



**Testimony of Christine Devine
Local Initiatives Support Corporation,
Director, Children's Investment Partnership**

**Government Administration & Elections Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
March 16, 2009**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and members of the Committee:

My name is Christine Devine. I am the Director of Connecticut Children's Investment Partnership (CIP), a program of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). I am here today to oppose Senate Bill No. 840 "An Act Concerning the Elimination of the Office of the Consumer Counsel, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, the Office of the Ombudsman for Property Rights, and Certain Legislative Commissions."

I am here to specifically oppose the elimination of the Commission on Children. Over the years the Commission on Children had provided the State with critical thinking that has been responsible for policies that have made a tremendous difference in the lives many children.

The Children's Investment Partnership is a statewide child care facilities program that works to improve the quality and capacity of the physical space in center based early learning environments. We know that poor quality care hurts children and good care helps them. Research has show that well-designed facilities provide a safe, healthy and productive environment that can greatly enhance program quality and young children's learning. Specific to this work of the Connecticut Children's Investment Partnership, is the key role the Commission on Children played in advising the state on the design of its innovative School Readiness Child Care Facilities Financing Program administered by CHEFA. The program has received national recognition and has led to the development of 27 new or greatly improved facilities serving over 3,500 preschool aged children across the state.

The Commission on Children recognizes and promotes public polices on behalf of Connecticut's children. I urge you to allow the Commission on Children to continue its strategic thinking and good work on behalf of all Connecticut's children.

Thank you for your time, I would be happy to provide you with any additional information you may need.