

Office of the Sheriff Lancaster County

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Senator Ben Nelson
United States Senate
720 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I'm writing in support of the Child Advocacy Center's application for federally appropriated earmark dollars to support construction of a co-located facility in Northeast Lincoln.

For the past 11 years, the Child Advocacy Center has been a model in interagency collaboration in the investigation of child abuse cases. On a daily basis, the Center works closely with law enforcement, protection and safety, medical and mental health providers to provide direct services to child victims of abuse and their non-offending family members. The Center actively assists in the investigation and prosecution of these very difficult cases by providing forensic interviews and medical evaluations, as well as ongoing support to the family. Over the past 11 years, the Center has served over 5,250 unduplicated child victims of abuse – mostly sexual abuse.

The Child Advocacy Center has outgrown their little yellow house in Antelope Park and is building an expanded facility in Northeast Lincoln. They have successfully raised over \$2,000,000 privately in the community and are requesting additional federal dollars from Housing and Urban Development specifically for the co-location piece of the project. Co-location would allow law enforcement and protection and safety workers to be located on site. Other Child Advocacy Centers who have developed a co-located model have found significant improvement in coordination and communication resulting in better outcomes for families.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has worked in close partnership with the Child Advocacy Center and supports this application for funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Terry T. Wagner
Lancaster County Sheriff