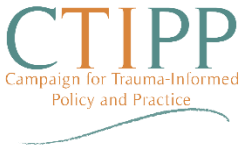


eliminating racism  
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**CLASP**  
Policy solutions that work for low-income people



**girls  
inc.**



October 18, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair  
HELP  
Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
HELP  
Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Senator Heitkamp,  
and Senator Durbin,

On behalf of the millions of children and families that we serve and represent, we want to thank you for your support of the trauma provisions included in the bipartisan Opioid legislation recently signed into law.

In funding early prevention for children who have been exposed to trauma, Congress is recognizing these children to be at higher risk for opioid use disorder. In addition to opioid abuse, as you know, traumatic experiences can lead to severe health and behavioral complications that can impact children throughout their lives. Young people who experience four or more traumatic events are three times more at risk of heart disease or lung cancer, while those who experience six or more events are 30 times more likely to attempt suicide.

By including these key provisions taken from the Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act, we will have a greater understanding of the prevalence of trauma, schools will be partners in more children receiving access to trauma-informed treatment, and trauma-informed training will be included for health professionals. Along with the bill's focus on treatment, we thank you again for these trauma provisions that give equal treatment to prevention and early intervention.

We commend you for your support of children and adults who have been impacted by addiction and trauma, and please continue to think of us as a resource and partner in this work. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Morgan Brand, Government Relations Manager at YWCA USA, at [mbrand@ywca.org](mailto:mbrand@ywca.org).

Sincerely,



Alejandra Y. Castillo, Esq  
Chief Executive Officer  
YWCA USA



Judy Vredenburg  
Chief Executive Officer  
Girls Inc.



Esta Stoler  
President  
Futures Without Violence



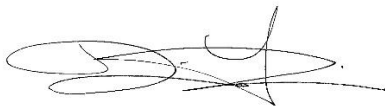
Kevin Washington  
President and CEO  
YMCA of the USA



Olivia Golden  
Executive Director  
CLASP



Joan Cole Duffell  
Executive Director  
Committee for Children



Diane Felicio, PhD  
Interim Executive Director & Chief  
Operating Officer  
Community Catalyst