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May 9, 2011

The Honorable Senator Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for State Child Welfare Innovation Act

Senator Hatch,

As chairs of Utah's Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel, we express our support for your efforts to renew the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services' authority to approve child welfare demonstration projects.

We believe your *State Child Welfare Innovation Act* provides vital funding flexibility and allows Utah to continue along the path of innovation and improvement that has made our child welfare system a model in many ways for the rest of the country.

Thank-you for this important effort that will improve children's lives and strengthen families.

Sincerely,

Senator Allen M. Christensen
Senate Chair,
Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel

Representative Merlynn T. Newbold
House Chair,
Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel