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**Save Programming for Children and Families:
*Governor aims to cut funding for programs that promote healthy living***

March 4, 2009 - Governor Jennifer Granholm's proposed 2010 budget includes the elimination of funding for 0 to 3 Secondary Prevention and Michigan's Nurse-Family Partnership programs.

This means that \$2 million for the Nurse-Family Partnership program and \$5 million allocated for the Great Parent/Great Start Program would be eliminated.

0 to 3 Secondary Prevention

- In 2008, the 0 to 3 Secondary Prevention program saved Michigan taxpayers an estimated \$49.6 million, a return on investment of 516 percent.
- In 2008, virtually all of the children (99.86%) whose families received services were not referred to the Department of Human Services for suspected child abuse and neglect (as of September 30, 2008).
- Any reduction in legislative appropriations would eliminate proven effective prevention services to hundreds of vulnerable at-risk children and families, increasing the victimization of children as well as Department of Human Services protective services caseloads.

Nurse-Family Partnership:

- Provides resources for first-time mothers and gives them access to needed resources.
- Offers parental training, works to improve healthy living for young children and their families.
- Participants in the program are 48% less likely to be involved with the state's CPS system, 56% less likely to utilize emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings, 32% less likely to have a subsequent pregnancy, 67% less likely to be caring for children with behavioral and intellectual problems, 59% less likely to be arrested, and 83% more likely to be participating in the labor force.

Great Parents/Great Start Program:

- Provides parents with information on child development from birth to age five.
- Provides parents with methods to enhance parent-child interaction that promote social and emotional development and age-appropriate language, mathematics, and early reading skills for young children; including, but not limited to, encouraging parents to read to their preschool children at least one-half hour per day.
- Promotes access to needed community services through a community-school-home partnership.
- Provides parents with examples of learning opportunities to promote intellectual, physical, and social growth of young children, including the acquisition of age-appropriate language, mathematics, and early reading skills.

Elimination of these programs will have a huge impact on at-risk families who are in need of access resources in caring for young children. Additionally, an increase of these programs would cause an increase in caseloads for the Department of Human Services. These programs are critical to serving all families in the State of Michigan.

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Great Start Collaborative-Wayne is a non-profit organization that serves Wayne County. The organization's vision is: a Great Start for every child in Wayne County: safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. For more information, call (734) 285-4001 or visit www.greatstartcollaborativewayne.org.