

## Strategies for Passing Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Laws in Your State

- 1. Build Your Coalition** – Identify organizations and colleagues that commit to working on CSA prevention legislation. Include individuals, and family members and others who have been affected personally by childhood sexual abuse. Reach out to members of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation from your state (See [www.preventtogether.org](http://www.preventtogether.org) for list of members and contact information) and reach out to the Prevent Child Abuse America (see [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org) for a listing of the PCA Chapter in your state.)
- 2. Identify Legislators with Clout** – Target those in key roles within the legislature , e.g. chairs of committees that will likely hear your bills including Education and Judiciary; members of those key committees; and legislators who have publicly disclosed their own experience of childhood sexual abuse.
- 3. Share Data in “A Call to Action”** – Inform them how your state measures up against other efforts across the country. Provide them with copies of the various *States-at-a-Glance Charts* and also with the *State Summaries* for your state. (See **Chart I** on pages 20-21 for the overall national overview of where your state stands; page 25 for **Chart II** on CSA Prevention Education; and page 49 for **Chart III** on Screening.)

**Call to Action full report updated Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 2021:**

[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call to Action Report Nov 16 2021 .pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call%20to%20Action%20Report%20Nov%2016%202021.pdf)

**Chart I (National Overview of 5 laws):**

[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call to Action Chart I- 5 Laws.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call%20to%20Action%20Chart%20I-5%20Laws.pdf)

**Chart II: Prevention Education Laws:**

[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call to Action Chart 2 -  
CSA Prevention Ed Laws.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call%20to%20Action%20Chart%202-%20CSA%20Prevention%20Ed%20Laws.pdf)

**Chart III: Standardized Screening Laws:**

[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call to Action Chart 3 -  
Screening Laws.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Call%20to%20Action%20Chart%203-%20Screening%20Laws.pdf)

- 4. Support Legislators in Drafting the Bills** – Review various states’ laws by going to the *State Summaries* sections where direct links are provided under each state. (Review the **Model Provisions** recommended for CSA Prevention Education on page 13, for Screening on page 15, and for closing Age of Consent loopholes on page 17. See **Model Legislative Language on CSA Prevention Education**:

[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Model\\_Legislation\\_CSA\\_ED\\_-\\_2021.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Model_Legislation_CSA_ED_-_2021.pdf)

**Standardized Screening of School Employees:**

[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Model\\_Legislation\\_Screening\\_and\\_Dismisal\\_of\\_School\\_Employees.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Model_Legislation_Screening_and_Dismisal_of_School_Employees.pdf)

**Closing the Age of Consent Loophole/Criminalizing Educator Sexual Misconduct:**

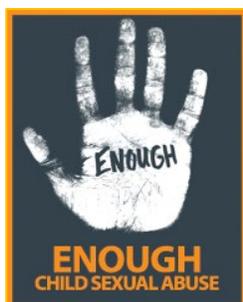
[https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Model\\_Legislation\\_POA\\_and\\_Age\\_of\\_Consent.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Model_Legislation_POA_and_Age_of_Consent.pdf)

- 5. Confirm Co-Sponsors** – Work with the bill Sponsor to identify other legislators to approach to sign on as co-sponsors. Pay attention to deadlines for signing on. Meet with these legislators and their staffs and urge support.
- 6. Organize an Online Campaign for Citizens** – Consider developing a “*Citizens to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*” section of your website where citizens can learn about the bills, why they are critical, and what they can do to push for passage. (For an example of this citizen organizing strategy, see <https://www.enoughabuse.org/legislation/massachusetts.html>. We encourage you to use any information there and adapt it for your state.)
- 7. Develop an Action Network Letter Campaign** – Make it easy for citizens to contact their legislators to urge for passage of the bills by sending an already drafted email to their State Senator and Representative. (Check out the MassKids letter campaign here: [https://actionnetwork.org/letters/pass-the-prevention-package?source=direct link&](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/pass-the-prevention-package?source=direct_link&))
- 8. Create Flyers** – Create succinct and easy-to-read materials that highlight key provisions of the bills for distribution to legislators’ mailboxes and to legislative staff. (See the MassKids Pass the Prevention Package flyer: [https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Flyer\\_-\\_Pass\\_the\\_Prevention\\_Package\\_92021.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Flyer_-_Pass_the_Prevention_Package_92021.pdf))

