

June 23, 2010

County Executive Brooks
County Office Building
39 W. Main St.
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear County Executive Brooks:


A year ago we wrote to thank you for your help in securing an increased allocation of \$7.8M in state funding for child care and to thank you for your leadership in swiftly changing Monroe County policies to increase the number of children from low-income, working families who could attend quality child care programs.

As community members who understand the research regarding the importance of investing in the care and education of young children, we ask that you again lead the community in protecting the quality child care settings that the early childhood community and the County has worked together for 20 years to create and preserve, which not only allow parents to work, but give children the best possible start in school and life.

We know that keeping our current system of quality care intact is paramount to improving the economy. Investing in young children is not just compassionate, it's smart. Dr. James Heckman, a University of Chicago professor who won the Nobel Prize in Economics, says, "In an era of tight government budgets, it is impractical to consider active investment programs for all persons. The real question is how to use available funds wisely. The best evidence supports the policy prescription: invest in the very young."

Thank you for your continued support for young children. Please continue that support by maintaining the rate differential for accredited centers at 10% and maintaining eligibility for child care subsidies at 165% of the federal poverty level.

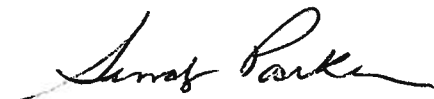
Sincerely,



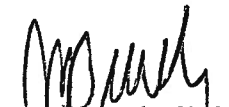
Jennifer Leonard
The Community Foundation




Dirk Hightower
The Children's Institute




Sandy Parker
Rochester Business Alliance



James Brush, CEO
Sentry Safe



Lois Geiss
Past President of Rochester City Council



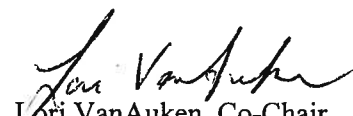
Jeff Kaczorowski
The Children's Agenda



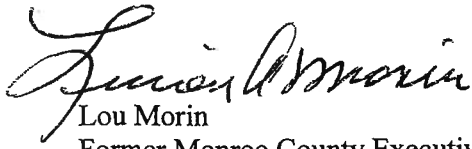
Barbara-Ann Mattle, CEO
Child Care Council



Jacquie Cady
ECDI Chair Emeritus



Lori VanAuken, Co-Chair
Early Childhood Development Initiative



Lou Morin
Former Monroe County Executive



Katherine Smith, President
League of Women Voters



Nancy Kaplan
Rochester's Child



Marsha Dumka, Co-Chair
ECDI Advocacy Committee



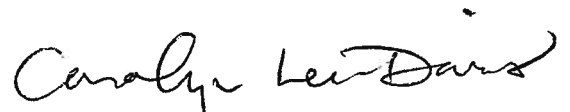
Diane Larter
Community Volunteer



Dan Ross, Co-Chair
Early Childhood Development Initiative



Caroline Merenda
Rochester Area Community Foundation



Carolyn Lee-Davis
The Children's Agenda