CASA GAL
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Guardians ad Litem
FOR CHILDREN

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-222, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

We are writing to you on behalf of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Guardian ad Litem (GAL) network including our national network of 950 local programs and state organizations operating in 49 states across the country. We are proud to serve more young people in the child welfare system than any other national organization.

Every day, CASA and GAL volunteers make sure America's most vulnerable children and youth do not face the trauma and chaos of the courtroom and child welfare system alone. Our volunteers are appointed by judges to work one-on-one with each child or sibling group, advocate for their best interests and stay involved until the case is closed and they reach a safe, permanent home.

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic unfolds, we are more committed than ever to ensuring that our nationwide network of 6,000 staff and 93,000 volunteers have the resources and support they need to be there for over 271,000 children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

The National CASA/GAL network is taking urgent steps to meet the needs of these children and families. We are providing new trainings, funding, resources and tools so our volunteers can effectively advocate for vulnerable children, including the physical and emotional trauma that may arise as a result of COVID-19.

Our member programs and volunteers are mobilizing and adapting to make sure every child we serve knows they are not alone and that their volunteer is standing beside them—virtually or at a distance of at least six feet. Volunteers are Facetiming, calling, texting, sending letters and cards to make sure kids are safe, nourished and as okay as they can be in this uncharted moment of crisis.
The 271,000 children and youth we serve have already experienced so much change, uncertainty and trauma. COVID-19 only increases that, while adding new challenges of social isolation that can cut children off from critically important services and support systems. **Our volunteers are needed now more than ever** to provide a consistent and compassionate presence in a child's life.

NATIONAL CASA/GAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN
100 West Harrison Street, North Tower, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98119
800.628.3233 | nationalcasagal.org

We know there will be long-lasting effects from COVID-19, including new cases of abuse and neglect and more children who need us. The National CASA/GAL network is laying the groundwork to increase volunteer recruitment and capacity building efforts, so we can be there for children and youth who are not yet on the radar of child welfare systems but may be in a matter of weeks or months.

We urge Congress to:

- Include funding for direct support of and services to vulnerable children and families in the next COVID-19 stimulus package
- Include funding in the next COVID-19 stimulus package to increase support of CASA and GAL programs across the country so that more volunteers can be activated to serve the hundreds of thousands of children who need our help
- Approve the appropriation for the CASA program at the House level of $12.5 million in the Fiscal Year 2021 federal budget

Now more than ever, we need the support of Congress to assure that CASA/GAL volunteers are ready and able to be a life changing resource for vulnerable children and families during this crisis and beyond. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

National CASA/GAL Association for Children

ALABAMA

Alabama CASA Network
CAJA of Madison County
CASA Mobile
CASA of Autauga County
Cullman County CASA
Shoals CASA

ARIZONA

CASA of Yuma County
Gila County CASA - Globe Remote

ARKANSAS

13th Judicial District CASA North
13th South Judicial District CASA
CASA of Arkansas Delta
CASA of North Arkansas

CASA of Northwest Arkansas
CASA of Saline County
CASA of Sebastian County
CASA of White County
CASA of the 10th Judicial District
CASA of the 16th Judicial District
CASA of the Tri-Peaks, 15th JD
Gateway CASA of the Third Judicial District
Voices For Children/CASA

CALIFORNIA

California CASA Association
CASA of Alameda County
CASA of Butte County & Glenn Counties
CASA of Contra Costa County
CASA of El Dorado County
CASA of Kern County
CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties
CASA of Merced County
CASA of Monterey County
CASA of Orange County
CASA of San Benito County
CASA of Santa Barbara County
CASA of Shasta & Tehama Counties
CASA of Siskiyou County - Yreka
CASA of Sonoma County
CASA of Stanislaus County
CASA of Ventura County, Inc
Child Advocates of San Bernardino County
CASA of Orange County
Imperial County & Quechan Tribal CASA
Lassen Family Services
Sacramento CASA
San Francisco CASA
Voices for Children

COLORADO

Colorado CASA
A Kid's Place—Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy
Arkansas Valley CASA
Aspen Mine Center
CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties
CASA of Larimer County
CASA of Mesa County
CASA of the Continental Divide
CASA of the Ninth
CASA of the Pikes Peak Region
CASA of the Southwest
Child Advocates, Denver CASA

Northwest Rocky Mountain CASA

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut CASA Association
CASA of Southern Connecticut

DELAWARE

CASA Delaware

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CASA for Children of DC

FLORIDA

State of Florida Guardian ad Litem Program
Guardian Ad Litem Program - 15th Judicial Circuit
Guardian Ad Litem Program - 2nd Judicial Circuit
Guardian Ad Litem Program - 7th Judicial Circuit
Guardian ad Litem Foundation - 20th Judicial Circuit
NW Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation

