



Dear Member,

Representative George Miller (D-California) has announced new legislation to combat child abuse at residential treatment programs in the United States and abroad. The bill, H.R. 1738 'End Institutionalized Abuse Against Children Act of 2005' can be viewed at <http://www.thomas.loc.gov/> and entering the bill in Search. This legislation has the potential for significant impact to our NATSAP members. The Public Relations Committee believes it is in the best interests of our members if action is taken immediately.

To that end, NATSAP President, Dr. John Santa, and Executive Director, Jan Moss, have sent a letter to Representative Miller stating their appreciation of the intent of the bill and expressed concern that the excellent work being done by a large number of residential treatment programs will be impacted negatively if their interests are not considered. Dr. Santa and Ms. Moss went on to introduce NATSAP, the Ethics and Principles that our members subscribe to and explained that our members, located across the United States, fall under diverse licensure laws and regulations with the majority either licensed or accredited by a state, regional or national agency.

Of specific concern in the bill is SECTION.303 Eligibility (b) (3) that states "In the case of each child who is a resident of the facility and whose domicile is another State, the facility meets the standards of such other State for the operation of such a facility, including any licensing standards".

Given the vast array of administrative rules in different states such a clause would create an unreasonable administrative nightmare, and in effect allow the most restrictive rules in all states to dictate treatment standards for every state. Dr. Santa and Ms. Moss urged Representative Miller to omit SECTION 303 (b) (3), and furthermore asked that he meet with representatives from NATSAP to discuss a variety of issues with the proposed legislation.

We urge you to send a letter to your congressman regarding this bill. His/her address can be found at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> We suggest you state your support of the intent of this bill, yet express your concerns for SECTION.303 Eligibility (b) (3) and of the danger for either the federal or state government to create prescriptive regulations without input and representation from our organization and its member programs. You may also wish to send a letter to Congressman George Miller at the following address: 2205 Rayburn House Office Building; Washington, DC 20515

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Moss, NATSAP Executive Director, at (928) 443-9505.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Berrett, Ph.D.  
Chair, Public Relations Committee