



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

*TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
February 19, 2009*

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House Bill (HB) 6411

AN ACT CONCERNING (AAC) REDUCTION IN CHILD POVERTY AND INVESTMENT IN
PREVENTION

Senator Musto, Representative Urban and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Children, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to Section 2 of HB 6411 AAC Reduction in Child Poverty and Investment in Prevention.

Governor Rell, as expressed in her recently released Prevention budget, has shown a significant commitment to prevention services for children and their families and she is well aware of the potential future budget savings that can be realized from prevention programs. The Governor's prevention budget for the coming biennium identifies that 5% of her recommended appropriations for the agencies included in the budget are devoted to primary prevention services for children and their families.

Unfortunately, Section 2 of HB 6411 requires the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to reallocate expenditures in order to achieve 10% appropriations for prevention. I would respectfully recommend that, if the General Assembly would like additional expenditures directed toward prevention services, it should do so in the course of the normal budgeting process during the legislative session rather than enacting a budget and then requiring the executive branch to make adjustments. By design, the budget development process in the Connecticut General Assembly affords ample opportunity for public input as well as extensive evaluation and discussion of all appropriations in the final enacted state budget.

As you are well aware, a reallocation of expenditures toward prevention services would result in the reduction of other important ongoing state services. Especially during our current budget crisis, a decision to reallocate expenditures would certainly jeopardize direct services for children and families and it would be ultimately detrimental to the very children and families we are trying to help. The provisions of HB 6411 would only serve to reduce our flexibility in

crafting a responsible and responsive state budget that serves the most pressing needs of all of the state's citizens.

In addition, Section 2 of this bill would add duties for the Office of Policy and Management. To complete these specific duties would require additional resources for OPM which are neither in our current budget nor reflected in the Governor's proposed budget.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this written testimony and my staff and I are available to answer any questions you may have.