



Children's Justice & Advocacy Report

To promote community responsibility so every Pennsylvania child is protected from child abuse, including sexual abuse.

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Woven into the hearing by senators was the fact that many of the major professional sports leagues have secured tax-exempt status [operating as a 501(c)(6)] from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Through an act of Congress decades ago, [To keep reading, become a CJAR subscribers.](#)

U.S. Senator Booker: End the Tax-Break for Sports Redirect Funding to Victim Services

[U.S. Senator Cory Booker](#) (D-NJ) used Tuesday's Senate hearing to push the NFL and other professional sports teams to increase investment in prevention and intervention strategies aimed at combatting domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse.

Congress Scrutinizes "Unique benefits" Bestowed upon Professional Sports Leagues

[The United States Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee](#) put officials (although not the top leaders) of major professional sports teams (e.g., the National Football League, National Hockey League, Major League Baseball) in the hot seat Tuesday.

At issue was the way federal laws, including the tax code, "bestow unique benefits" to professional sports leagues. Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) stressed that major league sports benefit from antitrust laws and receive public funding for stadiums so it is fair game for Congress "to focus attention on" how these leagues "are handling domestic violence in the ranks."

Booker asked Major League Baseball (MLB) Vice President Joe Torre if the MLB forgoing tax-exempt status has "hurt" the organization's "bottom line." Torre quickly responded, "I don't think so." It was the only lighthearted moment in a

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Face of NFL Underscores Childhood Trauma has Long-term Effect

Mr. Troy Vincent, Executive Vice President of Football Operations for the NFL took direct hits on the football field, including as a Philadelphia Eagle during his career. Tuesday his role was to deflect and counter tough questions from Senators.

Ultimately, however, he faced head on the scars of domestic violence – scars that run even deeper

when a child has watched a parent being brutally assaulted.

Vincent in his own words: “Domestic violence was a way of life in my home growing up, my brother and I watched helplessly numerous times as my

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A Congressional Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making

Congress has to reach a deal about keeping the federal government open for business beyond December 11th. The current Continuing Resolution (CR) – the mechanism allowing federal funds to keep flowing – expires at that time.

Two central players on where to next on federal funding (and the powerbrokers behind the current FY 2014 omnibus brokered in January) are the House and Senate Budget Chairs.

Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) and 2012 GOP Vice Presidential candidate and current U.S. House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan are negotiating well beyond

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1. Make recommendations on how data infrastructure and protocols should be modified to best fulfill the objectives identified in (1); and
2. Make recommendations on how best to incorporate outcomes measurement, institutionalize randomized controlled trials, and rigorous impact analysis into program design.”

The Commission is to pursue creation of a clearinghouse “for program and survey data,” including identifying the data sets that should be included in such a clearinghouse, how it can be self-funded, who can have access to the data, how data can be linked, and how “individual privacy and confidentiality” will be protected.

The report to Congress is due 15 months after the majority of members have been appointed to the

Commission. \$2 million would be available for the Commission to conduct its work.

The movement in Congress arrives at the same time that the Obama Administration is winning bipartisan praise for its commitment to rigorous evaluation of federal grantees.

This week Brookings Institution Press released *Show Me the Evidence: Obama’s Fight for Rigor and Results in Social Policy*. The book was co-authored by Ron Haskins and Greg Margolis. Haskins was the lead Republican Congressional staffer when Congress enacted welfare reform in 1996 (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act). Today he co-directs the Brookings Center on Children and Families and Budgeting for National Priorities Project

At a December 1st event, Haskins provided an overview of the book stating, “I am here today because our nation’s social service programs, especially the ones that impact our nation’s children and families do not work.” He continued, “We spend about a trillion dollars a year on these programs and we are not getting the returns, so we need to do something serious.”

Haskins talked about the “grant programs galore” inside of the federal government and praised the commitment of the Obama Administration to be “aggressive” in evaluating grantees and outcomes.

PA Child Abuse Prevention Report Issued

In June 2013, the PA House of Representatives unanimously adopted [House Resolution 163](#). The resolution gave the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC) 18 months to study the degree to which “evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention programs” are operating in Pennsylvania and across the country.

JSGC was also to evaluate the “effectiveness and relative costs” of these evidence-based programs.

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