Recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that child poverty is increasing in Connecticut and across the nation. The following data illustrate how specific programs at risk of being cut are effective in helping to reduce poverty:

**Poverty**

- The United States saw an increase in child poverty during the recession, with 22.6% of U.S. children living in poverty in 2012, compared to 18% in 2007.
- In 2012, more than 1 in 7 (14.8%) of Connecticut’s children were living in poverty, up from 11.1% (1 in 9 children) in 2007.
- In 2012, 116,536 Connecticut children lived below the federal poverty threshold (defined as an income of $18,498 for a family of 3 with 2 children or $23,283 for a family of 4 with 2 children).

**Safety Net**

Safety net programs continue to play a key role in reducing poverty in Connecticut:

- Without Unemployment Insurance (UI), approximately 19,000 more Connecticut workers would have been living below the poverty line in 2011.
- The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) kept 61,000 people in Connecticut out of poverty in 2011.
- In addition, if counted as income, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would have lifted an additional 64,000 Connecticut families above the poverty line in 2011.

**Health Insurance**

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (CPS) shows that Medicaid programs helped keep children insured during the recession. While job-based health insurance for Connecticut children declined significantly since the 2006-2007 two-year period, overall coverage for children held steady – illustrating the importance of the Medicaid program in the economic downturn.

- 95.5% of Connecticut’s children had some form of health insurance in the 2011-2012 two-year period, essentially unchanged from before the recession.
- However, the percentage of Connecticut children with employer-sponsored health coverage dropped significantly from 71.9% in 2006-2007 to 68.6.4% in 2011-2012.
- HUSKY, Connecticut’s Medicaid managed care program for low-income families, covers 27.3% of Connecticut’s children.