

IOWA CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 27, 2009

Honorable Chet Culver
Governor, State of Iowa
State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Culver:

These are very difficult times — for Iowans, for elected officials, and especially for children. Iowa does better than most States in terms of child well-being, and yet, in Iowa: 95,000 children (equal to 3 times the enrollment in the Des Moines Public School District) live in poverty; almost 35,000 children have no health insurance; over 38,000 children (the equivalent of the entire population of Cedar Falls) were reported abused or neglected; and almost 160,000 children are alone each day after school.

Your initial budget was consistent with the history of your administration: you made our most vulnerable children a priority and tried to protect them from budget cuts as much as possible. Our committee commends you for your brave actions in protecting our future. Now that the Revenue Estimating Conference has made projections that require additional spending cuts, you are required to identify additional reductions in state spending. Our Committee has asked me to send you this letter to encourage you to continue your brave prioritization of our most vulnerable children. Over thirty years ago, the late Hubert Humphrey said: "The moral test of government is how it treats those at the dawn of life — children."

These challenging economic times require difficult decisions and prioritization of programs. We hope that you will continue to view funding decisions with a keen eye on the impact of those decisions on Iowa's most vulnerable children.

Sincerely Yours,


Jerry R. Foxhoven, Chair

Jerry R. Foxhoven, Chair
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