



Shaping Our Children's School Success

Middletown School Readiness Council

Testimony Presented to the Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan
December 9, 2009

Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Governor's proposed deficit mitigation plan. We are alarmed by the Governor's proposal! It includes over \$20 million in cuts to children's programs. These cuts will directly impact children and families, many of whom are our most vulnerable. They will also undo programs aimed at improving early childhood outcomes.

Some of the most detrimental cuts to early care and education include:

- State Funded Child Care Centers - 28.3% cut (\$4,501,145)
- Care4Kids - 10.3% cut (\$10.7 million)
- Community Plans for Early Childhood - 100% cut (\$400,000)
- Early Literacy Funds - 100% cut (\$150,000)
- Commission on Children - 100% cut
- Children's Trust Fund - 33.8% cut (\$4,594,317)

In addition, serious cuts are proposed to health care, child behavioral health, school-based health clinics and after school programs. We urge this committee to act as champions for families all over Connecticut who depend on these programs to work and to raise and educate their young children.

We ask you to protect children from budget cuts. Preserve funding for programs aimed at serving children and improving early childhood outcomes. Reject the Governor's proposed cuts that impact children and families. Close the budget gap by raising taxes on those who can afford to pay more.

Thank you,

The Middletown School Readiness Council

Sebastian Giuliano, Mayor

Dr. Michael J. Frechette, Superintendent of Schools

Betsy Morgan, Council Chair, Middlesex Coalition for Children

Monica Belyea, WIC
Wendy Berlind, Middletown Cooperative Preschool
Ed Bonilla, Middlesex United Way
William Boyd, Board of Education
Cindy Cappetta, Director, Even Start Program
Sheila Daniels, Family Day Care Provider, Board of Education, Parent
Julie Deak, Community Health Center
Lisa Ellis, Director, CRT Head Start Program
Alice Ellovich, Dept. of Social Services
Christine Fahey, School Readiness Coordinator
Dr. Stephen Gaarder, Parent
James Gaudreau, Principal, Wilbert Snow School
Tina Gomes, Special Projects, Manager & Budget Analyst to the Mayor
Renata Lantos, Principal, Bielefield School
Beverly Lawrence, CT Parent Power
Dr. Jerome Long, Grandparent
Susan Macary, Family Advocacy Program, Middlesex Hospital
Donna Marino, Parent Resource Coordinator
Krystal Ndukwu, A.M.E.Zion Church
Dr. Cliff O'Callahan, Pediatrician, Middlesex Family Practice/Family Residency
Christine O'Grady, Family-School Connection
Maureen Partyka, Director, Family Resource Centers
Ann Perzan, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education
Katie Pierini, Student Intern
Kitty Robinson, Children's Department Head, Russell Library
Dr. Robert Rosenbaum, Chair, PIMMS, Wesleyan University
Alice Torres, Area Cooperative Education Services