

CAHS

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Testimony to Appropriations Committee Response to: The Department of Education Budget Presentation

On whose Back will the Budget be balanced?

First, we would like to acknowledge the legislature's commitment to holding funds steady with the majority of Early Care and Education programs and services.

- **In these times of fiscal uncertainty, it is imperative that we fasten our attention to the importance of continued funding of Early Care and Education. We are only given one chance to make a first impression, and with children the window of opportunity starts as early as prenatal. As funds are being rescinded from vital programs and services, we have to ask ourselves, "When the recession ends, how will children recover?"**
- **The Governor's Budget is evidently very dependent on anticipated federal stimulus funds. Caution should be exhibited with any attempt to supplant funds, especially funds that are yet to be garnered.**
- **The elimination, reconfiguring, or reduction of the role of legislative and private agencies that provide policy support should be strategically executed, as Early Care and Education still lacks a unifying body to champion our cause. The elimination of such agencies as the Commission on Children, the Children's Trust Fund and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women sets us backward in developing a coordinated system of services to families.**

As advocates we would like to impress upon you that any further reduction in funding to Early Care and Education will continue to undermine the "Readiness" of Connecticut's children to be successful, prevent parents from working, and inevitably lead to the erosion of the infrastructure necessary to keep communities thriving.

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Connecticut Association for Human Services

Working to reduce poverty,
strengthen families and
reconnect communities

Governor's Proposed FY2010-FY 2011 Biennium Budget

Early Care and Education at a Glance

	2008-2009 Estimated	2009-2010 Current Services	2009-2010 Total Recommended	2010-2011 Current Services	2010-2011 Total Recommended
DSS					
Child Day Care/State Funded	10,617,392	10,617,392	10,617,392	10,617,392	10,617,392
Child Day Care/Local	5,263,706	5,263,706	5,263,706	5,263,706	5,263,706
Child Care Projects	478,820	478,820	448,820	478,820	448,820
Child Care Services-C4K	93,118,727	103,872,455	103,872,455	95,915,536	95,915,536
School Readiness	4,763,546	5,011,321	3,289,697	5,011,321	3,289,697
SDE					
Early Childhood Advisory Cabinet	997,500	1,006,845	210,000	1,006,845	335,000
School Readiness Staff Bonuses	142,500	150,000	0	150,000	0
Early Childhood Program-School Readiness	5,004,884	5,007,354	5,007,354	5,007,354	5,007,354
Preschool QRS	2,375,000	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0
Head Start Services	2,748,150	2,748,150	2,748,150	2,748,150	2,748,150
Head Start EC Link	2,200,000	2,200,000	1,980,000	2,200,000	1,980,000
Head Start Enhancement	1,773,000	1,773,000	1,773,000	1,773,000	1,773,000
Family Resource Center	6,041,488	6,359,461	6,041,488	6,359,461	6,041,488
Early Reading Success	2,403,646	2,403,646	2,314,380	2,403,646	2,314,380
Reach Out and Read	142,500	150,000	0	150,000	0
DPH					
School Based Health Centers	10,440,646	10,440,646	8,970,646	10,440,646	8,970,646
Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Program	285,000	300,000	0	300,000	0
DDS					
Early Intervention (B-3)	28,961,511	35,243,414	35,243,414	35,243,414	35,243,414
Dept. Higher Ed					
ECE-Collaboration	375,000	400,000	0	400,000	0