

February 20, 2017

Dear members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees of the Vermont Legislature,

I am submitting this written testimony to ask for an increase in **funding of the prevention, early intervention and family support services of Children's Integrated Services (CIS).**

Putting money into CIS will benefit pay-wise in the future. For example: A 2-year old that can't speak well and needs one-one-one services in a child care /home. He doesn't receive them, continues into the school system not understood by his teachers – falls behind, needs a one-on-one para-educator – has frustration with classmates, acts out in frustration and becomes a child with behavioral, cognitive and more issues that cost on many levels. A possible misdiagnosis when what he needed was services for possibly a year or two at an early age to overcome his barriers.

CIS provides home visits and early childhood program consultation that maximize children's health, development, and learning, however, CIS is level-funded in Governor Scott's state budget. We ask for an increase in funding from Medicaid, and/or from the General Fund.

Sincerely,

Lisa Duncan, Derby  
Home-based child care provider  
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