

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2019

Contact: Lee Nichols

512-796-9877

Lee@texprotects.org

Child protection advocates to descend on Texas Capitol February 12

*TexProtects mobilizes advocates to educate lawmakers to expand
evidence-based prevention programs*

Austin – Child abuse and neglect cost Texans \$53 billion in 2017, expenses borne by our education, health, criminal justice and child protection systems. Worse, it cost precious lives – 172 fatalities that year – and the trauma it inflicted on survivors could last well into adulthood.

But there is a solution: Prevention is key. That’s the message advocates from around the state will bring to the Texas Capitol on February 12 for Prevent Child Abuse Texas Advocacy Day.

This day of outreach is being coordinated by TexProtects – Champions for Safe Children and the Texas Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America as part of its legislative advocacy Capitol Campaign. The nonprofit released a groundbreaking [report](#) describing the long-lasting effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and legislative strategies for addressing them at a press conference earlier this session. The contingent coming to the Capitol on Tuesday includes advocates from all corners of the state and includes a busload of 100 seventh-grade students from Newman International Academy in Cedar Hill.

Currently in Texas there are 423,000 families that could benefit from evidence-based family support home visiting services, but these

programs currently reach just over 15,000. Texans visiting their legislators on Prevent Child Abuse Texas Advocacy Day will call for \$12 million in increased funding for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and an additional \$18.5 million to expand Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES). That would enable these programs – proven effective in preventing child maltreatment and building family resiliency – to reach an additional 3,600 or more families collectively, per year, in FY 2020-21.

“Nurse-Family Partnership nurses give moms the trust and confidence they need to be the best moms they can be. Research has proven that Nurse-Family Partnership can reduce child abuse and neglect by 48%,” said Kim Griffin, Texas Executive Director of Nurse-Family Partnership.

“Programs like NFP and HOPES are critical to saving both precious lives and hard-earned taxpayer dollars in Texas,” said TexProtects CEO Sophie Phillips. “Prevent Child Abuse Texas Advocacy Day will allow lawmakers to hear directly from their constituents and understand that child maltreatment affects every House and Senate district in the state.”

What: Prevent Child Abuse Texas Advocacy Day

Where: Texas Capitol

When: February 12, 10am-4pm

Who: Child protection advocates from around Texas, coordinated by TexProtects

Why: To expand evidence-based child maltreatment prevention programs in Texas – saving lives, making families more resilient, and reducing costs to taxpayers.