



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Amendment**

LCO No. 6749

\*SB0103706749SD0\*

Offered by:  
SEN. MEYER, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1037      File No. 555      Cal. No. 411

**"AN ACT CONCERNING REVISION OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT  
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATUTES."**

1      Strike section 10 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu  
2      thereof:

3      "Sec. 10. Section 17a-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4      following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5      (a) The [Commissioner of Children and Families] Children's Trust  
6      Fund Council shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for  
7      [Healthy Families Connecticut, which is based on the national Healthy  
8      Families model, and] a Nurturing Families Network, which is intended  
9      to demonstrate the benefits of preventive services by significantly  
10     reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and by enhancing parent-  
11     child relationships through hospital-based assessment with home  
12     outreach follow-up on infants and their families within families  
13     identified as high risk.

14     (b) Within available appropriations, the [Commissioner of Children

15 and Families] Children's Trust Fund Council shall establish [healthy  
16 families] Nurturing Families Network pilot programs in geographic  
17 areas which are not currently served by prevention outreach services  
18 and which have a high rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect, a  
19 high rate of infant mortality and low birthweight infants, or a high rate  
20 of teen pregnancy. [On and after July 1, 1997, the commissioner shall  
21 establish three additional pilot sites. Services shall be provided on a  
22 voluntary basis to families identified through the assessment process  
23 as having a high risk of child abuse or neglect.]

24 (c) The [healthy families] Nurturing Families Network pilot  
25 programs shall: (1) Provide a comprehensive risk assessment of all  
26 newborn children and their families; (2) identify families that would  
27 benefit most from the program; (3) provide and coordinate support  
28 services including, but not limited to, community-based home visiting  
29 intervention services, counseling, child care and primary health care  
30 services; and (4) provide follow-up and support services until the child  
31 attains the age of five.

32 (d) The [Commissioner of Children and Families] Children's Trust  
33 Fund Council shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to  
34 be used by the pilot programs; (2) develop the training program,  
35 standards, and protocols for the pilot programs; and (3) develop, issue  
36 and evaluate requests for proposals to procure the services required by  
37 this section. In evaluating the proposals, the [commissioner] Children's  
38 Trust Fund Council shall take into consideration the most effective and  
39 consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of  
40 current public and private programs.

41 (e) The [Commissioner of Children and Families] Children's Trust  
42 Fund Council shall establish a data system to enable the [pilot]  
43 programs to document the following information in a standard  
44 manner: (1) The level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk  
45 and family demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect;  
46 (4) rates of child development; and (5) any other information the  
47 [commissioner] Children's Trust Fund Council deems appropriate.

48 (f) The [Commissioner of Children and Families] Children's Trust  
49 Fund Council shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with  
50 the provisions of section 11-4a, on the establishment, implementation  
51 and progress of [Healthy Families Connecticut,] the Nurturing  
52 Families Network, on January first and July first, of each year. [The  
53 first report shall be due on January 1, 1996.]"

54 After line 549, add the following and renumber sections and internal  
55 references accordingly:

56 "Sec. 15. Section 17a-56a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

58 (a) There is established a [Healthy Families] Nurturing Families  
59 Network Advisory Commission to monitor the state-wide system for  
60 [Healthy Families Connecticut] the Nurturing Families Network  
61 developed pursuant to section 17a-56. The commission shall consist of:  
62 (1) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of  
63 Representatives and one member appointed by the president pro  
64 tempore of the Senate, who shall be members of the General Assembly;  
65 (2) one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
66 Representatives and one member appointed by the minority leader of  
67 the Senate, who shall be members of the General Assembly; (3) a  
68 representative of the Governor; (4) the Commissioner of Children and  
69 Families, or his designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services, or  
70 his designee; (6) the Commissioner of Public Health, or his designee;  
71 (7) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee; (8) the Secretary  
72 of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee; (9) the  
73 executive director of the Commission on Children, or his designee;  
74 (10) a representative of the Child Advocate's Office, who shall be  
75 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and  
76 (11) a representative of the Connecticut Chapter of the National  
77 Committee to Prevent Child Abuse who shall be appointed by the  
78 majority leader of the Senate.

79 (b) The commission shall be responsible for: (1) Reviewing [Healthy

80 Families Connecticut] the Nurturing Families Network pilot sites and  
81 advising the General Assembly on outcomes and recommending  
82 program modifications, if necessary; (2) preparing plans to implement  
83 [Healthy Families Connecticut] the Nurturing Families Network on a  
84 state-wide basis; (3) monitoring cooperative, coordinated approaches  
85 of state and private agencies involved in [Healthy Families  
86 Connecticut] the Nurturing Families Network and expanding such  
87 approaches to incorporate other, similar activities; (4) studying state  
88 and privately funded home visitation programs as an initial step in  
89 establishing a cost-effective, collaborative and comprehensive [healthy  
90 families] Nurturing Families Network system; (5) monitoring the  
91 effects of welfare reform on the factors associated with the risk of child  
92 abuse; and (6) building a network of public and private state, regional  
93 and local organizations for the purpose of collaborating to strengthen  
94 and support families with newborns and children up to the age of  
95 five."