- 9. Create Social Media Graphics** – Create simple social graphics that include the bill numbers, and in a few words, highlight what the bill will do. Post these on your social channels to encourage citizens to support these bills. Share the graphics along with your Letter Campaign. (If your state has a legislation hashtag that legislators use, use it to gain their attention. For example, Massachusetts uses #mapoli.)
- 10. Research Publicly Disclosed Cases** – Compile a 2-pager that lists a sample of public and private school cases and the types of persons in authority who were involved in these cases. ([https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Sample MA Cases of CSA in Public and Private Schools.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Sample%20MA%20Cases%20of%20CSA%20in%20Public%20and%20Private%20Schools.pdf))
- 11. Monitor the schedules of Legislative Committee Public Hearings** – Inform your Coalition members and Citizen Advocates about the Hearings dates through an online Alert. In preparation for the Public Hearings, line up your key panel of testifiers. Make sure they know the time limitations set by committees on testimony as sometimes only 3-minutes are allowed.
- 12. Provide Oral and Written Testimony** – Ask survivors and advocates to write their testimony and also submit it to the Committee after they deliver their in-person or virtual testimony. Support survivors that may need assistance in developing their remarks. Offer to interview them and to then develop interview notes that they can use to provide their in-person and written testimony. (See **Public Hearing Testimony of Survivors** here: [https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Survivor Testimony.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Survivor%20Testimony.pdf) and **MassKids’ testimony** here: [https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/MassKids Testimony on S312 and S313 - 9-4-2019.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/MassKids%20Testimony%20on%20S312%20and%20S313%20-%209-4-2019.pdf))
- 13. Schedule In-Person Meetings with Key Legislators** – Encourage bill sponsors to request a meeting with the Senate President or the House Speaker to discuss the proposed legislation. Ask for a few selected survivors to attend who have been victims of educator sexual misconduct and abuse, as their experiences will be most relevant to the proposed bills.

- 14. Reach out to Reporters** – Identify those that have written stories about child sexual abuse cases in your state. Encourage them to attend Public Hearings and provide them with opportunities to interview bill sponsors, survivors and advocates. (See this WCVB-TV coverage taped to promote passage of the MA Prevention Package on June 8, 2021: [https://www.wcvb.com/article/massachusetts-bills-to-protect-kids-from-sexual-abuse/36665692?fbclid=IwAR2vjI6mKYVvE6ur-MXXoCIVVE\\_xnMIW5l2snstO9EEemJxzJFy6kchPuVDk#](https://www.wcvb.com/article/massachusetts-bills-to-protect-kids-from-sexual-abuse/36665692?fbclid=IwAR2vjI6mKYVvE6ur-MXXoCIVVE_xnMIW5l2snstO9EEemJxzJFy6kchPuVDk#))
- 15. Response to “Unfunded Mandate” Argument for CSA Prevention Education** – Identify evidence-informed CSA prevention training and policy resources that your state could adopt/adapt to implement the legislation. No need to expend time and resources to develop from scratch. (See “Enough Abuse Campaign Resources 2021” here: [https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/stories/Resources/Enough\\_Abuse\\_Resources\\_2021.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/stories/Resources/Enough_Abuse_Resources_2021.pdf))
- 16. Contact your Community Cable TV Station** – Encourage them to tape a half-hour program about the issue of child sexual abuse and about legislative efforts to prevent it. Confirm participation in the program with the bill sponsor(s), a survivor and an advocate. Once aired, secure a copy of the video for posting on Vimeo or YouTube and include links to it in your newsletters and on websites. (See “American Dream” **Cable TV Show** on child sexual abuse and prevention legislation with MA Senator. Joan Lovely and child advocate Jetta Bernier at <https://vimeo.com/619196642>)
- 17. Reach out to Radio Stations** – Identify the host of radio programs with a civic interest. This is a great way to reach large audiences and to encourage them to take act.
- 18. Hold a State House Briefing** – Hosted by the bill Sponsors, this is a great opportunity to provide more details to legislators and their aides about the legislation and why it is so important. (See the **Briefing Notes** delivered at this type of event at the Massachusetts State House. Feel free to use and adapt the information for your state: [https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/State\\_House\\_Legislative\\_Briefing\\_Notes\\_-\\_5-2017.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/State_House_Legislative_Briefing_Notes_-_5-2017.pdf)).

- 19. Issue a Press Release** – Send to the media and include quotes from the bill sponsor and from other advocates or survivors. (See **Press Release** here: [https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Press Release on S312 and S313 - 9-3-2019.pdf](https://www.enoughabuse.org/images/Legislation/Press_Release_on_S312_and_S313_-_9-3-2019.pdf))
- 20. Submit an Op Ed** – Co-write with the Senator or Representative and send to the largest paper in your state. If they don't publish, send out to other smaller papers and/or to online media.
- 21. Hold a Rally Outside the State House** – Send out a Media Alert. Identify a few key spokespersons who can be interviewed by the press the day before and at the rally. Make sure to confirm a designated photographer and use those rally photos in subsequent promotional materials. Rent the necessary microphones, podium, wireless speaker, etc., and don't forget to bring signs with eye-catching messages.



This resource was compiled by  
MassKids, November 2021  
For more info on how to strengthen your state's  
efforts to prevent child sexual abuse, visit:

**Enough Abuse Campaign**

[www.enoughabuse.org](http://www.enoughabuse.org) or call 617-742-8555