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July 17, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The recent Special Investigative Counsel report on The Pennsylvania State University scandal has raised serious concerns among members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce about the adequacy of federal child abuse prevention laws.

As you know, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, also known as CAPTA, is the foremost federal law governing child abuse reporting and prevention efforts. The most recent reauthorization of the law, the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, requires your department to study and report on three important aspects of state and local child abuse prevention systems:

- Section 110(a) authorizes a study on efforts to improve coordination of agencies and organizations that are responsible for programs and activities related to child abuse and neglect, which was supposed to be delivered to Congress on December 20, 2011.
- Section 110(b) authorizes a study on the effectiveness of programs receiving state grants for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment, which is due to Congress on December 20, 2012.
- Section 110(d) authorizes a study to determine how state and local laws and regulations on immunity from prosecution facilitate or deter individuals from cooperating, consulting, or assisting in reporting known instances of child abuse or neglect, including any recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes that the secretary deems necessary. This report was also supposed to be delivered to Congress on December 20, 2011.

In May, the committee asked you to provide an update on the status of the study required in Section 110(d), which is almost seven months overdue. Regrettably, we have not received a

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response to our request. The committee is deeply disappointed in the department's lack of response on such an important issue.

To ensure the committee is kept abreast of the department's effort to properly administer federal child abuse prevention laws, we hereby reiterate our request for an update on the status of the report required in Section 110(d). Furthermore, we request an update on the remaining two reports, one of which is similarly overdue. We hope these reports will further inform the committee's efforts to evaluate and improve federal child abuse prevention and treatment law.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact our staff, Lindsay Fryer (lindsay.fryer@mail.house.gov), 202-225-6558 (Chairman Kline), or Ruth Friedman, (ruth.friedman@mail.house.gov), 202-225-3725 (Senior Democratic Member Miller).

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE

Chairman

Committee on Education and the Workforce



GEORGE MILLER

Senior Democratic Member

Committee on Education and the Workforce