

From: Robin Morgan [robinlmorgan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 10:30 PM
To: Rebecca Buck; Theresa Utton
CC: alison@winstonprouty.org
Subject: funding for Children's Integrated Services

I'd like to offer testimony in support of increasing funding to Children's Integrated Services. This organization does essential work for families in our area. Personally I've been the beneficiary of the behavioral support for my son when he was a preschooler, lactation consultation for my daughter when she was a newborn, and as a toddler she is currently a recipient of early intervention services for delayed speech. It's been such a godsend to have these easily accessible supports for my family with highly trained staff.

However beyond my own personal gratitude for the work that CIS does, as member on the Brattleboro Town School Board, I am fully aware of how direly these services are needed in our community. Children who arrive on their first day of kindergarten already not meeting educational or behavioral milestones are at risk of struggling throughout elementary school and beyond. It's of the utmost importance that children who have any kind of need for the services that CIS provides are able to receive that during these extremely formative years. 80% of our town elementary students meet state guidelines to qualify for free or reduced lunch and I suspect the number is the same or perhaps even higher for pre-elementary children. Having to pay for the services that CIS provides would be a significant hurdle for our community so I'm very glad that state funding makes it free to all recipients. I hope that by increasing funding they are able to expand their reach and retain the wonderful staff they have.

Thanks for your consideration

Robin Morgan
Brattleboro Town School Board