



Meriden
Children First

OPPOSE Governor's Bill No. 840

March 16, 2009

Dear Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and Members of the GAE Committee:

I am writing to urge you to **protect the Connecticut Commission on Children and the Parent Trust Fund by opposing Governor's Bill No. 840.**

Research shows that parent engagement has a significant and positive impact on child outcomes, particularly in education and health. Both the Commission on Children and the Parent Trust Fund support planning, programs and activities that prepare parents, grandparents, and other adult caregivers to work with school, community and state leaders to improve health, safety and learning outcomes for all children.

The Parent Trust Fund - the first initiative of this kind in the nation - was established through groundbreaking legislation passed by the Connecticut General Assembly in June, 2001. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeded the Trust with \$250,000. The William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund followed as the first Connecticut foundation to contribute. **Importantly, Graustein continues to offer private matching funds to the State's investment in the Parent Trust.** Now with five years of success, the Fund has earned strong bipartisan support from the Governor, the Legislature, and local elected officials.

The **Commission on Children and Parent Trust Fund** have made an important difference here in Meriden. These resources are vital investments in our state's children and families - especially in these challenging economic times.

Sincerely,

David Radcliffe

David Radcliffe
Director

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