



Statement: Omnibus Spending Package Fails to Include Critical Improvements for Children and Families Through Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Reauthorization

The following is a statement from Christine James-Brown, President & CEO of the Child Welfare League of America.

Today, Congress revealed the text for the omnibus spending package, which excludes the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), despite strong support from bipartisan lawmakers and the child welfare community. CAPTA is foundational to our nation's system for preventing child abuse and neglect and protecting children who have experienced serious harm. The reauthorization bill includes necessary provisions that will strengthen the emphasis on prevention and family strengthening, promote race equity, improve transparency and accountability, provide critically-needed funding increases, add new focuses on preventing fatalities due to child abuse and neglect and addressing the needs of infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families, and strengthen support for post-adoption services, recruitment of parents who adopt that are racially and ethnically diverse, and research on adoption disruptions and dissolutions.

CAPTA has not been reauthorized in over a decade, and the Child Welfare League of America calls on Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to find a way to pass this critically important bill before the end of the 117th Congress. Preventing child abuse and neglect is not a partisan issue, and the children and families of our nation deserve leaders that will prioritize their safety and well-being during these difficult negotiations.