



YALE RUDD CENTER  
FOR FOOD POLICY & OBESITY

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Toni N. Harp, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Toni E. Walker, Co-Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony concerning the funding for the **Commission on Children**.

The Rudd Center, directed by Dr. Kelly Brownell, seeks to improve the world's diet, prevent obesity, and reduce weight stigma by developing targeted research whose findings support policies that create real change. Much of our research is focused on childhood obesity prevention and we have been fortunate to work closely with the Commission on Children.

The Rudd Center strongly urges you to maintain the funding for the Commission on Children and to ensure its future. Its loss would reverberate deeply and widely at any point in time, and most especially in these difficult economic times when children are becoming even more vulnerable. The Commission's work is comprehensive, touching on all aspects of children's lives both at home, at school, and in the community.

Since our center opened in 2005, we have worked with the Commission on a variety of issues related to the serious and growing epidemic of childhood obesity in Connecticut.

The Commission serves a crucial and multi-faceted role as a voice for children. It represents their needs in the State House and the Governor's office, developing cutting edge policy and working as an indispensable guide to legislators; it is a resource and research center; it brings in much-needed federal dollars; and convenes a wide array of leaders and advocates in education, business, and government on behalf of children. It also works to empower parents to advocate for themselves.

As we conduct our research, and discover ways to have a positive impact on childhood overweight and obesity, we continue to rely on and highly value our relationship with the Commission to help us educate policy makers, communities, families and other citizens, about making real change in the lives of Connecticut's children. We hope to continue to collaborate with the Commission on a variety of issues, among them ensuring that all districts have strong wellness policies and improving pre-

school nutrition. We count on the Commission to serve as a critical voice in the legislature to help us convey the importance of strong, science-based obesity prevention measures.

We urge you not to sacrifice children's well-being in the present or the future, and to continue funding this effective and important voice for Connecticut's children.

Respectfully submitted,

 

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