



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PALMER DePAULIS
Executive Director

MARK E. WARD
Deputy Director

MARIE CHRISTMAN
Deputy Director

May 9, 2011

Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Hatch,

The Utah Department of Human Services supports the "State Child Welfare Innovation Act," renewing authority for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects, enabling states to test innovative strategies in child welfare.

Utah's child welfare system has made significant strides in the past decade and is continually seeking to find better ways to protect children from abuse and neglect and to strengthen families. Flexibility in programs and funding and the ability to test new methods of providing services are critical to ongoing quality improvement. We believe this legislation would enhance Utah's ability to serve children who have experienced or who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Your leadership is appreciated in proposing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Palmer DePaulis".

Palmer DePaulis
Executive Director