

Hello, my name is Donna Bailey and I am the Director of the Addison County Parent/Child Center and the Co-Chair of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network.

Thank you for convening these public hearings in order to hear from Vermonters across the state and for building a budget that supports all Vermonters, focusing on those most in need.

I am here tonight to ask for your support of the Parent Child Centers.

Please fully fund the Parent Child Centers' essential work with families with young children. Base funding for the 8 core services should be \$10million.

In **Fiscal Year 2022**, please work toward getting us toward our goal of \$10 million by ensuring that our Parent Child Centers receive a **base funding** of \$7.5 million.

This means we are asking for a second year of \$3.7 million one-time funding for the Parent Child Centers to support families with young children as they are still dealing with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also requesting an increase in base funding for the Parent Child Centers by \$1.5 million for a total of \$4.8 million in the PCC line.

I hope you are prioritizing Vermont families in your outlining of the budget, ensuring that young Vermont families and the workforce that keeps them moving ahead are supported with preventative measures that will keep families whole and self-reliant in the future.

PCCs are partners with the state and are the hub for connecting families to community and state services.

The work that PCCs do helps families to cope successfully with both the timeless challenges of all families with young children and the new challenges of the 21st century.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Please support this necessary increase for Parent/Child Centers.

Thank you.