

# WHAT LEGISLATORS CAN DO

## A GUIDE FOR LAWMAKERS TO MAKE COMMUNITIES SAFER

Child sexual abuse prevention training of adults is essential to preventing, recognizing, and reacting responsibly to suspected abuse.

While education of children is essential, **Darkness to Light** believes that it is unrealistic to think that a young child can take responsibility for protecting themselves from the sexual advances of an adult.

Our *Stewards of Children*® program is an evidence-informed training that increases knowledge, improves attitudes, and changes behavior.

There are several things that state legislators can do to TAKE ACTION TODAY to make real change happen in the movement to end child sexual abuse.

### TAKE THE TRAINING

One of the first steps in becoming a child sexual abuse prevention advocate is to take the *Stewards of Children*® program offered by **Darkness to Light**. *Stewards of Children*® teaches the *5 Steps to Protecting Our Children*™:

- Learn the Facts
- Minimize Opportunity
- Talk About It
- Recognize the Signs
- React Responsibly

### ADVOCATE FOR TRAINING

- Author and support legislation for statewide mandated educator training.
- Require that any state licensing for childcare facilities require child sexual abuse prevention training.
- Require any state agency that interacts with children to have a child sexual abuse prevention policy for staff that mandates child sexual abuse prevention training and includes a code of conduct, in addition to required background checks and screening.



### FIGHT FOR FULL PASSAGE OF JENNA'S LAW

Jenna's Law, named after child sexual abuse survivor Jenna Quinn, requires that all public schools, K-12 to train school staff, parents, and students on the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse.

Texas has passed the law and Arizona and South Dakota are in the process of passing similar legislation. **Darkness to Light's** initial research has demonstrated that reporting by educators increases when they have the proper training to recognize and intervene to protect children from child sexual abuse.

### FUNDING STRATEGY

Require that any youth serving organization that receives state funding have a policy that requires child sexual abuse prevention training and background checks for all employees.

### STATUTE OF LIMITATION REFORM

Currently, many states have laws that limit child sexual abuse survivors from prosecuting their abusers after a certain timeframe. You can author and support legislation that eliminates criminal and civil statute of limitation laws.

Visit [www.D2L.org](http://www.D2L.org) for more information.