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Nurturing Families Network
Testimony to the Appropriations Committee at the Public hearing on
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I understand that there are plans to dramatically cut budget funding to Children's Trust Fund Programs including Nurturing Families Network, Parent Trust, and Family-School Connection. These programs improve the lives of children and families throughout our state. They are designed to create healthy families that give back to their communities. As a state, why do we feel these programs are expendable?

As a home visitor with the Nurturing Families Program, I can give you many statistical reasons why this program works. Just a few reasons are our families significantly reduce their risk for abuse and neglect; the parents earn higher levels of education and employment rates also increase while in the program. But more importantly, I can tell you Nurturing Families works because I am fortunate to see these families grow and develop along with their amazing children. I have seen teen parents complete their high school degree and go on to college. I have seen parents of special needs children rise up to become a strong advocate within the systems of care. I have seen parents with social anxiety overcome it to attend community events. With the support Nurturing Families Network provides, Connecticut families flourish and become incredible assets to their children and their community.

As a graduate of Parent Leadership Training Institute, I have learned valuable skills that have made me a stronger leader within my community. I have developed a sense of myself within the community and feel I can affect positive change for my community and state. As a Nurturing Families Home Visitor, I have been able to use this learned skill set in various setting from teaching others, to advocating in the school, and legislating at the state capitol. I have become a more effective coworker, family member and advocate for children thanks to my experiences in Parent Leadership Training Institute.

With all the positive and effective work that Nurturing Families Network, Parent Trust, & Family-School Connection accomplishes throughout our state, I ask you to save the funding to the Children's Trust Fund.