Date

Your Name

Agency

Address

Email address

Legislator’s name

Address

Dear Honorable (Insert your Legislator’s title/name here):

(Insert Your CAC Name Here) coordinates a multidisciplinary response to allegations of child abuse in a child friendly setting where the needs of the child are the primary concern. Under one roof, the combined resources and expertise of child protection services (CPS), law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, forensic interviewers, mental health, and medical professional collaborate to limit additional trauma to the child and family.

Currently, Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) and other victim services programs are facing **reductions of 23-38% in SFY 24** and thatis why we – members of (CAC) multidisciplinary team (MDT) - are writing to ask you to support the **$132 million request for funding**. Without state support, cuts will result in layoffs, reductions in hours, fewer services, and even some programs closing completely.

Without (Insert CAC Name here):

* Our community will lose supportive services that give children a chance to heal and move forward from the trauma they have faced.
* Our specially trained team members will not have a neutral, child-friendly space to conduct forensic interviews of children to minimize the number of interviews and the number of times that the child must tell their story to our MDT team.
* The level of coordination between MDT members that ensures children and families receive vital services and assures a quality and competent investigation will be diminished.

We urge you to make this investment in our children by supporting the $132 million request for Crime Victim Services in Washington so that children have access to all the services they need at a Children’s Advocacy Center (OR INSERT YOUR CAC’S NAME). This is an investment in the future of our children and our state. A study found that nationally accredited CAC’s save their local communities an average of $1,000 in taxpayer resources per child served. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me at (INSERT YOUR TELEPHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Your Name & Title