

March 3, 2015

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Gonzalez, and Members of the Appropriations
Legislative Sub-Committee,

I am writing to express our support of the Connecticut Commission on Children and to urge you to fund them at a level consistent with current services for the next biennium.

Save the Children is the leading independent organization creating lasting change for children in need. Our worldwide operations, including hundreds of employees, are headquartered in Westport, CT. We are deeply attuned to the welfare of children in our home state, and we look to the Commission on Children as a key partner in identifying best practices as well as gaps affecting Connecticut's children. We have partnered with the Commission on Children on disaster preparedness and response over the past several years, from the drafting and passage of Public Act No. 11-66, *An Act Concerning Children Affected by Disaster and Terrorism*, to assuring children's needs are factored into temporary disaster shelters during snowstorms and near hurricanes, to responding to the tragedy of Newtown. We find the Commission to constantly be on the cutting edge, looking to national and local best practices, partnering to bring in resources, always seeking to enhance health, safety and learning outcomes for Connecticut's children.

The Connecticut Commission on Children is an agency worth its weight in gold. Save the Children looks forward to continued partnership with the Commission on breaking new ground in mitigating the affects of disasters on children. We hope you will choose to continue your support of this one-of-a kind agency.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our enthusiastic support of the Connecticut Commission on Children, please do not hesitate to call or email me. My cell is: 203-919-2219.

Very best regards,

Jeanne-Aimee De Marrais
Senior Director, US Emergencies
Save the Children
(and lifelong Fairfield, CT resident!)