



December 9, 2009

Dear Friends of Childhaven,

Today, Governor Gregoire released a supplemental state budget that is devastating for 150 of our state's most vulnerable babies and preschoolers. This proposal could remove these abused and neglected children from Childhaven, where they receive critical therapeutic child care, and send them away from the only safe and nurturing place that many of them have ever known.

The proposed \$1.5 million cut from a program called Medicaid Treatment Child Care (MTCC) -- a 50-percent reduction in program funding -- would terminate long-term intensive daily treatment for these 150 children in 2010 and also eliminate support and training for their parents and caregivers. The "savings" to the state budget is a double hit to abused and neglected children since the \$1.5 million in state funds is matched dollar for dollar by federal funds, which will be lost if the budget cut is allowed to stand.

We clearly recognize that the state must take action to resolve a significant budget shortfall. But this cut is terribly short sighted. The MTCC-funded program at Childhaven (and at EPIC, located on the east side of our state) serves the most vulnerable children in our community at the most critical time of their lives. Eliminating funding to help 150 of these children tragically may cost young lives. It also ultimately will cost taxpayers far more than \$1.5 million. Research proves that abused and neglected children who do not receive therapeutic child care are much more likely to use drugs, commit crimes, go on welfare and otherwise become a danger and drain on society rather than contributors to their community.

**Please help us protect our youngest children by urging your legislators to restore MTCC funding.** Your voice does matter. Please tell your state senator and representatives that an investment made in Medicaid Treatment Child Care (MTCC) today can prevent child abuse and neglect for generations to come. We must remind them that this program is unique -- the only hope for the 150 children who will be turned away if MTCC funding is cut. Urge them to think of the young lives that will be forever affected for the sake of short-term financial expediency. **Please tell them to protect this vital service and to restore full funding for MTCC** and that you will hold them accountable for their support of children, too.

Click [here](#) to find your legislators and to send them an email or leave them a voice mail message. Please, take this action today. Legislators do listen to the voice of voters.

On behalf of all the children and families we serve, thank you for your support.

**Debra C. Ronnholm, MA**  
**President**