

February 18, 2009

Dear Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee,

I implore you to NOT support the elimination of The Commission on Children, as proposed by Governor Rell. Speaking as a parent of two sons with significant special needs, as well as the Northeast Regional Coordinator of the CT Family Support Network, I am well-acquainted with the tireless support and advocacy efforts by this Commission, on behalf of CT's most vulnerable children.

For nearly a decade, I have had the privilege of working on numerous legislative endeavors and policy initiatives, in support of children with unimaginable challenges. Representation from the COC has been constant, and their support, unwavering.

Raising "typical" children, during these horrific economic times, is hard enough. Raising children with special needs, who require continuous, adequately funded programs, services, and advocacy, requires unrelenting oversight, careful attention, and reliable partnerships.

The Commission on Children has been, and continues to be a staunch supporter of families like mine, and the families I attempt to represent. I cannot imagine their absence at our family table.

While we are all painfully aware of the need for serious budget cuts and your indomitable task to reduce state government spending, please think soberly and advisedly, about where we can afford to make those cuts, and where to do so would be unconscionable.

Thank you on behalf of my family, and countless others.

Sincerely,

Mona Tremblay, CT Family Support Network-NE Region

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