

Testimony of Nancy Robinson
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**H.B.NO 6365 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium
Ending June 30,2011 and Making appropriations therefore.**

My name is Nancy Robinson and I am a Home Visitor for the Nurturing Families Network program at Eastern Connecticut Health Network: Manchester Memorial and Rockford General Hospital. I have worked for the Nurturing Families Network for 11 years.

This written testimony is on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund. Through this agency we are able to offer voluntary support services to families in order to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Along with support, community referrals and learning positive parenting skills, many of the families we work with have completed their education and have become self-supporting, no longer requiring State assistance. If these services are associated with DCF, families will be reluctant to volunteer to participate.

The Department of Children and Families is a scary agency for many of the families that we work with. A big part of our success in working with the families is assuring them that we are not a part of DCF.

The Children's Trust Fund also offers many opportunities to better serve our families through on going trainings as well as professional opportunities.

Prior to working for the Nurturing Families Network I was a Foster Parent for DCF. As a result of my experience I do not agree with a lot of their philosophies.

If the Children's Trust fund is eliminated I would prefer to seek early retirement then work under DCF and watch the many families we have helped over the years lose such a valuable service.

Thank you for your time.