

Please remember to CC: advocate@unityforchildren.org

SUBJECT: Seeking for Support and Sponsorship of a Bill to Proactively Safeguard our Children in Illinois

Dear (Representative/Senator/Congressman or Congresswoman) (Last name):

I am [Your Name], a resident in your district and a passionate advocate for the welfare of children in Illinois. As your constituent and a supporter of the Unity for Children project, I am writing for your support on our collective efforts to address the urgent need for policy and systemic change to **proactively protect** our children statewide.

The Unity for Children project is an all-volunteer community-driven initiative across different districts. We are concerned community members with first-hand experience or exposure to the lack of proactive protection for children from the negative experience caused by substance abuse, domestic violence, and neglect. Together, we combine first hand experience from family units with insights from organizations and professionals to draft solutions and advocate for a 2025 legislative bill informed by the voices of those most affected by these challenges.

Recent tragedies, such as the **heartbreaking death of 11-year-old Jayden Perkins** early this year, serve as painful reminders of the consequences of inaction statewide. In 2023, the Office of the Inspector General reported **171 child deaths for FY 2022**, while the 2022 National Survey of Children's Health revealed that **35% of children** in Illinois suffer from the negative impact of substance abuse, abuse, and neglect.

As a constituent, I would like to ask for your support for the Unity for Children project and encourage you to please consider sponsoring our proposed ideas for a legislative bill in 2025 to prioritize the safety and well-being of our children. Your involvement and advocacy for this much needed change are crucial in ensuring that critical legislative decisions prioritize the welfare of our children. Inaction to these issues statewide will continue to jeopardize the safety and well-being of children and families.

I look forward to your response, and we stand ready to actively lead this change with you and collaborate toward a safer future for Illinois' children.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE

Print Your Name

Your Street address

City, State, Zip code