

Since
1833

THE
**CHILDREN'S
CENTER
OF HAMDEN**

1400 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517
Phone: (203) 248-2116 Fax: (203) 248-9339
www.childrenscenterhamden.org

*Anthony Del Mastro, Chief Executive Officer
Dan Lyga, Chief Operating Officer*

January 30, 2007

Human Services Committee

Dear Representative Villano, Senator Harris and members of the Human Services Committee:

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to advocate for Proposed Bill No. 5387, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Renovation of the Children's Center in Hamden. These funds would be utilized for the installation of an emergency generator.

While the Children's Center of Hamden provides a full array of services to children at its Hamden campus, including services for children living in the community, the vast majority of its facility serves as a Residential Treatment facility for up to 100 children referred primarily by the State of Connecticut's Department of Children and Families. Those residential programs include subacute residential treatment as a step down from psychiatric hospitalizations, short-term residential substance abuse treatment, Crisis Stabilization beds, a therapeutic group home, a safe home as well as traditional residential treatment services.

As part of the post 9/11 disaster planning we have identified the need for a backup power supply in order to adequately feed and shelter the aforementioned 100 children if a disaster were to occur that would result in the interruption of electrical service for any extended period of time.

The Children's Center of Hamden respectfully requests State bonding funds for the purchase and installation of a diesel fueled generator with sufficient power to keep approximately 26,000 square feet fully operational. The desired generator will be capable of providing heat, light, fire protection, hot water and all dining and kitchen functions required to feed and shelter the residents. This includes the food services complex and space that would provide adequate safe shelter for these 100 children.

Sincerely,



Anthony DelMastro, CEO
The Children's Center of Hamden