

To the Members of the Committee on Children,

My name is Jim Ross from Westport CT. I fully and firmly support this bill. Early detection of hearing loss is crucial for early intervention to help both the child and the family address this challenge. A simple hearing screening process in the Birth to Three program would set the child and the educators/specialists on the proper course towards a fulfilling school and life experience.

Getting it right is critical but so is not misdiagnosing hearing loss in children. How many of these children are treated for conditions or illnesses which they simply do not have? Consider the negative impact on these children. As important it is to get it right, it is also critical not to get it wrong!

My 9 year old son, Emmett, has hearing loss which was not detected until after Birth To Three. Having this basic screening would have made a difference in his life I am sure.

Please fully support this bill and vote "yes" for this bill out of your Committee and into law.

Thank you

Jim Ross  
Westport CT