — 115TH CONGRESS (2017-2018)**

Also known as the “Speak Up Act.”

**Sponsor:**

Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

**Co-Sponsors:**

Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]



# **“SPEAK UP TO PROTECT EVERY ABUSED KID ACT”**

**S.982 — 115TH CONGRESS (2017-2018)**

## **What it Proposes:**

- More adults required to report
- Reports directly to state officials
- Child protective services and other state agencies must collaborate between states
- Provide support to states to carry out educational campaigns and training
  - Promotes new approaches and techniques to improve reporting
  - Evaluate states' progress on mandatory reporting
- Screen for domestic violence in the course of investigating child abuse





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KID ACT”**

**S.982 — 115TH CONGRESS (2017-2018)**

Introduced 04/27/2017

Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Actions: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions



# **“SPEAK UP TO PROTECT EVERY ABUSED KID ACT”**

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## Potential Opposition

- Richard Wexler, executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform
- Joette Katz, JD commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families
- Dorothy Roberts, JD, National Coalition for Child Protection Reform



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**S.982 — 115TH CONGRESS (2017-2018)**

\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2017

\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2021

Educational campaigns to educate members of the public

Providing training programs to improve such reporting by adults



## ABOUT

**How are we going to  
accomplish this?**

### **Federal national standard**

- Creates a benchmark standard
- Will cover the entire nation and
- Leave no gaps whatsoever anywhere.
- It will be easier to understand
- No confusion from state to state.

### **Universal mandated reporting**

- Each and every person will have a duty to report



## ABOUT

**How are we going to  
accomplish this?**

## **Universal Mandated Reporting Coalition**

The National Child Abuse Coalition  
National Child Advocacy Center  
National Child Alliance

### **Allies**

Sen. Bob Casey  
Sen. Richard Blumenthal  
Sen. Kiersten Gillibrand

### **Grassroots**

Social media,  
Public rallies  
Talks



# CALL TO ACTION

If you saw a child being beaten, would you stand up and do something? Every year, around 700,000 children are victims of abuse, and in 2015, an estimated 1,670 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States. To prevent this, I am working with a team of social workers to advocate for a national universal mandatory reporting law that would require all cases of suspected child abuse to be reported. Currently, it is up to individual states to decide who is required to report, but only 18 states have laws enacted that place a legal responsibility on all individuals, regardless of their profession or role. The states with universal reporting laws not only see an increase in the number of reports made, but also an increase in the number of confirmed reports and increased child contact with child protective agencies. We need you to help us promote these types of increases across the United States and prevent the perpetuation of child abuse through your support of a national universal mandatory reporting law, because all of us must be responsible to protect our vulnerable children. Will you stand with me and fight for the 700,000 children who cannot defend themselves?



## REFERENCES

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