

## Testimony of Heather Greene

**My name is Heather Greene of Waterbury.**

**I have two daughters, ages 9 and 2, who are on Husky, as well as my husband and myself.**

**My husband was laid off from his job of over 30 years last May when a new company bought the company he was working for out. He did file for unemployment benefits, and exhausted his benefits as of September 2008.**

**He and I have both searched for employment and have turned up nothing thus far. It is harder for him due to economic times and also due to his age of 50. His career has been in the garbage industry since he was a teen.**

**I now deliver newspapers 7 days a week for about \$100 a week. It is not enough money to pay our rent or any of our other bills, but at least it is something for now.**

**My husband decided that the only way to make money would be to start a sanitation business with a friend of his who was also laid off by the same company.**

**They have yet to bring in enough money to pay any of the bills at home.**

**We did not ask to be in this situation, but we are, and now we are being told that the Governor wants us to pay co-pays on top of it all.**

**First she forces us into for profit HMO's, where many are having a hard time finding the care they and their children need, and now the Governor wants us to pay for this care too?**

**Again, we did not choose to be in this situation, but we are.**

**I look at how this proposal for co-pays will affect children whose parents are sick and need medication everyday, but will not be able to afford it if this is not stopped.**

**I ask that you look at this situation very carefully, and not let this proposal take place, as many will end up going untreated and in the end it will cost the state a lot more money.**

**As for the Commission on Children being on the list of budget cuts, I personally find that to be a very poor decision on the state's part.**

**The Commission on Children has many inexpensive trainings available to parents throughout the State.**

**I am a Parent Leadership Training Institute graduate of the 2001 class in Danbury, and know first hand all of the good that comes from this organization.**

**From newer playgrounds that are safe for our children to playgroups and support groups for many parents in our state. And the list goes on.**

**Many of the things that parents have been taught through this organization have helped to save the state money in many ways.**

**For the Governor to declare February, "Parent Leadership Month," and then look to cut one of the biggest Parent Leadership Organizations out there is a real problem. How will new parents learn how to advocate for their children and to learn that they do have a voice and it is heard?**