



**Rochester, New York – November 4, 2011.** Democrats in the County Legislature today called out the Brooks Administration for an abysmal record on issues of concern to children. In addition to cutting funding for lead paint inspections, a report issued yesterday by The Children’s Agenda indicates that throughout Brooks first two terms the well-being of children has been a low priority.

Democratic Legislator Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester), said, “The Children’s Agenda report issued yesterday must serve as a blazing alarm for our community. The children need us—especially those of us in government—to step up and ensure the resources and programs they need are in place and appropriately funded. We must stem the rise in child abuse cases seen in recent years; help provide quality childcare so low income families can work; and use evidence based programs that we know to be successful.”

Yesterday’s report revealed some alarming statistics: Almost one out of four Monroe County children live in poverty; reports of child abuse and neglect have increased 47% since 2003; the infant mortality rate in Monroe County is not only above the national average, it is higher than most industrialized nations; and, from 2002 to 2011, the number of children using child care subsidies has plummeted from 12,261 to 7,234.

The drop in child care subsidy cases is not because of a lack of need. In fact, it is directly related to governmental actions such as Monroe County reducing the income eligibility rate and limiting new families from enrolling in the program.

At the same time we learn these alarming statistics, Brooks’ proposed 2012 County budget cuts funding for Child Preventive/Protective services by over \$6.3 million.

“County Executive Brooks talks a great game about protecting our quality-of-life services, but yesterday’s report shows the real impact of this County’s decisions over the past decade or so, including the \$6.3 million cut to Child Preventive/Protective services in her proposed 2012 budget. It’s time for all stakeholders to come together and have a meaningful, substantive dialogue about how we can reverse these alarming trends. The future of our community literally depends on us doing so,” Andrews added.

Legislator Andrews will be available for interview this afternoon. If interested in scheduling an interview, please contact Joe Rittler at 585-753-1910 or 585-409-1894.

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