



235 Peachtree Street • North Tower • Suite 1600 • Atlanta, GA 30303
404-527-7394 • fax 404-527-7443 • www.gafcp.org

May 6, 2009

The Honorable John Linder
1026 Longworth Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1007

Dear Representative Linder:

I am writing to ask for your support on an important bill that would significantly improve access to critical information about the condition of Georgia's children.

Representative Chaka Fattah is preparing to introduce The State Child Well-Being Research Act of 2009, which would expand the National Survey of Child Health. The expansion of the Survey would allow policymakers and practitioners to more effectively analyze how programs are working on the ground and to determine the steps needed to improve the quality of life for children in Georgia—and across the country.

On behalf of Georgia Family Connection Partnership, an organization dedicated to improving outcomes for children, families, and communities in this state, I encourage you to cosponsor Congressman Fattah's legislation. Senator Jay Rockefeller will introduce companion legislation in the Senate. As a member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, we hope you can lend your voice to this important issue.

This legislation, through the expansion of the National Survey of Child Health, would offer more data on a broader range of topics, and input from adolescents that would provide us with greater understanding of the needs in Georgia. We support local decision-making that is based on solid data and informed by research and best practices. Our statewide network of county collaborative organizations uses data as a guide for the programs and practices it implements to improve conditions in local communities.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation and others have offered to invest at least \$1 million a year to train and provide technical assistance to state officials and policy analysts. This will ensure that the data will be understandable, accessible, and will become a valuable tool to increase child well-being in our state. Georgia Family Connection Partnership is a public/private partnership created by the state of Georgia and private funders. We track and monitor 49 indicators of child and family well-being and work collaboratively across all sectors to improve conditions in Georgia. Our work depends on having current, reliable data.

We encourage you to support the State Child Well-Being Research Act, which would greatly benefit and inform our work. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you on behalf of the children and families of Georgia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gaye Morris Smith".

Gaye Morris Smith
Executive Director

A catalyst for improving results for Georgia's children, families and communities.