



Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, Inc.

www.ccccnh.org

February 17, 2012

Testimony In Support of H.B. 5014,
An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures and Revenues
for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Cheryl Burack and I'm representing Coordinating Council For Children In Crisis, Inc. and the Coalition for Nurturing Families Network. I would like to express my appreciation to Governor Malloy for funding early care and education programs including early home visitation through the DSS Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Network.

We know that the child's interaction with his or her environment – including the caretaking, nurturing and love that the child receives - has a material impact on the way the brain develops. Early home visitation services to vulnerable families positively impact children's health, social, emotional and cognitive development beginning at birth. By age three, 80% of brain development is complete. Before age three, a Home Visitor may be the only outsider who sees the family on a regular basis, putting him or her in a unique position to identify and address

problems early and to positively impact children's learning outcomes and help the family build a strong foundation for future success right from the start.

The Nurturing Families Network is a federally approved, evidence-based Parents As Teachers Program and has demonstrated results through results-based accountability for all seven of the federal Performance Measures, including improvement in child development and school readiness, improvement in child and maternal health and improvement in parenting skills and behaviors, to name a few. We are dedicated to the development of a coordinated statewide system of early home visitation and look forward to continued efforts to improve and promote positive health, cognitive, social and emotional developmental outcomes for children.

Thank you.

Cheryl Burack, M.S.

Executive Director

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