

December 7, 2009

Veronica Pasieka  
Nurturing Families Network  
Testimony to the Appropriations Committee at the Public hearing on December 9, 2009

My name is Veronica Pasieka and I am The Nurturing Connections Coordinator at Middlesex Hospital, which is part of the Nurturing Families Network. I have been in this position for five years and have experienced the benefits that it offers to families in our community. In addition to being Nurturing Connections Coordinator, I am a Middletown Resident and parent to three children ages 6, 3 & 1. As a parent I understand the support needed to raise children. I not only work for the NFN program, but have sought out support from my colleagues to help raise my own children. I know I am better parent because of the support and education I have received.

The Nurturing Families Network is a prevention based program, for first time parents, proven to reduce childhood abuse and neglect. Families participating in the NFN Program have shown significant reductions in their risk for abuse. NFN offers phone support services, home visitation and parenting group programs. All of these programs allow parents to receive support, education and community connections throughout their time with the program.

I am not that educated in the political system, and I do not understand why prevention based programs would potentially be cut from funding. It is proven that every dollar spent on prevention saves seven dollars in intervention. In this time where we are looking to save money, why would you choose to spend more in the future? It may help the current budget situation, but would create a bigger deficit in the future.

Please consider saving the Nurturing Families Network Program and supporting families throughout Connecticut.

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