for the Record

Testimony of Imari Troche, Teen Parenting Mom with the Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Program.

Attention: Appropriations Committee
with regard to the Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustment
Thursday, February 11, 2009

Hello my name is Imari Troche.
I am 16 years old and I am a first time mom.
I have been involved with the **Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Program** at the Fair Haven Community Health Center For almost 2 years.

Let me tell you why the Nurturing Families Program is so important to first time families. My first reason why they are so important to me is because my home visitor is always on me about school. **She tells me that I have to stay in school and finish. That if I want to achieve my dreams and become the lawyer that I want to be that I have to finish school.** She also tells me that I have to have a better life for me and my son.

My second reason they are supportive is that my home visitor **helps me with my family problems** that I tell her about. She helps me with that **by sending people that can help us when the whole family is in trouble.**

My third reason they are helpful is because my home visitor tells me about first time parenting. She helps me by telling me what to do and what not to do with my child. She helps me by giving me handouts and showing me videos about first time moms. She also talks about the different stages and ages about my baby. She lets me know that at every age they would do things different. And she is helping me become more understanding about my child. **I love my home visitor because she is there when I need her, and to let me know what I am doing wrong, and what I am doing right. She is some what like a back bone, she is the biggest supporter, ever.**

This is why the Children's Trust Fund, Nurturing Families Network needs to continue!!