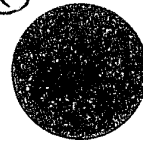


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**Statement of the Honorable Bud Cramer
Before the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile
Justice on the Reauthorization of the
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
Prevention Act.
July 2, 1992**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you
and Senators Biden and Brown for holding
today's hearing and providing Senator
Nickles and me the opportunity to discuss
the merits of the National Children's
Advocacy Program Act of 1992 (H.R. 4729/S.
2509).

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ACQUISITION

As a former District Attorney who has
prosecuted numerous child physical and

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sexual abuse cases, who has looked in the eyes of abused little girls and boys, I know first-hand the difficulties that arise when a community attempts to comprehensively approach this issue.

H.R. 4729 is designed to help communities minimize the inevitable problems that will occur when concerned citizens consider establishing a program designed to fit their unique needs.

This bill will enhance the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990. This Committee,

and Chairman Biden in particular, worked diligently on that measure to make sure that the multidisciplinary approach to child abuse became part of our national anti-crime program. Our proposal will expand and strengthen this anti-crime, pro-community legislation.

Last year in November Chairman Biden and I began discussing my proposal and how it would expand and strengthen the 1990 Crime Bill. I am glad to see that the measure is receiving favorable attention by the entire Committee.

I will be brief with my opening statement Mr. Chairman but let me explain to the Committee why this legislation is important and why it should be attached to the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act.

The National Children's Advocacy Program Act of 1992 presents a conceptual framework in which a community can develop a program that fits its unique needs. This is not "**inside the beltway**" legislation. It was designed with input

from people in the field who deal with abused children every day. It will help communities combat a violent and terrible crime.

If one reviews the history of child abuse cases, you will realize that without enhanced coordination and without refocusing attention on the abused child by assisting communities to develop child-focused, community-oriented, facility-based programs designed to improve the resources available to children, the difficulty to fully prosecute offenders

and protect other children increases many-fold.

Additionally, enactment of this bill will help yield the future benefit of preventing adolescent criminal behavior. Multidisciplinary child abuse programs can help break the chain of abusive behavior. Study after study show that there is a relationship between child abuse and juvenile delinquency.

The weight of the evidence indicates a relationship between child maltreatment

and delinquency. Studies continue to show that child abuse and neglect are related to delinquency. Thus, to the extent we are able to effectively address child abuse cases, we can positively impact the lives of abused children and prevent them from becoming delinquents or abusers themselves.

We cannot tackle the problems of child abuse and delinquency by working in a form of isolation -- allowing issues of turf and other distractions to stop us from eradicating a national emergency.

A comprehensive program that acknowledges that the justice system must be aware of the needs of a child victim, that work to eliminate turf issues and create an environment where agencies work together, and that work to enhance federal efforts by bringing together the key federal agencies involved in child abuse prevention efforts and the juvenile justice system is a better and more realistic approach.

An investment in creative multidisciplinary programs that have a proven track record is a wise investment. These programs are not pilot programs. They are programs comprised or experienced professionals from the legal community, the medical community, the mental health community, and the social workers/child protective services community who are working in the best interest of the child.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I will be happy to answer any questions.