



INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & ADVOCACY NETWORK

## An Open Letter to President Joe Biden

Dear President Joe Biden,

We write to you with great hope and urgency as survivors, advocates, and allies in the fight to protect vulnerable children. With the passage of the **Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act (SICAA)** in both the Senate and the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, we are on the brink of a historic step forward. **Now, it is in your hands to officially make this change happen.**

For decades, survivors of the Troubled Teen Industry (TTI) programs have raised concerns about systemic abuse and the lack of accountability in youth residential programs. Many survivors were silenced in the past due to stigmatization and disbelief. However, thanks to the strength and resilience of those who spoke out, grassroots movements have built a powerful community of TTI survivors. High-profile advocates, such as Paris Hilton, have brought mainstream attention to this issue, amplifying the voices of so many who were once unheard.

SICAA represents the first federal legislation to directly address these systemic failures. By creating a Federal Work Group on Youth Residential Programs, this bill will develop best practices rooted in the lived experiences of survivors. It will establish a national database and reporting mechanism to track abuses and outcomes, providing much-needed transparency and accountability in an industry that has operated unchecked for far too long.

Furthermore, SICAA mandates a comprehensive study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which will inform future reforms and help ensure children in these programs are treated with the dignity and care they deserve.

Passing this bill supports the survivor community who has tirelessly worked to make sure no child suffers what we endured as children. SICAA is not just legislation; it is a promise to prioritize the safety, dignity, and well-being of youth in this country. It is a message that the voices of survivors—voices that were ignored for far too long—have been heard and will continue to guide meaningful change.

Mr. President, your legacy is one of empathy, compassion, and standing with those who have been silenced. By signing this bill into law, you will honor the stories of survivors and families who have fought tirelessly for justice while ensuring no child suffers in silence again.

The time to act is now. With your signature, you can bring hope and healing to so many and send a powerful message that protecting children is not just a priority but a moral obligation.

Thank you for your leadership and unwavering commitment to the most vulnerable among us. We urge you to sign the Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act into law and help us create a future where every child is safe, valued, and free from harm.

*Chelsea Filer*

**CEO & Policy Director**



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