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The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Labor, Education, & Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Senate Committee on Health, Labor, Education, & Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

June 7, 2021

Dear Senators Murray and Burr,

### **S. 724 Jenna Quinn Law**

As a child sexual abuse protection agency, Prostasia Foundation commends you for supporting the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Since child abuse historically has been rephended with the criminal justice system after the fact, this bill would help bridge the gap by having a greater focus on prevention. Prostasia Foundation supports evidence-based child protection, with a key component of prevention. So we highly support H.R. 485 since it would increase preventative approaches available by including \$270 million in funding.<sup>1</sup>

We understand that the H.R. 485 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act passed the House with over 80% of Representatives in support,<sup>2</sup> and that H.R. 485 will also have bipartisan support and quickly pass in the Senate.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://edlabor.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2021-01-25%20Stronger%20CAPTA%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/485/actions?r=2&s=1>

The H.R. 485 Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act would greatly benefit from incorporating the S. 724 Jenna Quinn Law in the markup process. The Jenna Quinn Law would offer grants to fund programs aimed at educating individuals who work with children on child sexual abuse prevention and reporting.<sup>3</sup> This includes teachers, caregivers, parents, students, and other professions where adults are working with children. School personnel have been shown to report slightly more than half of all child abuse cases,<sup>4</sup> so it's important that school personnel are given necessary training.

The Jenna Quinn law is based off of Jenna's Law in Texas, which passed in 2009.<sup>5</sup> This law has shown to be effective at achieving its intended purpose. Records indicate that reporting child sexual abuse increased almost four fold after educators underwent the training.<sup>6</sup> The law has inspired similar laws in over half of the nation's states. Jenna's Law is also supported by a number of organizations. This includes the National Children's Alliance, Enough Abuse Campaign, National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse, the National Sherrifs Association, and Childhelp USA.<sup>7</sup>

The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act's key goals are prevention of child abuse and improving the reporting and data systems.<sup>8</sup> H.R. 485 already includes educating child welfare professionals and paraprofessionals on prevention and treatment of child abuse. There is a clear desire behind this bill to provide more education and training services. Including the Jenna Quinn Law in H.R. 485 would directly help to increase prevention and reporting of child sexual abuse. The two bills compliment each other in achieving desired outcomes.

Thank you for considering including the Jenna Quinn Law in the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act markup.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Malcolm  
Executive Director

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/734/text?r=4&s=1>

<sup>4</sup> <https://jennaquinn.net/the-jenna-quinn-law>

<sup>5</sup> <https://jennaquinn.net/jennas-law>

<sup>6</sup>

<https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/content/news/cornyn-introduces-jenna-quinn-law-help-prevent-child-abuse>

<sup>7</sup> <https://jennaquinn.net/partners-of-jennas-law>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/485?r=2&s=1>