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The Honorable Ted Poe
United States House of
Representatives 2412 Rayburn
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Poe,

On behalf of National Children's Alliance, the Texas Children's Advocacy Centers and the almost 800 Children's Advocacy Centers serving victims of child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking, I would like to thank you and Congressman Cohen for introducing I.R. 6036, the *Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act of 2016*. This bipartisan bill brings in line the statute of limitations for sex abuse victims and sex trafficking victim minors to 28, rather than the current age of 21. At the CACs, we see first-hand the impact sexual abuse has on children and their families, and for many families the impact is felt well after the crime is committed. While no bill can erase the impact from this horrible crime, knowing that there are additional opportunities for justice can help in their healing. For this reason, we wholeheartedly agree with your proposal and join you in support.

National Children's Alliance is the national association and member-accrediting body for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). CACs are child-focused facilities in which multidisciplinary teams of law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical professionals, mental healthcare providers, and victim advocates coordinate their efforts to investigate and treat child abuse, while also holding offenders accountable. These centers provide forensic interviews, medical evaluations, trauma-focused mental healthcare and victim advocacy for victims of child abuse and child sexual exploitation. Last year, CACs served more than 311,000 child abuse and trafficking victims, and provided child abuse prevention education to more than 1.8 million individuals in the U.S. alone.

Because CACs have been on the front lines in intervening and preventing child abuse, specifically child sexual abuse, for more than 25 years, we agree with you that a bill like H.R. 6036 is needed to provide victims of child sexual abuse additional opportunities for justice, and ultimately aid in healing. It is for this reason that we

support this bill and urge Congress to pass this much needed piece of legislation.

Thank you again for introducing this critical legislation. You are a true leader in protecting and defending children and victims of abuse.

Sincerely,

Teresa Huizar
Executive Director
National Children's Alliance