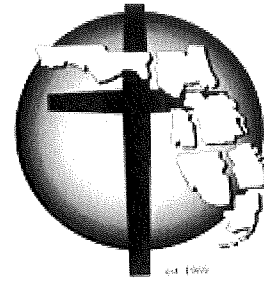


FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

201 WEST PARK AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301-7715

PHONE (850) 222-3803
FAX (850) 681-9548
www.flacathconf.org

D. MICHAEL MCCARRON, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



March 11, 2011

The Honorable Denise Grimsley
Florida Representative, District 77
Room 222, The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: Urging Support for Healthy Families Florida

Dear Representative Grimsley:

As you work to harmonize the many needs of our state in the development of a fair and just budget, we urge your continued support and preservation of Healthy Families Florida, a program that has a proven record for preventing child abuse and neglect among families with high risk factors.

Because Healthy Families is voluntary, there is no compulsion upon the parents to participate, but when they choose to do so, the outcomes are remarkable. The vast majority of the children in families served by Healthy Families do not have involvement in the child protection system due to abuse or neglect. Amidst the current economic downturn, the program has remained accountable and cost-effective. Many social indicators prove that child abuse is not free. The costs in pain, distress and real dollars are significant. Investing in the proven success of Healthy Families will save many families from expensive failures, for them and our state.

The very substantial cuts to Healthy Families last session have resulted in a more than one-third reduction in services to this particularly high risk population. We remain concerned for the more than 5,000 vulnerable children whose families no longer have access to the program. We urge you to protect the remaining \$18.1 million which survived last year's deep cuts.

The moral demands of justice call on us to do all possible to preserve the safety net for those with the greatest need. We are confident in the good fruit that will be borne of the investment of Florida dollars for at risk children served by Healthy Families. Not only does the program save our children from the pain and suffering of child abuse and neglect, but also saves the state a great deal of money.

We are pleased to join in the chorus of support for this vital child abuse and neglect prevention program.

Sincerely,

D. Michael McCarron
Executive Director

cc: Speaker Cannon
Rep. Matt Hudson

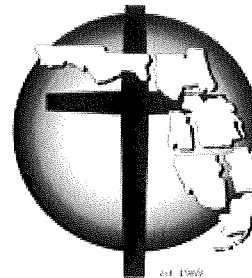
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D. MICHAEL McCARRON, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



March 11, 2011

The Honorable JD Alexander
Florida Senator, District 17
Room 412 Senate Office Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: Urging Support for Healthy Families Florida

Dear Senator Alexander:

As you work to harmonize the many needs of our state in the development of a fair and just budget, we urge your continued support and preservation of Healthy Families Florida, a program that has a proven record for preventing child abuse and neglect among families with high risk factors.

Because Healthy Families is voluntary, there is no compulsion upon the parents to participate, but when they choose to do so, the outcomes are remarkable. The vast majority of the children in families served by Healthy Families do not have involvement in the child protection system due to abuse or neglect. Amidst the current economic downturn, the program has remained accountable and cost-effective. Many social indicators prove that child abuse is not free. The costs in pain, distress and real dollars are significant. Investing in the proven success of Healthy Families will save many families from expensive failures, for them and our state.

The very substantial cuts to Healthy Families last session have resulted in a more than one-third reduction in services to this particularly high risk population. We remain concerned for the more than 5,000 vulnerable children whose families no longer have access to the program. We urge you to protect the remaining \$18.1 million which survived last year's deep cuts.

The moral demands of justice call on us to do all possible to preserve the safety net for those with the greatest need. We are confident in the good fruit that will be borne of the investment of Florida dollars for at risk children served by Healthy Families. Not only does the program save our children from the pain and suffering of child abuse and neglect, but also saves the state a great deal of money.

We are pleased to join in the chorus of support for this vital child abuse and neglect prevention program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Michael McCarron". The signature is fluid and cursive.

D. Michael McCarron
Executive Director

cc: President Haridopolis

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI • DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE • DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG • DIOCESE OF ORLANDO
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