

**TIP:** Letters to the editor (LTEs) get the most attention when they respond directly to a recent event or article in the news. When writing to your local news outlet, be sure to reference a specific story or community issue that's related to child health and well-being. Also, verify the maximum word count for the outlet to which you're writing; if your LTE is too long it will either be discarded or edited by someone else, sometimes deleting important elements. Up to 250 words is typical for local and regional papers, but many larger newspapers are limited to 150 or so, and some magazines limit letters to less than 100 words.

### **LTE Sample—Short (~150 words)**

*Letter to the editor, intended for publication*

Your recent coverage of [APPLICABLE STORY IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER] reinforces we all share a responsibility for the well-being of children and their families in [CITY]. Since April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, it's the perfect time to help people understand it's possible to do the things they love and help families and their community thrive.

All parents want to provide and nurture their child in a positive, healthy environment, but sometimes they need a little extra support along the way. That's why I encourage people to proactively engage parents in their community and offer support—whether it's by making a meal for the family or reading to a child. For more suggestions, please visit [WEBSITE].

Collectively, these small steps will help create better, brighter futures for children and families in [Kentucky or CITY].

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE]  
[ORGANIZATION]

### **LTE Sample—Long (~250 words)**

*Letter to the editor, intended for publication*

Your recent coverage of [APPLICABLE STORY IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER] reinforces we all share a responsibility for the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children and their families in [STATE or CITY]. And since April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, it's the perfect time to help people understand it's possible to do the things they love and help families and their community thrive. Small steps can make a big difference in a child's life—and a parent's.

Everyone wants to provide and nurture their child in a positive, healthy environment, but sometimes parents need a little support along the way. That's why I encourage people across the state to proactively engage parents in their local community and offer support. Here are some suggestions:

- Volunteer for an after-school reading program or book club—you'll help kids meet new friends and spark their imaginations, too.
- Give a new mom a break by bringing over dinner or offering to babysit.
- Coach a youth sports team to teach kids the value of teamwork—they'll learn how to trust teammates and themselves.

- Host a kid-friendly BBQ or organize a block party so parents can socialize without the stress of finding a sitter.
- Contact your elected officials and urge them to support policies and programs that promote safe, healthy childhoods.

For more recommendations, please visit [WEBSITE].

Collectively, these small steps will make a big impact and help create better, brighter futures for children and families in [STATE or CITY].

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE]  
[ORGANIZATION]