

TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE - 3/8/04

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Doug Bowman. I serve as staff to the Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services. Our mission is to advise on matters pertaining to young children age birth to five years with (or at risk of) developmental delay or disability.

We are supportive of SB 418. For years, we have heard anecdotal stories of localized regions where one kind of disability or another is found in disproportionate frequency. Among the benefits of the provisions of this bill is the creation of data which would confirm (or disprove) these theories. Research of this kind would further our efforts to prevent human tragedy.

Finally, I would like to remind you of HB 2350, which passed out of this committee favorably. We still believe strongly in the activity described in HB 2350. The current SB 418 has language which encompasses HB 2350 - Section 2 (8) lines 22-23.

If for any reason SB 418 fails to become law, we encourage you to reconsider HB 2350 for amendment into another bill. Thank you for your time and attention.