

SENATOR HARP & REPRESENTATIVE GERAGOSIAN

My name is Joe McLaughlin. I am a provider of Birth to Three services and a member of the Interagency Coordinating Council that advises the Dept of Developmental Services on issues related to the Birth to Three System.

I am here today to speak in support of the Governor's proposed budget and to ask members of this committee for your continued support of the Birth to Three System. Over the past few years we have developed a data system that now allows for an analysis of the program's effectiveness both in terms of outcomes for children and in cost savings for state and local governments. I'd like to share with you some impressive findings.

- **98% of families** report that Birth to Three helped them to help their children develop and learn.
- Over **90% of all children** who exited Birth to Three in FY 2008, who received at least six months of intervention, improved to age level or near age level in social-emotional development, early language, and early literacy skills.

Birth to Three helps to reduce state and local expenditures.

For example:

\$7,433 = The average annual cost to the State for a child in Birth to Three

\$20,250 = The average annual cost of a child in special education ¹

- Data from the State Department of Education indicates that of all the children who received Birth to Three services, **65% did not** require special education by kindergarten.¹
- Each year approximately 1,380 children who received Birth to Three services do not need special education.
- Using the per pupil cost of \$20,250 that is a savings of \$27,945,000 per year for each grade level.
- The total savings for kindergarten through twelfth grade is as much as \$363,285,000

**Birth to Three is one of Connecticut's best investments.
We thank you for your continued support.**