

February 16, 2009

To the members of the Appropriations Committee:

I'm writing this letter in response to the Governor's proposed budget, in which she cuts funding for the Commission on Children, the Parent and Children's Trust Funds which helps to fund the Parent Leadership Training Institute.

We all understand the financial crisis we are faced with. We understand the pressure on the Governor to make cuts and try and balance the budget. However, cutting the Commission and its initiatives are not the answer. We are in a dire situation as a state and a nation due to irresponsible acts of spending, lending, greed and an overall lack of respect for processes and documents set forth so we wouldn't find ourselves in this situation. The reality we find ourselves in must not be dealt with by looking at the short term of a budget, a deficit, votes or this year's tax bill, but as an investment in the future. No one will benefit from dissolving The Commission on Children or its initiatives; families will lose, children will lose and the state of CT will in turn lose both in the short term and long term. We as a state have a choice. The choice should be to keep the well being of children, our future, in the foreground and not lose sight of that investment.

In an official proclamation made by the Governor herself, declaring February Parent Leadership Month, reads "Whereas, children are our future and encapsulate the promise of the State of Connecticut. It is essential, that we, as parents and parent leaders support, nurture and encourage children become mature, responsible and productive citizens; "

Without the Commission on Children and its initiatives such as the Parent Leadership Training Institute we will not be upholding this promise made by the Governor herself to the children of this state and could surely find the state of our state in even more dire straits if we don't embrace and protect the Commission and all its efforts.

Sincerely,



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