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AND THE WORKFORCE  
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November 17, 2011

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

Potential weaknesses in specific laws designed to keep children safe have come to light in the wake of the alleged sexual crimes committed on the campuses of the Pennsylvania State University and the Citadel. Accordingly, I respectfully request that you call a Committee hearing to evaluate any inherent weaknesses, inconsistencies, or inadequate implementation of Section 485(f) of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, also known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the Clery Act), and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act that may put children at risk of harm.

I am extremely sensitive to the ongoing state and federal investigations into these matters. Those investigations must proceed post haste. Our inquiry should not seek to parallel, replicate, or interfere with those efforts; rather, we must examine the ongoing operation of the underlying federal laws to identify any vulnerabilities and better ensure against future risks to children.

These issues should not be partisan ones. Last Congress, our Committee worked tirelessly to help ensure children across America were safe. As chairman, I requested investigations by the Government Accountability Office that uncovered thousands of cases and allegations of child abuse at teen residential treatment programs around the country, as well as flaws in federal and state laws regarding the requirements for background checks of children in schools and childcare facilities. Based on this oversight, bipartisan legislation to prevent abuse in schools and residential programs for teens passed the House. It is essential that our Committee continue its work to support state and local efforts to protect children.

We have a responsibility to our children and our communities to maintain vigorous oversight of child safety issues. Any specific remedies we identify through such collective oversight should be immediately taken up by this House.

I look forward to working with you on scheduling a hearing on this exceedingly important issue. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Miller".

GEORGE MILLER  
Senior Democratic Member