

Dear REP. MICHAEL D'AGOSTINO and SEN. MARTIN LOONEY,

I am RITA ESPOSITO living in Hamden, CT. I am the Executive Director of REACHOUT, INC., a contracted BIRTH to THREE agency serving 20 communities in south central CT.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

This is detrimental to the Birth to Three System as a whole for a number of reasons:

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Private providers have been given only a 1% cost of living increase in five years. Any decrease in revenue will jeopardize service providers. Private providers in surrounding states are already experiencing significant issues balancing IDEA requirements and Medicaid funding restrictions. Connecticut should not make the same mistakes as others; rather we should benefit from their lived experiences.

This proposed system shift will result in unintended consequences impacting our most vulnerable children across the state. Birth to Three has been the premier Results Based Accountability Program in Connecticut. Statistics reflect that 51% of children who received Birth to Three services and were enrolled in Kindergarten in 2011-2012 did not require special education services.

***Special Education costs \$27,000 per year per student**

***Birth to Three costs \$8,165 per year per child**

This is a tremendous savings for school systems across the state and these issues warrant your immediate attention.

I implore you to provide us with your support to avoid a collapse of our Birth to Three System. We are greatly concerned that this procedural change will have a significant negative impact on our mission. Providers are vested in working with you to identify reasonable alternatives to foster the development of our most vulnerable children across the state.

Respectfully,

Rita Esposito, PT

Dear ^{REP.} Mary Tritz AND SENATOR LEONARD FASANO,

My name is Sedy Rodriguez. I live in Wallingford. I am a Birth to Three provider, in the role of a Physical Therapist

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Sedy A. Rodriguez

Dear Hilda Santiago & Dante Bartolomeo,

My name is Anna Predmore, I live in Meriden and I am occupational therapist at Reachout Inc, a birth to three agency.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Anna J Predmore, OTL

Dear Vincent Candelera and State Senator Ted Kennedy,

My name is Debbie Wilkinson. I live in Northford. I am a provider in the Birth to Three System.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Debbie Wilkinson

Dear Representative Klaides and Senator Hlossberg,

My name is Jennifu DiSorbo. I live in Orange. I am Birth to Three service provider.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Jennifu DiSorbo

Dear Representative Stanaski, Senator Stosberg,

My name is Cheryl Buckley, I live in Milford and am a teacher for the Birth to Three System.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Cheryl A Buckley

Dear Senator Kennedy, Rep. Scanlon and Rep. Reed
My name is Mary Capozzone, I live in Branford. I am
an early intervention specialist for Ct. Birth to Three.

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Dear State Representative Victor Cuevas and State Senator Joan Hartley,

My name is Elaine Balsley. I live in Waterbury. I am a Birth to Three provider working at Reachout, Inc.

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Dear Senator Stossberg and Representative Rose,
My name is Tammy Theis-Satterlee. I live in Milford, CT.
I am a provider in the Birth to Three system.

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Respectfully,


Dear *Senator Gayle S. Stossberg, and Representative Stephen D. Dragon*
My name is Judy Torello, I live in West Haven, CT. I am a
Special education teacher in The Birth to Three System

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Dear Mr. Adinolfi,

My name is Karen Galvin. I live in Cheshire, CT. I am a physical therapist & a Birth to Three provider.

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Karen A Galvin, PT/MAT

Dear Dante Bartolomeo,

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Respectfully,

Karen L. Galvin, PT/MP

Dear REP. J. BRENDAN SHARKEY AND SENATOR LOONEY,

I AM DIANE MITAL, LIVING IN HAMDEN, CT. I AM A SPEECH THERAPIST, PROVIDING BIRTH TO THREE SERVICES THROUGH THE REACHOUT, INC. PROGRAM.

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Respectfully,



Dear REPRESENTATIVE CRISTIN MCCARTHY VAHEY and SENATOR TONY HWANG ,
MY NAME IS MARGARET (MEG) BARLOW. I LIVE IN FAIRFIELD, CT. I AM A TEACHER
EMPLOYED BY REACHOUT, INC, A BIRTH TO THREE PROVIDER AGENCY.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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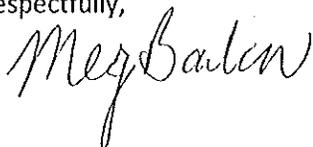
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Respectfully,



Dear Dante Bartolomeo and Catherine Aberchombey

My name is Mary Doyon, I live in Meriden, I'm an Early Intervention Associate at Reachout Inc, in Hamden,
I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Mary Doyon

Dear Rep. Lezlye Zupkus +
Sen. Joe Crisco

My name is Nicolette Aynat-Nolan. I live in Bethany. I am a Birth-3 service provider in the role of ^{special educator.}
I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

Nicolette Aynat-Nolan

Dear Senator Crisco and State Representative Zupkus

My name is Sarah Culbertson. I live in Bethany, CT. I am a speech-language pathologist for the CT Birth-to-Three system.

I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,

 MS CCC/SLP

Dear *Senator Leonard Fasano and Representative Roland Lumar,*
My name is Stephanie Kelsey-Reynolds. I live in East Haven and I am an occupational therapist working in the Birth to Three program
I would like to bring your attention to significant changes that are being proposed for the Birth to Three System. As you know, Birth to Three has been slated to move from the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Early Childhood. This service system is in a state of flux with additional significant changes being proposed. Currently, DDS handles all Medicaid billing for Birth to Three; however, OPM intends to shift this burden onto private providers without conducting a feasibility study.

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Respectfully,



Dear

Rep. J. Brendan Sharkey and Senator Looney

I am Leigh Porterfield. I live in Hamden. I am a Birth-3 provider, in the roll of a speech-language pathologist.

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Dear J. Brendan Sharkey & Martin M. Looney
My name is Cynthia Gonzalez. I live in Hamden. I am a Birth to Three service provider in the role of physical therapist.
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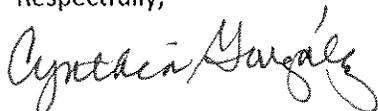
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Dear Representative Sharky and Senator Looney,

My name is Civia Eldrich. I live in Haddam. I am a Birth to Three service provider in the role of speech-language pathologist.

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Dear *Lady Zupkus and Joe Casco,*

My name is Jeannie Barletta. I live in Bethany. I am a Birth to Three service provider, in the role of an Early Intervention Associate.

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Dear State Representative, Mary M. Mushinsky and
State Senator, Leonard A. Fasano,

My name is Allison Salem. I live in Wallingford, CT. I am a Birth to
Three provider.

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Respectfully,

Allison Salem

Dear Representative Conroy and Senator Crisco,
My name is Kerri Cybulski and I live in Beacon Falls. I am an Occupational Therapist for the CT Birth to Three Program.

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Dear J. Brendan Sharkey & Senator Martin Looney

My name is Janet Quinones Tobin. I live in Hamden CT. I am a Birth to Three provider.

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This is a tremendous savings for school systems across the state and these issues warrant your immediate attention.

I implore you to provide us with your support to avoid a collapse of our Birth to Three System. We are greatly concerned that this procedural change will have a significant negative impact on our mission. Providers are vested in working with you to identify reasonable alternatives to foster the development of our most vulnerable children across the state.

Respectfully,

