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February 22, 2013

The Honorable Members of the Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Kinship and Respite Funding for the Probate Court Relative Caregivers

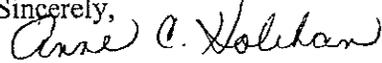
Dear Madam Chair Harp and Madam Chair Abercrombie and Members of the Human Services Subcommittee:

I am opposed to the bill which will eliminate the funding to the Kinship and Respite Fund for the Probate Court Relative Caregivers in the amount of 1.5 million. Our Probate Families have limited resources. The relative caregivers graciously welcome into their homes their grandchildren or perhaps a niece and/or nephew or perhaps even a younger sibling with very limited state assistance available whether it was one child or multiple children taken in the home.

If you wonder if the Kinship and Respite Funds make a difference in someone's life, the program has certainly achieved that goal based on all of the positive feedback from the families. With these Kinship and Respite grants, the Probate Relative Caregivers purchase new sneakers or shoes or clothing which young children are continually outgrowing or much needed school supplies or they are able to enroll the children in great programs such as the Boys and Girls programs or day care or summer camp. If you could see the smiles of happiness and relief on the faces of our Probate relative caregivers, when the caregivers pick up their check in our Courts, then you would realize how much this funding means to our Probate families! The Kinship and Respite Fund is a valuable, but also critical resource for our families! I understand that you have serious budgetary decisions to make in light of the state of our economy. Please consider reinstating this vital funding.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Anne C. Holihan, Esq., Chief Clerk II,  
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