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PRESS STATEMENT BY TURNING POINT WOMEN'S COUNSELING & ADVOCACY CENTER

As an organization that advocates for the rights of women and teen girls who have survived childhood sexual abuse, we support the formation of a National Commission to address the epidemic of child sex abuse in this country.

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually violated before the age of 18. According to a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 63,000 cases of child sexual abuse reported in 2012. It is estimated that there are more than 40 million adult survivors in the United States. Because child sex abuse is a vastly underreported crime, the actual numbers are even higher. The government can no longer remain silent in the face of these studies and documented cases exposing the scope of the problem.

To paraphrase Vice-President Biden's statement made in the context of campus sexual assaults, the federal government "can no longer turn a blind eye or pretend" rapes and sexual assaults of children do not occur. The time has come for the government to take action to prevent child sexual abuse from occurring, to support adult survivors, and to reform a legal system that presently favors abusers and the institutions that protect them, over the abused.

Turning Point supports the formation of a National Commission to study and formulate ways to protect children from sexual crimes, to raise public awareness of the problem, and to propose legislation mandating legal reforms of justice by providing survivors with a fair chance to obtain legal recourse against their abusers.

A child's right to be safe from physical and psychological harm perpetrated by adults is a basic human right. And the preservation of that right is the most fundamental responsibility of a moral government.

**- Kristen Pfautz Woolley, Founder**  
**- Debra Stock, Executive Director**