



## **Appropriations Committee Public Hearing, 2.22.2013**

**Testimony by: Galit Sharma**

### **In Support of HB 6359: Creation of an Office of Early Childhood**

Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Galit Sharma, I am a Program Director of the Nurturing Families Network at the Family Centered Services of CT (formerly the Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis), and a Co-Chair of CT-PEN, the Connecticut Parenting Education Network. I hope that you will support HB 6359, which calls for creating an Office of Early Childhood (OEC) which can coordinate, improve and enhance the delivery of quality services to children and their families.

I would like to thank you for your support of the Nurturing Families Network program, and for recognizing the positive effects it has on the most vulnerable families and their young children. I also want to thank the Governor, the Legislators and the Early Childhood Planning Team. There has been much talk about the fragmented way that early childhood services are delivered, the frustration that providers often feel and the effect of this disconnected system on the families being served. So, thank you for listening, thank you for recognizing the challenges and thank you for taking action to generate change and create new opportunities for a better, unified early childhood system.

There are many good programs in CT, where many good, dedicated people do good and helpful things for families. This is all good, but is not enough. These programs have the potential to impact families in more significant ways if they work together by improving communication, combining resources and increasing collaboration. Instead of wasting time