

Coalition on Children and Disasters

*c/o Save the Children, US Programs
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036*

May 9, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

As organizations that care deeply about ensuring the well being of children in the event of a disaster, we thank you for including \$500,000 in the FY 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill to support an emergency planning grant for juvenile justice facilities. As always, we remain very grateful for your continued commitment to children.

This proposed grant, which is very similar to one of the recommendations included in the National Commission on Children and Disaster's report to Congress, would greatly help emergency planners address the needs of children in juvenile detention centers in the preparation, response, and recovery to a disaster. In addition to being an excellent "down payment," this initiative would represent another milestone to the Commission's legacy and would represent an important step toward ensuring that some of our most vulnerable children -- those under the care of the juvenile justice system -- are protected in the event of a disaster.

Again, thank you for your leadership in support of our nation's children. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in both the House and Senate to retain this proposal in the final FY 2013 legislation.

Sincerely,

National Coalition on Children and Disasters

Members include:

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Red Cross
Children's Health Fund
Habitat for Humanity International
International Association of Emergency Medical Service Chiefs

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of School Nurses

National Center for Disaster Preparedness

Save the Children