

**To: Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee:**

**Re: H. B. No. 6365 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR**

**Please DO NOT support the elimination of the Commission on Children, as proposed by HB 6365, An Act Concerning the State Budget.**

**I am speaking as a parent and as someone who has worked and volunteered in the field of family supports and service coordination for children with special needs for the last fifteen years. I have been fortunate to be able to work with the professional staff at the Commission and have benefited from their expertise and willingness to partner with community organizations and families.**

**The Commission on Children is an agency that has an impressive track record of identifying the key issues for children and families – and I believe that is because they ask us –the families - and then work directly with us, gathering the research and pulling together the critical players to work through the issues and make a difference for CT's children.**

**How do we know the issues they have addressed in the past really matter to families? The tremendous response of families and efforts made to attend their events – such as the Bullying Panel Presentation – Parent Leadership Training – Child Poverty – Parent Engagement & Involvement. These issues are so important to CT's children; thankfully, they are on the radar screen of the Commission on Children, and as a result have become the focus of new policies and legislation.**

**Please DO NOT support the proposed elimination of the Commission on Children as they are a critical piece of assuring Connecticut's leaders are addressing the issues that matter to our youngest citizens – Connecticut's children.**

**Thank you for allowing me to testify today.**

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