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Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, Inc.

Human Services Committee February 11, 2010

Testimony in support of the Nurturing Families Network - A Program of The Children's Trust Fund – A Division of the CT Department of Social Services

Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Cheryl Burack. I am the Executive Director of Coordinating Council For Children In Crisis and the Program Manager of its Nurturing Families Network (NFN) program. The Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan has proposed the elimination of all 14 of the non-hospital based Nurturing Families Network sites, resulting in a job loss to approximately 80 Connecticut residents. An additional unknown number of jobs will be lost because even the hospital-based sites will be forced to eliminate positions in order to absorb the proposed 30% cut, added to the 5% rescission that has already been made. I urge you to vote against these program cuts.

The Nurturing Families Network uses evidence-based materials and achieves very specific and cost-saving outcomes. Research conducted since the program began shows that

- The rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect in high-risk families participating in Nurturing Families is, on average, only 3% compared to 20% for similar families not participating in this type of program.
- The immunization rate for two-year olds in NFN is 93% compared to 66% for two year olds with a similar demographic background on Medicaid.