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**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee  
Re: State Agency Presentations on Governor's Budget Adjustments**

**Department of Social Services**

My name is Sherry Linton, the Early Care and Education Policy Analyst of Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), which is dedicated to ending poverty in Connecticut and ensuring that all families have the tools they need to achieve economic security.

- I would first like to applaud the Governor's acknowledgement of the importance of keeping the Care for Kids Program open to eligible families. The addition of \$10,570,097 to Child Care Services is desperately needed.
- It is imperative that we continue to move in the direction of increasing funding to Child Care Services. According to the 2005 census, the cost of full time care for an infant in a center accounts for 39% of a single parent's income. Let's continue to create incentives for work, not disincentives.
- Cutting of funding from any early education service is counter to the goal of having all children Ready by Five and Fine by Nine. For this reason, the cut in funding to school tutorial programs operated by community based organizations makes no sense. This \$335,803 cut from the DSS School Readiness line item should not be reinstated.

In closing, to have significant impact on child poverty and achievement gaps, the State needs to demonstrate consistent commitment to adequately fund programs that address the needs of both the family and the child. It is imperative that a holistic approach to services for children becomes the norm. A stronger spirit of cooperation across all agencies would go a long way in moving the needle on poverty.