Connecticut Children's MEDICAL CENTER

LAMPP Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention

# Testimony in Support of the Commission on Children

February 18th 2009

My name is Amy McLean Salls and I am the Project Coordinator of the Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention or the LAMPP Program and the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Research Group. I am writing to appeal to the legislature to spare the Commission on Children (COC). While there are budget issues that would suggest that everything must be cut and pared down and that we must do "more with less", the dissolution of the COC would not be the way to do it.

The COC has worked on the lead poisoning issue from the beginning.. They were part of the "Get the Lead Out Coalition" which spawned the LAMPP project back in the early 1990's. LAMPP has since received two rounds of HUD funding to the tune of over 12.6 million dollars and has remediated lead paint in over 1,135 housing units to date.

The support and advocacy of the Commission on Children has also been critical in raising the issue of health effects and educational effects of lead poisoning on children. Often the good work done by the organizations on the front lines goes unnoticed and unfunded if there is not help from seasoned veterans of the legislative system to help less sophisticated groups get their message across to policy makers. The COC has been able to assist by sponsoring forums for legislators to help children's issues be understood and appropriately acted upon.

While lead poisoning is important, it is only one of the many issues that affect children. Because of these issues, the Commission on Children is not expendable. On the contrary, it is valuable, necessary and without it Connecticut will be a much "poorer" state.

Please consider this before you make this very important decision.

Thank you,

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LAMPP works in the following communities:
**Ansonia, Bridgeport, Danbury, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury West Haven**

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