



**Middlesex  
Coalition  
For  
Children**

Betsy Morgan, Director  
30 Gordon Place  
Middletown, CT 06457  
860.346.1522 (phone)  
860.344.5572 (fax: please call)  
[emorgan@wesleyan.edu](mailto:emorgan@wesleyan.edu)

**Board of  
Directors**

**Hon. Sebastian Giuliano**  
Mayor, City of Middletown  
Honorary Chair  
**Willard McRae, Chair**  
LCSW  
**William S. Boyd**  
Middletown Bd of Ed  
**Terri DiPietro**  
Middlesex Hospital  
**Christine Fahey**  
School Readiness  
**Judith Felton**  
Middlesex Com College  
**Dr. Michael J. Frechette**  
Superintendent of Schools  
**Bettye Graham**  
Cross St. A.M.E. Zion Church  
**Cathy Crimmins Lechowicz**  
Wesleyan University  
**Donna Marino**  
MPS Parent Coordinator  
**Elizabeth Morgan**  
Coalition Director  
**Robert Rosenbaum**  
PIAMS  
**Donna Thompson**  
Upward Bound  
**Deane Wilborn**  
Parks & Recreation  
**Kevin Wilhelm**  
Middlesex United Way

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE EITC

S.B. 146 - AN ACT CREATING AN EARNED INCOME CREDIT  
AGAINST THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX

H.B. 6649 - AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE EARNED INCOME  
TAX CREDIT

The Middlesex Coalition for Children, an advocacy organization for children and families in Middletown and Middlesex County, strongly urges the Connecticut General Assembly to support S.B. 146 and H.B. 6649. The Coalition has, with many other groups, been pressing for a state EITC for the last three years. It is time to get it done.

Child poverty is a tragedy that not only blights childhood but stunts children's potential for the whole of their lives. At least a quarter of Connecticut's children live in families whose income is so low as to threaten their future. In Middlesex County we have concluded that one small but effective step we can take is to build on the success of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit by establishing a state EITC.

In talking with parents about how the federal EITC has affected their lives, we hear that they have used the federal EITC for essential expenditures that are hard to afford out of small paychecks - necessities such as auto repair, deposits on apartments, and medical and dental care. These parents tell us that they do not have much - if any - financial "cushion", and that the federal EITC credit provides help that is crucial to the well-being of their families. We believe the CT EITC will be spent in similar ways, helping to stabilize families and directly benefiting children. We value the fact that the EITC rewards work, believing it important that children grow up in families with work habits and a work ethic.

Connecticut should follow the lead of twenty other states, including all New England states which have a state income tax plus New York, and pass a state EITC this session. We urge you to support these bills and move them forward through the legislative process.

Mimi Rich  
For the Legislative Advocacy Committee  
Middlesex Coalition for Children

Feb. 27, 2007