



Testimony for the Appropriations Committee on  
*HB 6824 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and  
Making Appropriations therefor and Other Provisions Related to Revenue*

March 5, 2015

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee my name is Lucy Nolan and I am the executive director of End Hunger Connecticut! a statewide anti-hunger and food security advocacy, outreach and education organization. I am writing in support of the funding for the Commission on Children in the Governor's proposed budget for the Biennium.

End Hunger Connecticut! works closely with the Commission on Children. We have partnered on issues ranging from SNAP Employment and Training, the Speaker's Task Force on Children and the Recession to Childhood Obesity. I am consistently impressed with the Commission's staff knowledge of programs and ways in which programs can be used to meet the needs of our children in the state. Strong and healthy children are our future.

The work that the Commission did on SNAP E&T brought focus to the DSS in building up this federally funded program that allows low-income people to gather the education and training necessary to lead an independent life. The program has increased over the years and helped many while bringing in federal funds to the state. Similar stories can be told with Children and the Recession, the Children's Report Card and the CT Coalition Against Childhood Obesity.

The Commission's laser focus on programs that can help our children in Connecticut has created nationally emulated policy in other states. Not only do many of these policies increase the economic, academic and food security of our children they often bring with them needed funding. The investment that the state has in the Commission on Children is paid back regularly.

There have been many people that I have met that have gone through the Parent Leadership Training Institute, people who are out in the world making change. The Commission on Children gave them the voice they needed to advocate for their children and their towns. These are people who are prepared and ready to shape lives, and it's due to the Commission.

Please continue to support the Commission on Children in the upcoming biennium budget.

Thank you.