



55 Court Street, 4th Floor
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108
 617-727-8957 tel
 888-775-4KID toll free in MA
 617-727-8997 fax
 www.mctf.org

CHAIR
 Roger Donoghue, Esq.
Donoghue, Barrett & Singal

VICE CHAIR
 Gallanne M. Reeh, President & CEO
ARBOR Associates, Inc.

TREASURER
 Martha A. Walsh
MAEFA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Suzin Bartley, LICSW

BOARD MEMBERS
 John Auerbach, Commissioner
Dept. of Public Health
 Edward N. Bailey, M.D. Medical Director
North Shore Children's Hospital
 Anne Bailey Berman, President
Chadwick Martin Bailey, Inc.
 Greg Bialecki, Secretary
Executive Office of Housing & Economic Devel.
 JudyAnn Bigby, M.D., Secretary
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
 Maurice Boisvert, Executive Director
YOU, Inc.
 Sidney L. Boorstein
Restaurant Consultant
 Betsy Busch, M.D.
Tufts University School of Medicine
 Patrick Cahn
Somerville, MA
 Joseph C. Carter, Major General
Massachusetts National Guard
 Jan Garnett Cellucci
Hudson, MA
 Mitchell D. Chester, Commissioner
Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education
 Richard E. Connolly, Director
Bureau of Special Ed. Appeals
 Susah M. Cronin, VP of Marketing
Gordon Brothers
 John J. Curley, Jr., Sr. Vice President
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MA
 Claudine A. Doniklan, JD
Director of Consulting Services, Pentera, Inc.
 Herby Duvemé, Deputy Director
Aviation Security, Massport
 Ed Eskandarian, CEO
Arnold Worldwide
 Tomeeka Farrington, Principal
Spotlight Communications
 Marlo Fogelman
marlo marketing/communications
 The Honorable Gail Garinger, Child Advocate
Office of the Child Advocate
 Susan Gelman, Consultant
Casey Family Programs
 Julia E. Kehoe, Commissioner
Dept. of Transitional Assistance
 William Kennedy, Esq.
Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP
 Dr. Shern Killins, Commissioner
Dept. of Early Education & Care
 Barbara Leadholm, Commissioner
Dept. of Mental Health
 Matthew B. LeBretton, Esq.
LeBretton & Associates, LLP
 Mary Kay Leonard, Senior Vice President
Community Builders, Inc.
 Richard Lord, President & CEO
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
 Angelo McClain, Commissioner
Dept. of Children & Families
 Samuel S. Mullin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole
 Donna M. Norris, M.D.
Wellesley, MA
 Patricia Riemlis, Marketing Consultant
Fidelity Investments
 James E. Rooney, Executive Director
MA Convention Center Authority
 Robert A. Sherman, Esq.
Greenberg Traurig
 Donald Silva
Fall River, MA
 William F. Soifsborg, President & CEO
Alliance Resource Group
 Paula S. Stahl, Ed.D., Executive Director
Children's Charter, a Division of Key, Inc.
 Christopher J. Supple, Esq.
LeClair Ryan
 Jane Tewksbury, Commissioner
Dept. of Youth Services
 Doug Veeder, Executive Director
Quincy After School Child Care
 Peter Wernau, President & CEO
Wernau Asset Management, Inc.

February 17, 2009

Dear Senator Harp & Representative Geragosian,

On behalf of Board of the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund, we wish to submit written testimony in support of the CT Children's Trust Fund's (CT CTF) budget appropriation for FY10.

Connecticut has long been a leader in the area of child abuse prevention. Unlike the complications that have arisen with child protective services, the CT CTF has been a shining star nationally. Their advice, innovative and entrepreneurial spirit has been a consistent force in understanding how best to prevent child abuse and neglect. In these increasingly difficult budget times, it is critical that we continue to support child abuse prevention programs that not only does save lives, but ultimately save public dollars as well. I have attached a brief fact sheet that highlights recent studies indicating the costs saving involved with prevention.

Thanks to the support of the Connecticut Legislature, CT CTF has developed or funded more than 250 family service programs and initiatives statewide designed to engage families before crises occur. Its vision of preventing child abuse and neglect has evolved into a comprehensive program that addresses family issues, child development, shaken baby prevention and child sexual abuse. The Connecticut Children's Trust Fund also empowers parents to become more involved in the lives of their children and the surrounding community.

Some brief examples of the many effective Child Abuse Prevention Programs developed and led by the Connecticut Children's Trust Fund include:

- The **TAKE FIVE!** parenting initiative that helps parents to reduce stress and make parenting easier and more enjoyable,
- The **Kinship Fund** program: a probate-court administered program that provides small grants for orphaned or abandoned children in the care of relatives who are court-appointed legal guardians.

- The **Help Me Grow** initiative that helps parents better understand their child's development. Services in this initiative include the Child Development Info Line and the Ages and Stages program that helps parents take an active role in their child's development from four months to eight years of age,
- The **Nurturing Families Network** which includes **telephone support** to mothers and fathers who need parenting resources, as well as **parenting education and support groups** and **intensive newborn home visiting services**,
- The **TAKE FIVE Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome** program,
- The ***Stranger You Know*** prevention of child sexual abuse program
- The **Family Empowerment Programs** which help parents cope effectively with hardships in their lives, as well as assist them in developing greater parenting skills and improve family relationships.

In closing, we ask you to consider continued support of the CT Children's Trust Fund. It has been our experience that when prevention is placed within the confines of child protective services that any innovation or success becomes limited. We urge you to continue to support the Connecticut Children's Trust Fund. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I can be of any further assistance as you weigh your FY10 budget decisions.

Sincerely


Suzin Bartley, Executive Director
MA Children's Trust Fund