GEORGIA

Georgia CASA
Advo-Kids CASA
Athens-Oconee CASA Program
Atlanta CASA
Bartow County CASA
CASA Ogeechee
CASA for Children - Canton
CASA of Forsyth County
CASA of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit
CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit
Carroll County CASA
Chattahoochee CASA
Children's Voice: CASA
Coastal Plain CASA
Coweta CASA
Enotah CASA
Gordon County CASA Program
Hall-Dawson CASA Program
Juvenile Court of Cobb County CASA Program
Lookout Mountain CASA
Northeast Georgia CASA
Ocmulgee CASA
Piedmont CASA - Jefferson
SOWEGA CASA
Savannah Chatham County CASA
TLC Children's Services
Towaliga CASA
Tri-County CASA, Inc

HAWAII

CASA of Hawaii - Oahu
Friends of CASA - Hawaii

IDAHO

First Judicial District CASA Program

ILLINOIS

Illinois CASA
Advocacy Network for Children
CASA - 15th Judicial Circuit
CASA Kane County
CASA Kendall County
CASA Lake County
CASA of Cook County
CASA of DuPage County
CASA of East Central Illinois
CASA of Franklin & Hamilton Counties
CASA of Marion County
CASA of River Valley
CASA of Saline County - Harrisburg
CASA of Vermilion and Edgar Counties
CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit
Jerseyville CASA
Macon County CASA
McLean County CASA
Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center
Winnebago County CASA Program

INDIANA

Boone County GAL/CASA Program
CASA - The Voice of Clark County's Children
Cass County Child Advocates
Daviess County CASA
Family Advocates
Fayette County CASA
Gibson County CASA
Pike County CASA, Inc
Putnam County Youth Development Commission CASA Program
Starke County CASA
Vanderburgh County CASA

IOWA

Iowa CASA Program
Cedar Rapids CASA
Council Bluffs CASA
Dubuque/Lansing CASA
Ottumwa CASA

KANSAS

Kansas CASA
CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties
CASA of the 17th Judicial District
CASA of the 31st Judicial District
CASA: A Voice for Children
Central Kansas CASA
Douglas County CASA
Ottawa and Saline County CASA Program
Spirit of the Plains, CASA

KENTUCKY

Kentucky CASA Network
Boone County CASA
CASA Program for Bracken, Fleming and Mason Counties
CASA Program for Bullitt County
CASA of Lexington
CASA of Ohio Valley
CASA of the Heartland
CASA of Southern Kentucky
Tri-County CASA

LOUISIANA

Louisiana CASA Association
CASA New Orleans
CASA of Central Louisiana
CASA of Lafourche
CASA of Northeast Louisiana
CASA of Plaquemines Parish
CASA of SoLA
CASA of St. Landry-Evangeline
CASA of Terrebonne
CASA of the Sabine Neches Region
CASA of West Central Louisiana
Volunteers for Youth Justice CASA Program
Youth Service Bureau CASA Program

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County CASA
CASA - Prince George's County
CASA of Baltimore County
CASA of Cecil County
Lower Shore CASA
Voices for Children - Carroll County
Voices for Children - Howard County

CASA GAL
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Guardians ad Litem
FOR CHILDREN

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts CASA
Franklin/Hampshire CASA Program
The CASA Project

MICHIGAN

Michigan CASA
CARE House CASA
CASA of Branch County
CASA of Gratiot County
CASA of Kent County
CASA of Livingston County
CASA of Menominee County
CASA of Monroe County
CASA of Southwest Michigan
Grand Traverse County CASA
Montcalm CASA

MINNESOTA

CASA Minnesota

MISSISSIPPI

CASA Mississippi
CASA of Lafayette County
Jackson County CASA - Pascagoula

MISSOURI

Missouri CASA Association
11th Circuit CASA Program
37th Judicial CASA
CASA of South Central Missouri - 25th Judicial District
CASA of Southwest Missouri
CASA of the 36th Judicial Circuit
Capital City CASA
Franklin County CASA - Union
Heart of Missouri CASA
Jackson County CASA - Kansas City
Jasper County CASA
Mid-Ozark CASA Program - Cuba
NewMac CASA
Voices for Children - CASA of St. Louis

MONTANA

Montana CASA/GAL Association
CASA of Missoula
CASA of Yellowstone County
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes CASA Program
Eastern Montana CASA/GAL

Front Range CASA/GAL - 9th Judicial District

NEBRASKA

Nebraska CASA Association
CASA Connection Inc.
CASA for Douglas County
CASA for Lancaster County
Phelps - Harlan County CASA
Southeast Nebraska CASA
Trails West CASA

NEVADA

Nevada CASA Association
8th Judicial District Court/Clark County CASA
CASA Foundation of Las Vegas
Washoe CASA Foundation

