



June 5th - The Protect Our Children Committee (POCC) applauds the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the adoption of House Resolution 163. The Resolution was sponsored by Representative Julie Harhart.

House Resolution 163 directs the Joint State Government Commission to identify the level of investment in effective child abuse prevention programs – at the local, state and federal level – and the degree to which these investments support evidence-based programs or practices. It also provides a mechanism to begin to integrate child abuse and neglect prevention strategies across all Commonwealth departments.

The foundation for House Resolution 163 can be traced back to a recommendation made in 2002 by a Joint State Government Commission [Advisory Committee on Services to Children and Youth](#), which Harhart was instrumental in establishing. This 2002 recommendation sought to have the state identify and coordinate prevention services noting that they are “scattered among many departments and agencies.” Recently Pennsylvania’s Task Force on Child Protection reaffirmed the importance of prevention and recommended the use of evidence-based practices and programs.

During the 2010 gubernatorial campaign and again last November, POCC outlined specific strategies to elevate the commitment to and investment in the prevention of child abuse and protection of Pennsylvania’s children including:

- **Inventory and report on prevention and evidence-based investments.**

Enlist the research capabilities and expertise of the public and private sector to develop a comprehensive, yet timely, report intended to:

- ✓ Recommend common definitions as to what constitutes a prevention effort and what is evidence-based.
- ✓ Provide for a specific inventory about current local, state and federal spending on prevention services and practices. Focus on services and practices that are evidence-based; are intended to improve outcomes related to child abuse, delinquency, crimes against/by youth; and address children’s behavioral health.
- ✓ Address the degree to which these public dollars require maintenance of effort (MOE).
- ✓ Determine how these funds are now or might be able to leverage private funding.
- ✓ Recommend strategies and timing for moving toward an incremental annual increase in the percentage of funding directed to evidence-based programs and practices, including within the Needs Based Plan and Budget (NBPB).

POCC – Pennsylvania’s collective voice promoting community responsibility so that every child is protected from child abuse, including child sexual abuse – is guided by a set of Principles including: *Preventing child abuse and protecting children is a shared community responsibility; every person has a role to play.*

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