

New York State Citizen Review Panels

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March 16, 2005

Governor George Pataki
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

We are writing on behalf of the Eastern Citizen Review Panel to ask for your support for \$20 million in funding to support the Healthy Families Home Visiting programs and for \$1.5 million in dedicated funding for the William B. Hoyt Memorial New York State Children & Family Trust Fund.

Both the Home Visiting funding and the Children & Family Trust Fund support programs in communities throughout New York State that are making a difference in families' lives and preventing child abuse and neglect. These programs work by strengthening families through the provision of needed supports, services, and education to help parents meet their children's needs.

As a Citizen Review Panel, we are federally mandated to review and provide oversight to important child protective services. We evaluate the extent to which agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with the State's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Plan, child protection standards set forth in the federal law, and any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children. We have had a long-term commitment to the programs supported by this funding and are greatly disappointed to think that neither of these programs will have the continued funding they need to support existing programs.

We urge you to fully support these important programs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stacy Alvord
Chair, Eastern New York
Citizen Review Panel