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Testimony in support of:

S.B. No. 840 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN. Study the programs within the Department of Children and Families that affect the wellbeing of children in the state

S.B. No. 839 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S ISSUES Initiate a study to evaluate the various mental emotional and physical issues that are faced by children in the state.

H.B. No. 6664 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN. Study to evaluate the health of children throughout the state.

Good Afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and Members of the Children's Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Fraser; I am a policy analyst at the Connecticut Association for Human Services. CAHS works to reduce poverty and promote economic success through both policy and program work.

Connecticut has a plethora of agencies, policies and programs aimed at ensuring children grow up safe and healthy. Unfortunately, we know that despite our efforts, some children are still not thriving. We also know that adverse conditions in early childhood can have long lasting effects, often into adulthood. To plan for these children and the next generation of children, it is important to take a closer look at how our children are doing, assess trends, evaluate the effectiveness of our existing programs and policies, and move forward.

Although each of these bills has a slightly different theme, they all require a study that will help to inform all of us, policy makers, social service agencies and programs, what is working well in our state and what we might need to be doing better to ensure all children are growing up healthy and to their potential.

We believe that studies that assess state efforts and evaluate how our children are faring are worthwhile and important. They can provide information, context and trends. However, they are only as good as the actions they precipitate. There should be a strong understanding that the results of these studies will inform future work including appropriate interventions. Recommendations offered should be seriously considered. This might include bringing proven programs to scale, re-tooling or eliminating programs with ambiguous results and

