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Senator Benjamin Nelson
U.S. Senate
720 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

I am writing in support of the Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center's (CAC) application for federal dollars to support construction of a collocated facility in Northeast Lincoln.

For 11 years, the CAC has enhanced collaboration between the agencies involved in the investigation of child abuse cases. The CAC works closely with law enforcement, protection and safety, county attorneys to provide direct services to child victims and non-offending family members on a daily basis. The CAC provides forensic interviews, medical evaluations, and mental health support for victims and families. Over 5,250 child victims (unduplicated) of abuse have been served in the past 11 years.

The CAC has outgrown its current facility. Two million dollars has been raised privately in the community. They are requesting additional federal dollars from Housing and Urban Development specifically for the co-location piece of the project. Collocation would allow law enforcement and protection and safety workers to be located on site. Other CACs who have developed collocated models have found significant improvement in coordination and communication resulting in better outcomes for victims and families.

I have participated as a medical examiner and board member for the CAC. The Center has my continuing support as well as my support for this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions regarding this request or about the CAC.

Sincerely,


Stacie R Bleicher, MD, FAAP