

February 10, 2010

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to again express my deep concern over the consideration to eliminate the Commission on Children. I remain acutely aware of the challenges that you face in this session and find myself sympathetic to the demands inherent within that. Yet I feel I must address the profound impact on children and families that will be created by the elimination of this Commission, as well as the significant loss to our State in the future.

As these troubled times continue to unfold in what seems to be a landslide of unpredictable developments, Connecticut citizens are looking to you for wisdom and vision. We know that we have a duty to stay aware and on the pulse of the fundamental risks to our most vulnerable citizens. We work tirelessly together as advocates, lawmakers, and the like to embrace our responsibilities and to hold the course so that nothing is lost. When times get tough, we can convince ourselves that all is well and that others can simply adopt to accomplish the same outcomes for less. Unfortunately, there is clear evidence that State agencies, the most likely to take over such activities, are burdened to manage the elements within their current scope. The systems are severely compromised and those whose charge it is to intervene on behalf of those at current risk will likely do little more than that in this period of time.

Connecticut developed Commissions such as the Commission on Children with clarity and commitment to staying ahead of compromising trends. Sadly from our history, we know that once the impact of those trends is here it is often devastating and lasting. The Commission on Children works diligently to monitor and report on those trends that will pose undue risk and hardship on kids and they do it using minimal State dollars. They also partner with others to forward meaningful efforts on behalf of families and they keep us focused through the sheer steadfastness of their voice and standing. Additionally, the Commission on Children, through their activities, facilitates securing monies that far exceed their cost to this State. In short, we spend a little and get a lot for Connecticut families through the Commission's efforts and in doing so, preserve a vital opportunity to remain focused on our future, our children and the fundamental needs that must not be pushed to the side during troubled times.

I strongly support the continued efforts and existence of the Commission on Children, and ask you to do the same.

Robyn Trowbridge
Connecticut Family Support Council