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CASA of New Hampshire

NEW JERSEY

CASA of New Jersey
Bergen County CASA
CASA of Camden County
CASA of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties
CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties
CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties
Essex County CASA
Passaic County CASA

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico CASA Association
CASA of Lea County
CASA of Luna/Grant/Hidalgo Counties
Rio Grande Valley CASA
San Juan CASA
Serviceheart

NEW YORK

The New York State CASA Association
CASA of Dutchess County
CASA of Rochester/Monroe County
CASA of Westchester County
CASA of the Capital Region
CASA of the Southern Tier
Genesee County CASA for Children
New York City Court Appointed Special Advocates

CASA GAL
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Guardians ad Litem
FOR CHILDREN

OHIO

Ohio CASA/GAL Association
Ashland Parenting Plus CASA/GAL Program
Athens County CASA/GAL Program
CASA For Clermont Kids
CASA of Cuyahoga County
CASA of Franklin County - Columbus
CASA of Licking County
CASA of Noble County
CASA/GAL Program of Stark and Carroll Counties
CASA/GAL of Miami County
Clinton County CASA
Erie County CASA
Montgomery County Juvenile Court CASA Program
Northwest Ohio CASA
Preble County CASA
ProKids
Wood County CASA Program

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma CASA Association
CASA Voices for Children, Inc
CASA for Children
CASA for Kids
CASA of Oklahoma County
CASA of Southwest Oklahoma Inc.
Counseling Inc., CASA
Kay and Noble County CASA
Pawnee/Osage CASA
South Central CASA of Oklahoma

OREGON

Oregon CASA Network
CASA for Children of Klamath County
CASA for Children
CASA of Central Oregon
CASA of Clackamas County
CASA of Coos County
CASA of Douglas County
CASA of Eastern Oregon
CASA of Jackson County
CASA of Lane County
CASA of Linn County
CASA of Marion County
CASA of Polk County
Columbia Gorge CASA
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde CASA Program
Frontier CASA

Grant-Harney County CASA
UMCHS
Wallowa County CASA

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania CASA Association
CASA Youth Advocates Inc., serving Delaware and Chester Counties
CASA for Kids - Washington
CASA of Lancaster County
CASA of McKean County
CASA of Philadelphia County
CASA of Warren and Forest Counties
CASA of Westmoreland
Crawford County CASA
Cumberland County CASA Program

SOUTH CAROLINA

Pickens County GAL Program
Spartanburg County GAL Program

SOUTH DAKOTA

Northern Hills Area CASA Program

TENNESSEE

Tennessee CASA Association
CASA Corridor of East Tennessee
CASA Monroe
CASA Works
CASA for Kids
CASA of Bradley and Polk Counties
CASA of Campbell County
CASA of Cannon County
CASA of Dickson County
CASA of East Tennessee
CASA of Maury County
CASA of Nashville/Davidson County
CASA of the Tennessee Heartland
Dyer-Lake CASA
Henry County CASA
Lakeway CASA
UCHRA CASA of Putnam County
Wilson County CASA

TEXAS

Texas CASA
CASA of the High Plains
Amarillo Area CASA
Big Country CASA
CASA 69

CASA of Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties
CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties
CASA of Central Texas
CASA of Collin County
CASA of Denton County
CASA of El Paso
CASA of Galveston County
CASA of Grayson County
CASA of McLennan County
CASA of Travis County
CASA of Walker, San Jacinto & Trinity Counties
CASA of the Permian Basin Area
CASA of the Pines Inc
CASA of the Rolling Plains
CASA of the Sabine Neches Region
CASA of the South Plains
Child Advocates - CASA of Red River
Child Advocates - Houston
Child Advocates of Fort Bend
CASA of Navarro County
Golden Crescent CASA
Great Plains CASA for Kids
Lone Star CASA
Tri-County CASA - Uvalde

UTAH

Utah Office of the Guardian Ad Litem and CASA
Fifth District St. George Guardian ad Litem and CASA

VIRGINIA

Alexandria - Arlington County CASA Program
Blue Ridge CASA
Norfolk CASA
Portsmouth CASA
Rappahannock Area CASA Program

WASHINGTON

Washington CASA Association
Chelan-Douglas County CASA/GAL Program
Clark County CASA Program
Court Advocates for Children for Kittitas County
King County Dependency CASA

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia CASA Association
CASA for Children, WV
Western Regional CASA

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin CASA Association
CASA of Brown County
CASA of Rock County
CASA of the Fox Cities
Dane County CASA
Kids Matter CASA
YWCA CASA for Kids Program

WYOMING

CASA of Laramie County
CASA of Natrona County
CASA of the 5th Judicial District

NATIONAL CASA/GAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN

100 West Harrison Street, North Tower, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98119
800.628.3233 | nationalcasagal.org