



Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania

Media Release:

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The tragedy of missed opportunities

Media , PA. Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania, a program of the PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics joins our fellow Pennsylvanians who feel shock and sorrow over the missed opportunities to prevent the sexual abuse of children as described in the [Freeh Report](#) released today. This report is a frightening illustration of the adage that evil prevails when good men do nothing. There are many things that could have been done then and **MUST** be done now to prevent the sexual abuse of children; the tragedy of the shattered lives of the young Sandusky victims will be magnified if nothing changes. While the football culture of Penn State is identified as a key component in this tragedy, certain deficiencies noted in the Freeh report can happen anywhere. “A striking lack of empathy for sex abuse victims,” “a lack of awareness of child abuse” and a lack of policies for minors in facilities are not specific to Penn State, and they can be fixed.

We join our colleagues from Prevent Child Abuse America in calling for all organizations and communities to develop sexual abuse prevention plans that would be comprised of strategies such as the following:

- Educating all adults and children about healthy sexuality;
- Passing and enforcing policies that minimize one-on-one contact between adults and children;
- And when needed, reporting perpetrators to the proper authorities even when it comes at the expense of an institution's public image.

But we also believe that stronger laws and penalties won't solve the problem by itself.

“The Penn State report shows us that we can no longer blindly trust community leaders will do the right things on behalf of children.” said James M. Hmurovich, President & CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America. This is a call to action for all communities to play whatever role they can in prevention and we hope people everywhere are ready to join us in this fight.”

Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania stands ready to assist any Pennsylvania community willing to take this step.

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Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania is a strong, mission-driven state-wide organization that is focused on a single mission: to prevent the abuse and neglect of all children in Pennsylvania. www.preventchildabusepa.org

Prevent Child Abuse PA is a program of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics – a 501c3 non-profit organization of pediatricians dedicated to the optimal health, safety and well-being of infants, children and adolescents. The PA AAP is registered with the PA Dept of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations. www.paaap.org

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