



## Bill Addressing Childhood Trauma Introduced in Congress

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-Chicago) have introduced a bill in Congress to help “identify and aid children who have experienced violence-induced trauma.” According to the Chicago Tribune, “The Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act” would create a federal task force and expand Medicaid coverage for child trauma services, while increasing mental health care in schools, among other steps.”

According to the [National Council for Behavioral Health](#), the bill is “a potential vehicle for incorporating the science of adverse childhood experiences and trauma into federal policymaking.” It writes that “The legislation was intended to help individuals who have experienced trauma be identified and supported with the appropriate care. According to the National Survey of Children’s Health, nearly 35 million children in the United States have had at least one serious traumatic experience. These experiences dramatically impact a child’s neurological and behavioral development, long-term health, and societal outcomes.”

JPA’s therapeutic methods are based on exactly this outlook, and we are excited to see that it is receiving national attention. We know that traumatic events can have direct physiological as well as emotional and behavioral effects on children and are pleased that Sen. Durbin and Rep. Davis recognize this as well.

The bill was announced at a news conference at the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration (SSA). Derrick Buckingham, JPA’s Chief Development Officer, attended the event.

“Today, there is no doubt that trauma brought on by neglect, separation, homelessness, gang or gun violence has a devastating effect on a child’s ability to learn or function,” he says. “Needless to say, this has lifelong implications. We at JPA are encouraged by the heightened attention this issue is receiving and will continue to do all we can to work in behalf of our most vulnerable citizens, our kids.”