**Email Template for CAC Message to Board Members and Friends of CAC**

Use this template to ask your Board, Donors and other “friends” of your CAC to contact fiscal committee members about supporting the coalition request for $132M.

For use March 10-20, 2023.

Email Subject: **Lend Your Voice to Support Vital Services for Children & Families**

(CAC NAME) is facing a XX% reduction in funding starting in July of this year. This will make it almost impossible to maintain the comprehensive level of services and support we currently provide for child victims of abuse and their families. And to make matters worse, CACs are not the only ones facing drastic cuts - other victim services programs in our community and across the state are going to be affected as well.

Currently, a statewide “Coalition of Coalitions” representing CACs and other crime victim services programs, is asking leaders in both houses of the state legislature to commit $132 million in ongoing funding to support and sustain services statewide. Programs that support crime victims across Washington have been chronically underfunded and have had to rely on unstable federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to keep their doors open. Significant state investment is needed to meet the rapidly rising needs, retain staff and ensure that quality services continue to be available in every county.

We have no option but to succeed. We are asking you to contact members of the fiscal committees in both the House and Senate (insert link to find legislators or list names and emails) to ask them to support the Coalition of Coalition’s funding request for $132 million. We also encourage you reach out to your friends and colleagues to ask them to contact their Representatives and Senators as well. We cannot allow our most vulnerable victims to go without services! WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO FAIL!

To make this ask easier, we have provided you with an email template below! Thank you in advance for your help with this important mission.

Sincerely,

Name, Title

CAC Name

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMAILING STATE LEGISLATORS**:

1. Please send individual emails to your legislators. Be sure to customize your ask.
2. Tell legislators why this is important for their district and their communities.
3. Please fill in the yellow highlighted sections with your information.

Email Subject: **URGENT! Support $132 million dollar funding request for Children’s Advocacy Centers and other Crime Victim Services**

Dear INSERT LEGISLATOR’S NAME HERE,

My name is INSERT YOUR NAME HERE. I am a constituent of your Legislative District XX and a <member of the CAC Board of Directors> OR <supporter of CAC Name>. Today I am writing to implore your support of the Coalition of Coalitions request for $132 million to support crime victim services.

This bipartisan request, if not passed, will have dire consequences to victims of crime in our local community and across the state, including child victims and their families.

For example, our local Children’s Advocacy Center, <CAC NAME>, provides vital services and support for children who experience abuse and their families. If this funding is not approved by the legislature, <CAC NAME> will be forced to cut staff and services. And while the need for services will not decrease, the time child victims will have to wait to get the services that they need will exponentially increase. Our state’s youngest victims deserve more!

That is why I am urging you to support the $132 million funding request.

I appreciate your consideration and continued efforts on behalf of our Legislative District.

Sincerely,

INSERT YOUR NAME, TITLE, LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT