



Stepping Stones Museum for Children

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steppingstonesmuseum.org

February 19, 2016

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Stepping Stones Museum for Children, I would like to express my appreciation and full support of the Connecticut Commission on Children and its remarkable contributions to the State of Connecticut, our children and families. Since opening in March 2000, Stepping Stones has become a premier multidimensional educational resource, serving millions of children and their families in meaningful ways that matter most to them and the community. The Commission on Children has played a major role in the museum's success from the beginning, helping to connect resources and best practices to achieve the greatest impact for those we serve.

Beginning in 2003, the Commission on Children partnered with Stepping Stones on an award-winning, multifaceted initiative titled Healthy Children, Healthy Communities that is currently comprised of onsite and touring exhibits and programs promoting the health and well-being of children, families and the community. In the past decade, Healthy Children, Healthy Communities has reached more than 3 million people in Connecticut as well as 14 additional states around the country.

The work of the Commission on Children is carried out by a small, yet mighty team, and led by an innovative, forward-thinking and highly-respected executive director who is informed and responsive to the real needs and interests of Connecticut's children, families, schools and their support systems. We are very fortunate to have this incredible resource in our state. Your continued investment in the Commission on Children is an impressive and important acknowledgement that Connecticut's children are our top priority. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Kish".

Rhonda Kiest
President and CEO