



Agenda for Strong Families Prevent Child Abuse New York 2015 Legislative Agenda

Our mission is to prevent child abuse in all its forms so all children may live in families that love, nurture and protect them. We promote efforts to develop, improve and expand quality services and effective policies to prevent child abuse and neglect and enhance child development. This legislative agenda presents a variety of policy issues that will improve the chances for all families and children to thrive in New York.

Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget

PCANY values provisions designed to strengthen families and promote family economic security. We will continue to advocate strongly for the expansion and full-funding of prenatal and early childhood home visiting programs like Healthy Families America that are proven to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

Child Abuse Prevention

PCANY believes New York can save tax dollars by investing in proactive, community-level strategies rather than repairing preventable damage at a high cost to its citizens. Smart investment in evidence-based prevention programs changes the equation.

PCANY will support:

[S1947-2015](#): Enacts "Erin Merryn's law" to require instruction to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse in grades kindergarten through eight.

Child Abuse and Neglect

PCANY believes that together we can improve laws that protect children and make penalties for offenders more effective.

PCANY will support:

[S2186-2015](#): Extends the statute of limitations in criminal and civil actions for sex offenses committed against a child less than eighteen years old.

[S2308-2015](#): Establishes criminal offense for the electronic stalking of minors.

[S466-2015](#): Changes the designation of incest from a class E to a class B felony.

[S2628-2015](#): Enacts the Child Protection Act of 2015, murder of a child.

Child Welfare System

PCANY believes all components of the child welfare system must work effectively toward the goal of protecting children and strengthening families. Social Services, Law Enforcement, Courts, Advocates and Communities have a stake in ensuring the system is strong and effective for our youngest, most vulnerable citizens.

PCANY will support:

[S2120-2015](#): Relates to staff qualifications for supervisory and non-supervisory child protective services workers.

[S2119-2015](#): Relates to the interviewing of children in the presence of the subject of the report.

[S00398/A02240](#): Relates to authorizing the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to release reports and records to certain law enforcement officials in the event of a kidnapping.

[A02691](#): Directs OCFS to promulgate regulations establishing workload standards for child protective service employees.

Family Support

PCANY believes strong families protect children and we must have strong communities to foster families. Policies and practices should create the best chance for families and not stack the deck against families who are working to make their children's life better.

PCANY will support:

S1946-2015: Relates to insurance coverage of early intervention services.

S1615-2015: Increases from \$300 to \$600 the monthly rent subsidy for housing for a foster child living independently.

S2194-2015: Provides for a deduction from personal income for adoption expenses.

A02412: Provides a safe harbor for a non-abusive spouse to report abuse while retaining custody of children.

A03485: Establishes the children's ounce of prevention fund from revenues received through the stock transfer tax.

S2223-2015: Authorizes a childhood education surcharge on the personal income tax for cities having a population of over one million persons.

PCANY opposes **S02382-2015**: Establishes a presumption of shared parenting of minor children in matrimonial and family court proceedings.

For a more complete roster of child and family issues we are watching visit <http://www.preventchildabuse.org>

Early Childhood

PCANY believes that the best prevention is a solid foundation during the first years. Infants, toddlers and preschool-age children are most at risk for abuse and neglect. Sound early childhood care and education policy allows children to thrive in their out-of-home environments.

PCANY opposes: **S1815-2015**: Relates to the creation of an Early Learning Council. This body currently exists and this legislation would limit effectiveness.

Offender Issues

PCANY believes individuals seeking treatment should have access to high quality services. Children and teens comprise a significant percentage of individuals who commit sexual offenses against others and are the most responsive to treatment programs. Together we can break the cycle of child maltreatment.

PCANY will support:

S00616-2015: Creates "Robin's law"; relates to mental health and chemical dependence outpatient treatment of sex offenders.

S00851/A03706: Prohibits placing of level 2 or 3 sex offenders in temporary housing or homeless shelters along with families with children.

A02339: Prohibits registered sex offenders from working with children.

A03651: Permits civil forfeiture action to recover property used in or proceeds derived from criminal activity of sexual performance of a child.

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