

Sojourner Network of Democratic Women



Sojourner Network of Democratic Women's (S.N.D.W.) Position Statement on the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Package *Appropriations Committee's Public Hearing (December 9, 2009)*

SNDW is a Democratic Political Action Committee of Black women, dedicated to advocacy and activism through the political process on issues that affect Black women and their families. We are committed to petitioning and holding accountable state and local office holders in addressing those issues that impact on the health, education and well being of CT's children and youth. SNDW's membership is represented in cities across the State of Connecticut. Our members are elected officials in their own right, serve on the National Democratic Committee, CT Democratic State Central Committee, local boards of aldermen and city councils, local town committees as well as boards and commissions at both the state and local level.

In the interest of CT's children, women and families, SNDW seeks the support of the Appropriations Committee and all CT elected legislators to eliminate all of the following Deficit Mitigation Plan Budget funding cuts that would have a devastating impact on CT's children, youth and families and, in particular, children, youth and families of color.

- CT's Early Childhood Information System in the State Department of Education
- State Department of Education Office for Early Childhood Planning, Outreach, and Coordination
- Health Education Lead Poisoning Prevention initiative within Urban Health and Education Departments
- Cuts in crucially needed federal funds for the 2010 Early Learning Challenge Grant application from CT that include Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) for CT to receive substantial federal funding.
- Cuts that result in delays for Raise the Age, thereby keeping children in adult courts and prisons
- Elimination of youth employment and after school programs
- Closing of many Nurturing Families home visitation programs
- Reduced funding for children with special health care needs
- Suspending of intakes into the Voluntary Services Program for children with mental health needs
- Reductions in housing and homelessness funds
- Imposing Medicaid co-payments and HUSKY B health care premiums
- Elimination of the Parent Trust Fund for parent leadership
- Elimination of the African American Affairs Commission
- Elimination the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- Elimination of the Commission on Children

(Refer to Position Statement Signatures on Page 2 of this Document)

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Position Statement Signature Page

My signature indicates my support for the elimination of all Deficit Mitigation Plan Budget funding cuts that would have a devastating impact on CT's children, youth and families, and in particular, Connecticut's children, youth and families of color which specifically includes the list provided on page one of this document.

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